

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

A Simple Chapter-by-Chapter Study Guide

Read the chapter. Notice Jesus. Discuss what you discover. Respond in faith.

MARK 1

Jesus Has Authority

Jesus teaches with authority, commands unclean spirits, heals the sick, and calls people to follow Him. His words are not merely inspiring—His words have power. When Jesus enters a situation, darkness, sickness, and ordinary lives must respond to His authority.

Study Questions

1. What examples of Jesus' authority do you see throughout Mark 1?
2. How did people respond differently to Jesus' teaching, miracles, and invitation to follow Him?
3. What area of your life needs to come under the authority of Jesus?

MARK 2

Jesus Has Authority to Forgive

When the paralyzed man is brought to Jesus, Jesus first forgives his sins and then heals his body. Jesus shows that our greatest need is not merely a change in circumstances but forgiveness and restoration. He also welcomes people whom others reject.

Study Questions

1. Why do you think Jesus addressed the man's sins before healing his body?
2. What does Jesus' interaction with Levi and the other sinners reveal about His mission?
3. Is there any guilt, failure, or part of your past that you need to bring to Jesus?

MARK 3

Jesus Values People Over Religion

Jesus heals a man on the Sabbath while religious leaders watch for a reason to accuse Him. Jesus is angered and grieved by their hardened hearts. Their concern for religious rules has become greater than their compassion for a hurting person.

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus' response to the man with the shriveled hand reveal about His heart?
2. How can religious habits or traditions sometimes distract us from loving people?
3. Who might Jesus be calling you to notice, serve, or show compassion to?

MARK 4

Jesus Has Authority Over the Storm

Jesus teaches about the kingdom of God through parables and then demonstrates His authority by calming a storm. The disciples ask, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!" Jesus is not only present in our storms—He is Lord over them.

Study Questions

1. What do the parables in Mark 4 teach you about how God's kingdom grows?
2. What does Jesus calming the storm reveal about who He is?
3. What storm are you facing, and what would trusting Jesus within it look like?

MARK 5

Jesus Restores What Seems Hopeless

Mark 5 introduces three seemingly impossible situations: a demon-possessed man, a woman suffering for twelve years, and a child who has died. Jesus brings freedom, healing, and life. No person is too broken, no suffering is too long, and no situation is beyond His power.

Study Questions

1. What similarities do you see among the three people Jesus helped?
2. What do these stories reveal about the compassion and power of Jesus?
3. Where do you need to believe Jesus can bring freedom, healing, or new life?

MARK 6

Jesus Has Compassion for Our Needs

Even after being rejected in His hometown, Jesus continues teaching, healing, and serving. When He sees the large crowd, He has compassion because they are like sheep without a shepherd. He feeds them and later comes to His disciples during a storm. Jesus cares about both our spiritual and practical needs.

Study Questions

1. What different needs did Jesus meet throughout Mark 6?
2. What does feeding the five thousand reveal about Jesus' compassion and provision?
3. What need are you struggling to trust Jesus with today?

MARK 7

Jesus Looks at the Heart

The religious leaders focus on outward traditions, but Jesus teaches that sin begins within the human heart. He also responds to the persistent faith of a Gentile woman and heals a man who cannot hear or speak. Jesus looks beyond appearances, backgrounds, and religious performance.

Study Questions

1. According to Jesus, what makes a person spiritually unclean?
2. What stands out to you about the faith of the Gentile woman?
3. Is there an attitude or desire within your heart that Jesus wants to change?

MARK 8

Jesus Calls Us to Follow Him Completely

Peter correctly identifies Jesus as the Messiah, but he does not yet understand that Jesus will suffer. Jesus explains that following Him involves denying ourselves, taking up our cross, and surrendering our lives. Knowing who Jesus is must change how we live.

Study Questions

1. Why is Peter's confession about Jesus so important?
2. What does it mean to deny yourself and take up your cross?
3. What might complete surrender to Jesus look like in your life right now?

MARK 9

Jesus Meets Us in Our Weakness

Jesus reveals His glory at the Transfiguration, yet He also steps into the confusion and unbelief below the mountain. A desperate father honestly admits both faith and doubt, and Jesus responds with compassion and power. Jesus does not wait for perfect faith; He invites us to bring Him the faith we have.

Study Questions

1. What does the Transfiguration reveal about Jesus?
2. What can you learn from the father's prayer, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief"?
3. Where do you need Jesus to meet you in your weakness today?

MARK 10

Jesus Redefines Greatness

The disciples are amazed by Jesus' teaching on marriage, wealth, sacrifice, and the kingdom. When they compete for position, Jesus explains that true greatness is found in serving. He is the supreme example: the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve and give His life for others.

Study Questions

1. What kept the rich man from following Jesus freely?
2. How does Jesus define greatness differently from the world?
3. Whom can you intentionally serve this week?

MARK 11

Jesus Looks for Fruitful Faith

Jesus enters Jerusalem as King, confronts corruption in the temple, and uses the fig tree to teach about fruitfulness and faith. He is not impressed by outward appearance without inward devotion. Jesus desires lives marked by prayer, forgiveness, faith, and genuine spiritual fruit.

Study Questions

1. What do Jesus' actions in the temple reveal about what matters to Him?
2. What might the fig tree teach about appearance and fruitfulness?
3. Is there an area where Jesus is calling you from outward religion to genuine faith?

MARK 12

Jesus Calls for Wholehearted Love

Religious leaders question Jesus, but He answers with wisdom and points them back to what matters most: loving God with all that we are and loving our neighbor as ourselves. Jesus is not looking for partial devotion. He calls us to surrender our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Study Questions

1. What do Jesus' responses to His opponents reveal about His wisdom and authority?
2. Why are love for God and love for people inseparable?
3. What would wholehearted love for God look like in one practical area of your life?

MARK 13

Jesus Prepares Us to Remain Faithful

Jesus warns His disciples that difficult days will come, but He does not call them to panic. He calls them to stay alert, endure, speak through the help of the Holy Spirit, and remain faithful. Our confidence is not in predicting every detail but in trusting the One who knows the future.

Study Questions

1. What warnings and encouragements does Jesus give His disciples?
2. How is watchfulness different from fear or speculation?
3. What helps you remain faithful when life feels uncertain?

MARK 14

Jesus Willingly Gives Himself for Us

As opposition closes in, Jesus shares the Passover with His disciples, prays in deep anguish, and submits to the Father's will. Though betrayed, abandoned, and falsely accused, He continues toward the cross. His sacrifice is not an accident; it is a loving and willing gift.

Study Questions

1. What does the Last Supper teach about the meaning of Jesus' death?
2. What do you learn from Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane?
3. How should His willing sacrifice shape your gratitude and obedience?

MARK 15

Jesus Is the Crucified King

Jesus is mocked as king, yet the cross reveals the depth of His kingship and love. He endures rejection, suffering, and death for the sake of others. At His death, the temple curtain is torn, showing that through Jesus the way into God's presence has been opened.

Study Questions

1. What details in Mark 15 show both the humiliation and kingship of Jesus?
2. What is significant about the temple curtain being torn?
3. How does the cross change the way you understand God's love for you?

MARK 16

Jesus Is Risen and Sends Us

The women arrive expecting to find a sealed tomb, but they hear the announcement that Jesus has risen. The resurrection changes fear into hope and turns followers into witnesses. The story of Jesus is not meant to end at the empty tomb; it is meant to be shared.

Study Questions

1. What reactions do you see to the news of the resurrection?
2. Why is the resurrection essential to Christian hope?
3. Who can you tell about what Jesus has done in your life?