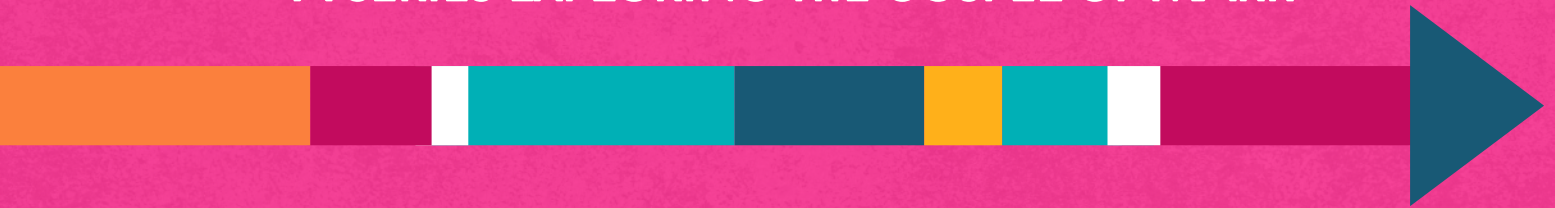


**small
groups**
LIFE TOGETHER



BRING

A SERIES EXPLORING THE GOSPEL OF MARK



small group studies

DATES

WEEK ONE. 2nd Feb - Bring the Gospel Mark 1:1-20

WEEK TWO 9th Feb - Bring the Sinners Mark 2:1-12

1WEEK THREE 6th Feb - Receive the Gospel Mark 4:1-20

WEEK FOUR 23rd Feb - Bring the Power Mark 5:21-43

WEEK FIVE 2nd March - Bring Courage Mark 6:30-52

WEEK SIX 9th March - Bring Faith Mark 7:24-37

WEEK SEVEN 16th March - Bring Vision Mark 8:22-9:1

WEEK EIGHT 23rd March - Bring Greatness Mark 10:32-45,46-52

WEEK NINE 30th March - Bring God's Kingdom Mark 12:28-44

MISSION WEEK 6th April - Bring the Bread and Wine Mark 14:1-26

SCHOOL HOLS 13th April - Bring the Cup Mark 14:32-42

GOOD FRIDAY 18th April - Death - Bring it On Mark 15:21-41

EASTER SUNDAY 20th April - Resurrection - Bring it On Part 2 Mark 15:42-16:8

SCHOOL HOLS 27th April - Great Commission - Bring it out Mark 16:9-20

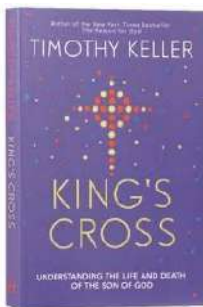
HELPFUL RESOURCES

FOR EVERYONE

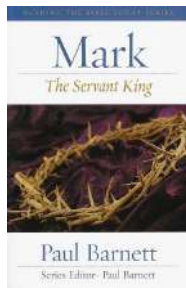


Overview video:

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/mark>

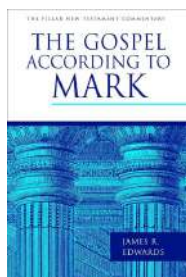


Tim Keller, *King's Cross: Understanding the Life and Death of the Son of God*

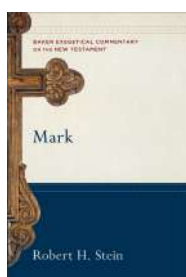


Paul Barnett,
The Servant King- Reading Mark Today

MORE TECHNICAL



James R. Edwards,
The Gospel According to Mark
(Pillar Commentary Series)



Robert H. Stein,
Mark (Baker Exegetical Commentary Series)

STUDY ONE

BRING THE GOSPEL

MARK 1:1-20



DISCUSSION STARTERS

What is the best 'advice' you've ever been given?

What is the difference between between 'news' and 'advice'?



READ MARK 1:1-20

1. What does the opening verse ('The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God') reveal about Mark's purpose in writing this Gospel?



EXPLORE FURTHER

Why do you think Mark starts with this declaration rather than a genealogy (like in Matthew) or a birth narrative (like in Luke)?

3. How does Mark 1:2-3 use Old Testament references to introduce John the Baptist and Jesus?



EXPLORE FURTHER

What does this say about the connection between the Old Testament and the mission of Jesus?

