

# READING PLAN + STUDY QUESTIONS

Mark

### READING PLAN OVERVIEW

- **SESSION 1:** MARK 1-4
  - THE WATER + THE WILDERNESS
- **SESSION 2:** MARK 5-8
  - JESUS REVEALS HIS IDENTITY AS THE SAVIOR
- **SESSION 3:** MARK 9-12
  - JESUS VALUES HUMILITY + SERVICE
- **SESSION 4:** MARK 13-16
  - THE ARREST, CRUCIFIXION, + RESURRECTION

## HOW TO USE THIS PLAN

- 1. READ THE GENRE + BOOK OVERVIEW ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE**
- 2. READ THE CHAPTERS IN THE BIBLE FOR EACH SESSION**
- 3. READ THE CHAPTER SUMMARIES ON [EVERYDAYSCRIPTURE.ORG](https://everydayscripture.org)**
- 4. ANSWER THE QUESTIONS + REFLECT ON THE READING**

This study encourages going at your own pace, allowing each session to be a day, a week, or however long you need. Each session contains questions to be used for individual reflection or small group discussion.

This study was made to be used alongside Bible reading. Although we have created chapter summaries, there is no substitute for reading God's Word.

## QUESTIONS TO GET YOU STARTED

- What type of literature is this book of the Bible? Does that affect the interpretation?
- Who is the intended audience of this book? What purpose does it serve?
- What does this passage of Scripture reveal about God's character?
- What can I learn from this Scripture passage? How does it apply today?

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Everyday Scripture: Mark](#)
- [Everyday Scripture: New Testament Gospels](#)
- [The Bible Project: Mark Overview Video](#)

## GENRE OVERVIEW: NEW TESTAMENT GOSPEL

The four Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John – document the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. These accounts were written to share the good news that through His death on the cross, Jesus provided a way for people to be reconciled with God and have eternal life. The Gospels encourage readers to place their faith in Christ as the Son of God to experience the freedom, grace, and love that God offers.

Each gospel focuses on a different aspect of Jesus, who was a humble servant and a powerful ruler while simultaneously being fully human and fully divine. Matthew focuses on Jesus as King, Mark focuses on Jesus as a servant, Luke focuses on Jesus as a man, and John focuses on Jesus as God. Another aspect that makes each gospel unique is their intended audience. Each narrative of Jesus was written to share with a specific group of people, which influences the tone and focus of each account.

## BOOK OVERVIEW: MARK

The Gospel of Mark is most commonly attributed to the scribe Mark, who collected eyewitness accounts of Jesus, primarily from the disciple Peter. Mark writes to a Roman audience, focusing on the incredible acts of Jesus and His miraculous healing abilities. Many of the Jewish people believed that Jesus would come as a strong military leader and ruler, but instead Jesus came as a suffering servant. Mark focuses on the servanthood of Jesus, showing how the Son of God came to serve, not be served.

The shortest of the Gospels, the book of Mark is the most brief and straightforward account, focusing more on the actions of Jesus than the teaching of Jesus. Often considered the earliest of the four Gospels, Mark emphasizes the importance of viewing the selfless miracles of Jesus as evidence to His true identity as the Savior.

## MAIN IDEA: KEY EVENTS + KEY PEOPLE

Mark's gospel account captures the key events, travels, and miracles throughout Jesus' life. Mark recalls Jesus' many acts of healing and compassion towards strangers. Throughout the book, Mark documents Jesus' ministry, including the calling of the disciples and his teaching throughout Galilee. Mark's account captures the betrayal, crucifixion, and death of Jesus and concluding with the good news of his resurrection. Mark's gospel is known for its brevity and emphasis on action, portraying Jesus as a dynamic and compassionate leader who fulfills his mission on earth.

### SESSION ONE: MARK 1-4

#### THE WATER + THE WILDERNESS

- What does Jesus mean when he says that “the kingdom of God is at hand?” (Mark 1:14)
- After Jesus cleanses the leper, he instructs him not to tell anyone. Why would Jesus say this? How does this show trust in God’s timing?
- In Mark 2, how does Jesus allude to the new covenant using the example of wineskins and garments?
- What does it mean that “the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath?” (Mark 2:27)
- How does Jesus challenge the laws regarding the Sabbath in Mark 3?
- Jesus performed miracles under God’s authority. Who did people accuse Jesus of being influenced or possessed by? (Mark 3:22)
- Read Isaiah 6:9 and Mark 4:10-12. How does Jesus describe the purpose of teaching in parables?
- The disciples witnessed Jesus perform many miracles and provide healing. Why do you think they were distressed during the storm? (Mark 4:35-41)

## SESSION TWO: MARK 5–8

### JESUS REVEALS HIS IDENTITY AS THE SAVIOR

- In Mark 5, how did people respond to Jesus healing the possessed man?
- How did the hemorrhaging woman display incredible faith in Jesus's abilities?
- What does Mark 6:3 reveal about Jesus's occupation and family?
- According to Mark 6:7–13, what instructions did Jesus give to the disciples?
- Who did people believe Jesus to be in Mark 6:14–15? How did those two men pave the way for Jesus?
- Read Mark 7:8. How have you seen tradition or culture valued more highly than God's commands?
- In Mark 7:31–37, how does Jesus heal the deaf man? Why didn't he simply speak?
- Who does Peter believe Jesus to be? (Mark 8:29–30) What does Jesus foretell?
- What do you think Jesus means in Mark 8:36 by "gaining the world?"

### SESSION THREE: MARK 9–12

#### JESUS VALUES HUMILITY + SERVICE

- Which disciples witnessed the Transfiguration? Besides Jesus, who else appeared to them?
- Read Mark 9:24. What does the man mean by “I believe, but help my unbelief?”
- Read Mark 9:33–37. What were the disciples arguing about? How does Jesus respond?
- Read Mark 10:13–16. What does it mean to receive God’s kingdom like a child?
- Throughout Mark 10, how does Jesus emphasize the importance of humility?
- In Mark 11, how does Jesus explain the significance of the withered fig tree?
- Read Mark 12:1–12. How is Jesus the cornerstone of the faith?
- What does Jesus teach is the greatest commandment? How does this one commandment summarize the many commands of the law?
- In Mark 12:36, what does Jesus mean by “The Lord said to my Lord?”
- Why was the widow’s offering meaningful to Jesus in Mark 12:41–44?

### SESSION FOUR: MARK 13–16

#### THE ARREST, CRUCIFIXION, + RESURRECTION

- In Mark 13:1–2, what event did Jesus predict? Using a study Bible or internet search, what event occurred in 70 AD that fulfilled this prophecy?
- What does Mark 13 reveal about the return of Christ and the end times?
- In Mark 14:3–9, why did Jesus defend the woman's actions? How was she preparing His body for the crucifixion?
- Read Mark 14:10–21. Who betrayed Jesus and why? Was this betrayal necessary in God's plan for redemption?
- Was Peter confident that he would not deny Jesus? How did he respond after realizing what he had done?
- In Mark 14:62, who did Jesus claim to be? What was the council's response?
- How would you describe the crowd in Mark 15:6–15? Why do you think they chose to free Barabbas instead of Jesus?
- Read Mark 15:38. What is the significance of the temple curtain tearing?
- In Mark 15:39, what did the centurion believe about Jesus after His death?
- What did the messenger share with the women at the tomb in Mark 16:1–8?