

“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

Note about Mark 16:1-20

In most Bibles Mark 16:9-20 will have a comment at the beginning, [The earliest manuscripts and some other ancient witnesses do not have the verse 9-20] (NIV). There are basically three possibilities with verses 9-20. The gospel was ended at verse 8 and the rest was added a later date, Mark never finished the gospel or the last part of the original manuscript was lost before it was copied. Scholars think that this last section was added by scribes some time later to help finish the letter (Mark has a tendency to be abrupt). This text is included for few reasons. First, It is something that is consistent with the life of Christ. Second, church tradition assumed these verses were inspired. Third, the text is consistent with the rest of Scripture.

Open-up

How has our time spent in the gospel of Mark shaped your view of Jesus? What questions do you still have about Jesus?

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

Read: Mark 16

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)

In Mark 16:1-8

Who were the first people to find the empty tomb? Why were they heading there? What did they find? What mission were they given?

In Mark 16:9-20

What does Mark emphasize in verses 9-14? How did the disciples respond? (See the more detailed response of the disciples in Luke 24:36-43)

What mission did Jesus give the disciples? What were the signs that would support this message?

What was the outcome of the disciples going out?



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

During the time of Christ women were not seen as a valid witness. How does Mark and the other gospel accounts turn this upside-down?

Imagine yourself as one of the 12 disciples. What are you feeling and thinking at the death of Jesus? How would you have responded to the eye witness accounts?

Signs and wonders would accompany the disciples in their brand new message to the world. As the early church is established the “sensational” signs don’t stop but become less. While the message does not change, what are some new signs and wonders that give weight to the good news of Jesus? (John 17:20-23; Romans 13:8; Colossians 3:14; Ephesians 4:12)

In parts of the world where the gospel is new, the more visible signs and wonders are seen as a sign that the message is real. Jesus recognized that because of the hardness of people’s hearts we want to see signs and wonders John 4:48. In places where the church matures these signs become less. Why do you think that is? How do you think unity and love could be a more challenging sign to the world that our message is true (1 Corinthians 13)?



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

Mark’s gospel is a challenge for us to do something as a result of our encounter with Jesus. What is one thing you can do this week to practice what you’ve discovered about the person and work of Jesus?