3. In verses 4-8, what is the significance of John the Baptist's message and baptism of repentance?

4. How does Jesus' baptism in verses 9-11 confirm His identity and mission? What is the significance of the heavens opening, the Spirit descending like a dove, and the voice from heaven?

5. What is the significance of Jesus being led into the wilderness and tempted (verses 12-13)?

6. How do Jesus' first words in Mark's Gospel (verses 14-15) summarise the heart of His message?

7. What do the calling of Simon, Andrew, James, and John (verses 16-20) reveal about discipleship? How does their willingness to leave their livelihood and families reflect the cost of following Jesus? How does this calling set the tone for what it means to follow Jesus throughout the Gospel of Mark?

TRANSFORMATION

When is the last time you reflected/ meditated on the fact that Jesus coming is good news for you (not just good advice to pull your socks up and try to be a better person)?

How might you respond in faith and repentance - stop trusting in things other than God, and turning away from things that Jesus hates to the things that Jesus loves?

PRAY TO CLOSE

STUDY TWO

BRING THE SINNERS

MARK 2:1-12



DISCUSSION STARTERS

What do you think is the popular perception of Jesus in our culture today?

What is the most remarkable example of faith in action that you have ever seen?



READ MARK 2:1-12

1. What does the context of Mark 2:1-12 reveal about Jesus' growing popularity and the challenges it creates (see Mark 1:45 for the reason why)?

2. How do the actions of the paralytic's friends (verses 3-4) reflect themes of faith and community?

3. Why does Jesus first address the paralytic's sins rather than his physical condition (verse 5)? What does this reveal about Jesus' priorities and His understanding of the paralytic's deepest need? How does this connect to Mark's presentation of Jesus as more than just a healer?

4. How do the scribes' silent questions (verses 6-7) reveal their understanding of Jesus and their resistance to Him? Why is forgiving sins considered blasphemy in their view?

5. Why does Jesus link His authority to forgive sins with His power to heal? (verses 8-12)

6. How does this passage contribute to Mark's overarching portrayal of Jesus as the Son of God?

TRANSFORMATION

What is it that stops you from seeing that the biggest problem that those around you have is not physical or economic, but is a broken relationship with God that can only be fixed through the good news of Jesus?

What might help you to see this more clearly, and to take the loving action of sharing the remedy for their biggest problem?

PRAY TO CLOSE

STUDY THREE

RECEIVE THE GOSPEL

MARK 4:1-20



DISCUSSION STARTERS

What stood out to you from Sunday's message on this passage?

Share something that either you have grown from a seed, or something spectacular you have seen that grew from a seed.



READ MARK 4:1-20

1. Why does Jesus teach the crowd in parables, as seen in Mark 4:1-2 and 10-12? What does this method of teaching suggest about the nature of Jesus' ministry and the Kingdom of God?

2. What does the parable of the sower (verses 3-9) reveal about the message of the Kingdom of God? How does the imagery of the seed and soil help explain the spread and reception of the Gospel?

3. How does Jesus' explanation of the parable in verses 13-20 help clarify its meaning? Why does Jesus describe this parable as foundational to understanding all parables (verse 13)?

4. What does the seed sown on the path (verse 15) tell us about the role of spiritual opposition in rejecting the Gospel?

5. How do the seeds in rocky soil and among thorns (verses 16-19) illustrate the challenges of following Jesus? How does this relate to Jesus' earlier call to radical discipleship in Mark 1-3?

6. What does the seed in good soil (verse 20) demonstrate about the power and fruitfulness of true faith? How does this verse highlight the transformative potential of receiving the Gospel with an open and obedient heart? How does this fruitfulness connect to Jesus' call for His disciples to bear witness to the Kingdom of God?

7. How does this parable as a whole relate to the themes of response and understanding in Mark's Gospel? How does it explain the varying responses to Jesus' ministry throughout Mark (e.g., crowds, disciples, religious leaders)? How does this parable encourage readers to evaluate their own response to Jesus and His message?

TRANSFORMATION

Can you think of people in your life experience who match the different soils that Jesus speaks about here? As you reflect on them, what have you learned from those observations?

As we think about opportunities to invite people in Mission Week, how does the teaching in this parable encourage you or challenge you?

PRAY TO CLOSE

STUDY FOUR

BRING THE POWER

MARK 5:21-43



DISCUSSION STARTERS

What stood out to you from Sunday's message on this passage?

How do you see power used well or poorly in your life, or the world around us? Why do you think it is that way?



