

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45)

Explore the life of Jesus from the book of Mark and learn what it means to walk as Jesus walked.



Mark Overview:

The earliest and shortest of the accounts of the life of Christ, Mark is a record of the ministry years of Jesus (26-30 A.D.). Mark explores more of what Jesus did over what he said. The word “immediately” (εὐθύς: at once, just then, quickly, etc.) appears over forty times in the book. Mark presents Jesus as the suffering servant and the only source of salvation. Almost half the book is used to present the last week of Christ’s life (11-16) while the initial chapters record his ministry (1-8) and attention given to his disciples (8-10). Anticipating a coming persecution under Nero, Mark may have written his gospel to prepare believers for the suffering they would face for following Jesus the, “suffering servant.”

Author and Date:

Mark | Born in Jerusalem to a wealthy Jewish family | Abandoned Paul on one of his Journeys | Close to Peter | Restored in his relationship with Paul
50-60 A.D.

First readers and their location:

Gentiles Living in Rome

Intro:

John the Baptist, cousin to Jesus, has just finished announcing the coming of Christ and the need for baptism and repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Jesus meets John, is baptized by him and Jesus is then tempted by Satan for forty days. Between the temptation and Jesus’ public ministry John is imprisoned and later executed (Matthew 14:1-12).



When was the last time you made a decision you knew could change the course of your life? What was it like in that moment?

Into the Bible—Ask “What does it Say?”

Read: Mark 1:14-20

What do you notice about the passage itself? (Structure, repeated words or ideas, unique words, main points, what did this passage say to the original author and audience)

See also : (Matthew 4:18-22; Luke 5:2-11; John 1:35-42)

What did Jesus expect of his followers?

How do the following verses bring clarity to the word “Kingdom” (Mark 1:15; Ephesians 1:9-10)? What did Jesus mean by “good news?” (See John 10:10)

Jesus issues a command to the disciples, “Come (imperative) follow me.” How did the disciples respond?



Into my life—Ask “What does this look like in my personal life?”

Where do you see the Kingdom of God expressing itself in the world today? What about the good news of Jesus?

How do you understand the command from Jesus, “Repent and believe?” How does this impact your day to day life? (Be specific to you)

The disciples responded immediately to Jesus by following him. How do you remember your initial call to follow Jesus? Is there a situation in your life where Jesus is issuing this same call? (Pray for each other in this)



Into the World—Ask “what does this look like in my world?”

Where does the good news of Jesus need to be displayed in your sphere of influence (As an individual, group, and church)? What steps can you take towards this?