

“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

Open-up

Who are the most challenging people, or what are the most challenging situations do you personally find to engage with the gospel? Why do you think this is?

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

Read: Mark 5:1:1-20

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 8:28-34; Luke 8:26-39)

From what you see in the passage, what is the condition of the man, physically, spiritually, socially and emotionally?

How did the demon respond to Jesus? What commands did Jesus give the demon?

How did Jesus respond to the man after he asked to go with him? Going back to the first question, How do you think the man was restored physically, spiritually, socially and emotionally?



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

Share a personal story where you went to the “margins” and attempted to serve another with the love of Jesus. What was it like? What happened?

When you think about this story, what are some of the questions or issues that arise for you?

It's easy to think about serving others with the love of Jesus if their lives seem normal. But one of the uncomfortable realities of this story is that Jesus leads His disciples to serve those on the “margins.” To bring spiritual light into the spiritually dark places. How can a disciple of Jesus take intentional steps towards this truth?



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

In what ways can Westwood Church be encouraged when we consider serving those on the margins?

In what ways does this story challenge Westwood Church to reshape their thinking about how the kingdom of God functions and how our church family must reflect this reality?

In light of this story, what is one action step that God's Word is inviting me take?