READ MARK 5:21-43

1. How does the interweaving of Jairus' story with the woman's story (a "sandwich" structure- Story A part 1 - Story B - Story A part 2) highlight key themes in this passage? Why might Mark choose to present these two miracles together? How does this narrative technique emphasise themes of faith, desperation, and Jesus' power?

2. How does Jairus' approach to Jesus (verses 22-24) reflect faith, humility, and the recognition of Jesus' authority? What does Jairus' request reveal about his understanding of who Jesus is?

3. In verses 25-34, what does the woman's condition and her act of touching Jesus' garment reveal about her faith?

4. Why does Jesus publicly acknowledge the woman's healing (verses 30-34), even though she approached Him secretly? What is the significance of Jesus' words, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well' (verse 34)?

5. How does Jesus respond to the news of Jairus' daughter's death in verses 35-36, and what does this teach about faith in seemingly hopeless situations?

- Why does Jesus tell Jairus, "Do not fear, only believe" (verse 36)?
- How does this interaction challenge readers to trust Jesus even when circumstances appear impossible?

6. What is the significance of Jesus' actions in raising Jairus' daughter (verses 37-43) How do details like His command for privacy and the tender words "Talitha koum" reflect both His authority and compassion? How does this miracle reinforce Mark's presentation of Jesus as having authority over life and death?

7. How do these two miracles together reveal Jesus' power and mission in the context of Mark's Gospel? How do they address different types of need (chronic suffering versus sudden death) and demonstrate Jesus' concern for all people?

How does this passage deepen the reader's understanding of the themes of faith, healing, and the breaking down of social barriers (e.g., touching the unclean woman and the dead girl)?

TRANSFORMATION

How do you think Jesus' use of power in this combined story package should shape how we view the Gospel, share the Gospel, help others, and use power ourselves?

PRAY TO CLOSE

STUDY FIVE

BRING COURAGE

MARK 6:30-52



DISCUSSION STARTERS

What stood out to you from Sunday's message on this passage?



READ MARK 6:30-52

1. How does Jesus' invitation to His disciples to "come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while" (verse 31) reflect His care for them and His priorities in ministry?

2. What does Jesus' response to the crowd (verse 34) reveal about His character and mission?



EXPLORE FURTHER

Why does Mark emphasise that Jesus had compassion on them because they were "like sheep without a shepherd"? How does this imagery connect to Old Testament themes of shepherding and leadership (e.g., Psalm 23, Ezekiel 34)?

3. What does the feeding of the five thousand (verses 35-44) reveal about Jesus' ability to provide for His people? How does this miracle demonstrate Jesus' divine authority and fulfilment of God's provision, similar to the manna in the wilderness? How does the role of the disciples in distributing the food highlight their involvement in Jesus' mission?

4. How do the details of the feeding miracle - such as the abundance of food and the twelve baskets of leftovers - symbolise the Kingdom of God? What does the abundance and order of this miracle suggest about the sufficiency of Jesus' provision for both physical and spiritual needs?

5. What is the significance of Jesus walking on the water (verses 45-51) in the context of Mark's presentation of His identity (see Job 9:8, Psalm 77:19)?



EXPLORE FURTHER

Why is Jesus' declaration, "Take heart; it is I (literally: 'I am'). Do not be afraid," important in understanding who He is?

6. How do the disciples' reactions to Jesus walking on water and calming the storm (verses 49-52) reflect a recurring theme in Mark? How does this episode reveal their ongoing struggle to fully grasp Jesus' identity, despite witnessing His miracles?



TRANSFORMATION

What are the parts of your life where you are living in fear, and how might a realignment of your vision of Jesus and a leaning in to Him help you bring courage to those situations?

PRAY TO CLOSE

STUDY SIX

BRING FAITH

MARK 7:24-37



DISCUSSION STARTERS

What stood out to you from Sunday's message on this passage?

If someone came up to you and asked you to give a definition of 'faith' in relation to Christianity, what would you say?



READ MARK 7:24-37

1. Why is it significant that Jesus travels to the region of Tyre and interacts with a Gentile woman (verses 24-26)? What does this reveal about the expanding scope of Jesus' ministry beyond Israel? How does this moment align with Mark's broader emphasis on the inclusion of outsiders?

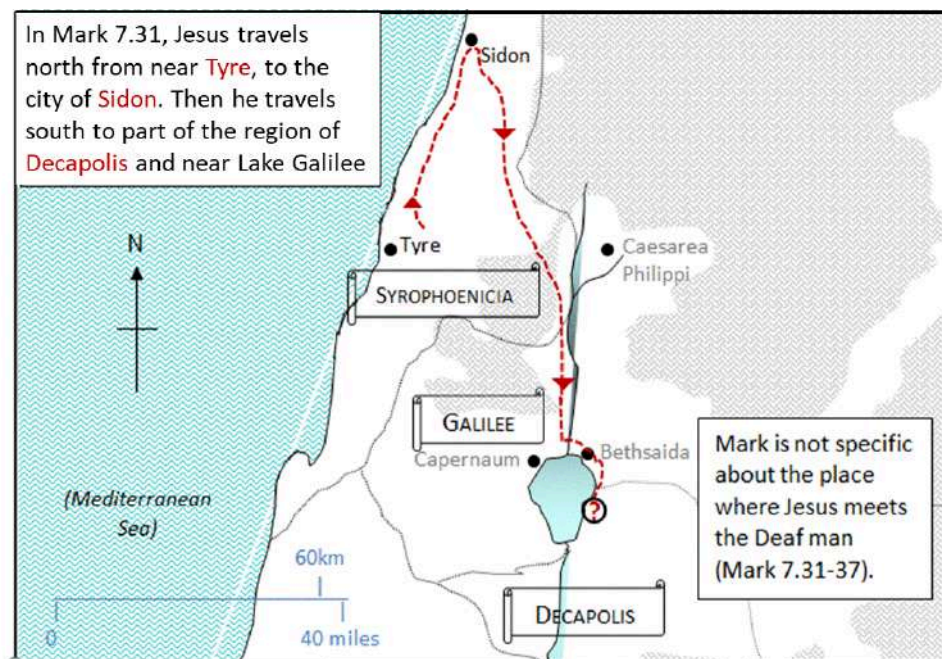


Image source: <https://bslbible.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Map-the-journey-north-and-back-Mark-7.31-37>

2. How does the Syrophenician woman's response to Jesus (verses 27-28) demonstrate faith and humility?

3. What does Jesus' healing of the woman's daughter (verse 29) reveal about His power and willingness to respond to faith? How does this event emphasise that faith, not ethnicity or status, is the key to receiving Jesus' help?

4. Why does Mark include the healing of the deaf and mute man in the region of the Decapolis (verses 31-35)? Why might Mark highlight Jesus' use of physical touch and gestures in this miracle?

5. How does the crowd's reaction ("He has done all things well," verse 37) point to Jesus' identity as the Messiah (see Isaiah 35:5-6)? What difference does this make to how you view Jesus now?

6. How do these two miracles together reflect key themes of Mark's Gospel, such as faith, inclusion, and restoration? How do these events challenge assumptions about who can approach Jesus and receive His help? How do they highlight Jesus' mission to bring healing and salvation to all people?



TRANSFORMATION

How is your faith in Jesus being expressed right now in your relationships, your habits, your diary, and your interactions with the world around you?

PRAY TO CLOSE

STUDY SEVEN

BRING VISION

MARK 8:22-9:1



DISCUSSION STARTERS

What stood out to you from Sunday's message on this passage?

Where do you think you might be in 10 years time, and why?



READ MARK 8:22-9:1

1. What is the significance of the two-stage healing of the blind man in Bethsaida (8:22-26)? How does this healing serve as a metaphor for the disciples' growing but incomplete understanding of Jesus?

2. In Peter's confession (8:27-30), why is it significant that he declares Jesus to be the Christ? What does Peter's confession reveal about his understanding of Jesus at this point, and how is it still limited?

3. Why does Jesus immediately follow Peter's confession with a prediction of His suffering, rejection, and death (8:31-33)? How does Jesus' teaching about His suffering challenge the disciples' expectations of the Messiah? Why does Jesus rebuke Peter so strongly when Peter opposes the idea of a suffering Messiah?

4. What does Jesus mean by calling His followers to "deny themselves and take up their cross" (8:34-35)?

5. How do Jesus' statements about gaining the world but forfeiting the soul (8:36-37) emphasise the cost of following Him? How does this teaching challenge worldly values of success and self-preservation?

6. Why does Jesus speak of the “Son of Man” coming in glory with His angels (8:38)?

How does this statement balance the themes of suffering and future vindication? What does it reveal about Jesus’ ultimate authority and the eternal consequences of accepting or rejecting Him?

TRANSFORMATION

How can we/I intentionally cultivate such a vision of the reality of eternity and Jesus gracious kingship over it, that we/I will view the things of this world as passing, and risk sharing the need for salvation in Jesus with others, that they might know a sure and certain inheritance in eternity like we/I do?

PRAY TO CLOSE

STUDY EIGHT

BRING GREATNESS

MARK 10:32-52



DISCUSSION STARTERS

What stood out to you from Sunday's message on this passage?

Share one example of a 'great leader', and one example of a 'terrible leader', and give reasons for your choices. Who was the best and worst of everyone mentioned?



READ MARK 10:32-52

1. Why does Mark highlight the disciples' amazement and fear as they follow Jesus? How does Jesus' third prediction of His suffering and death deepen the reader's understanding of His role as the suffering Messiah?

2. What does the request of James and John (10:35-37) reveal about their understanding of Jesus' mission and their own ambitions? How does their request for positions of glory contrast with Jesus' prediction of His suffering? What does this moment reveal about human desires for power and recognition?

3. What does it mean to drink the cup that Jesus drinks and to be baptized with His baptism (10:38-40)?

4. How does Jesus contrast worldly leadership with the values of His Kingdom (10:41-45)?

Why is verse 45 (“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many”) central to understanding Jesus’ mission and the Gospel of Mark as a whole?

5. How does the healing of Bartimaeus (10:46-52) illustrate faith and discipleship? What is significant about Bartimaeus calling Jesus “Son of David,” and how does this connect to Jesus’ messianic identity? How does Bartimaeus’ persistence in seeking healing reflect the faith that Jesus values?

6. How does Bartimaeus' response to Jesus' healing - immediately following Him on the way (10:52) - serve as a model for discipleship? How does this contrast with earlier moments in Mark where disciples struggled to understand or follow Jesus fully? What does it mean to "follow Jesus on the way," especially in light of His journey to the cross?

7. How do these two episodes together (10:32-45 and 10:46-52) illustrate the themes of suffering, service, and faith in Mark's Gospel? How does Bartimaeus' physical blindness and healing parallel the spiritual blindness of the disciples in the earlier passage? How do these stories prepare the reader for the climax of Jesus' mission in Jerusalem?



TRANSFORMATION

What are you aiming your life at? Where might you need to repent of following the world's view of greatness? Where can you give thanks to God for allowing you to see the greatness of serving and walking the road with Jesus?

PRAY TO CLOSE

STUDY NINE

BRING GOD'S KINGDOM

MARK 12:28-44



DISCUSSION STARTERS

What stood out to you from Sunday's message on this passage?

What are you looking forward to in the future?



READ MARK 12:28-44

1. What is the significance of the scribe's question about the greatest commandment (12:28-31) within the context of Mark's Gospel? How does Jesus' response summarise the heart of God's law and His teaching throughout Mark?

2. How does Jesus' emphasis on loving God and loving one's neighbour (12:29-31) reveal the priorities of the Kingdom of God? What does it mean to love God "with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength"?

3. Why does Jesus commend the scribe's response in verses 32-34, and what does it mean that he is "not far from the kingdom of God"?
- How does the scribe's agreement with Jesus contrast with the attitudes of other religious leaders in Mark?

4. In verses 35-37, why does Jesus question the scribes' teaching about the Messiah being merely David's son? How does Jesus' reference to Psalm 110 challenge the limited understanding of the Messiah's identity?

5. How does Jesus' warning against the scribes (12:38-40) critique religious hypocrisy? What behaviours does Jesus condemn, and why are they particularly serious in the context of spiritual leadership? How does this warning relate to Mark's recurring theme of humility versus pride?

6. What is the significance of the widow's offering in verses 41-44, especially in contrast to the behaviour of the scribes?
- How does the widow's sacrificial giving demonstrate true devotion and trust in God?
- Why does Jesus say that the widow's gift is greater than that of the wealthy, even though it is much smaller in monetary value?

7. How do these three episodes together (the greatest commandment, the Messiah's identity, and the widow's offering) emphasise key themes in Mark's Gospel?

- How do they highlight the tension between external religiosity and true devotion?

- How does this passage prepare readers to reflect on Jesus' ultimate act of sacrificial love and His call to follow Him?

TRANSFORMATION

How are you travelling with the challenges to discipleship that come from these episodes - love of God with all you are and have, love of neighbour, heartfelt and humble devotion to Jesus who is Lord of all? What might you need to work on, and how will you do that? How can the group help each other in this?

PRAY TO CLOSE

small
groups
LIFE TOGETHER