

Mark
Leader Guide
(NASB and ESV)

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST,
SON OF GOD AND
SON OF MAN

Mark Leader Guide (NASB and ESV)

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5th Edition (6/2022)

USING LEADER GUIDES

Leader Guides are intended for you, the leader, to guide your Precept Upon Precept® and In & Out® discussions. They are designed to help you reason through the content of the lessons and to ensure you have understood what your group should have learned from their study. The guides offer effective plans for leading discussions.

The Holy Spirit is your guide as you prepare. He is the one who knows what your group needs to apply to their lives. Pray for them as they study and for yourself as you prepare to lead the discussion.

These guides can be used for either the NASB or the ESV edition of the courses. ESV words follow the NASB after a slash / or are set off with parentheses.

Leader Guides include the following:

- Lesson emphasis
- A logical order for the discussion
- Discussion questions
- Suggested visual aid(s)

Practical tips for using the Leader Guide:

- **Don't simply "do" the lesson.**
Stay with the lesson until you have a good understanding of it. This will give you a better grasp of how the Leader Guide takes you through the lesson.
- **You don't have to ask every question in the guide.**
Often one question will be covered while discussing another question so there is no reason to ask it. Your goal is not to ask every question, but to ask enough questions to make sure your group understood the lesson and to help them apply the truths to their lives.

Using the Leader Guide with In & Out


When your entire group uses In & Out

Compare an In & Out lesson with the Leader Guide. Use what relates to the In & Out lesson as a guide for the discussion. Don't teach what's not in In & Out lessons. Remember your goal in the discussion is for your group to discuss what they've learned, not for you to lecture on what you learned.

For groups studying both Precept Upon Precept and In & Out

Use the Leader Guides as designed for PUP, knowing that the In & Out assignments will be covered in the discussion. Make a note in the Leader Guide of what is not in the In & Out.

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**MARK
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 1**

Lesson emphasis

- Mark 1

To begin this first discussion, you might ask your group if anything in this lesson got their attention. Was there any immediate application from a particular point? Give a few minutes for them to share what they think.

MARK 1

Verse 1

What information does this verse give?

The gospel—good news
of Jesus Christ—the Son of God

Ask what main points your group learned from the other Gospels about God’s Son Jesus and about John the Baptist.

NOTE: Watch your time here as there is a lot to discuss in Mark 1.

Matthew 1

Jesus’ genealogy, the Messiah / Christ, son of David and Abraham
His conception was by the Holy Spirit—He’s God’s Son.
Mary, his mother was a virgin.

Luke 1

Eyewitnesses gave account, and Luke investigated everything carefully (ESV—followed all things closely) so Theophilus could have the exact truth (ESV—have certainty). He began his gospel with the birth of John the Baptist—answered prayer.

John lived in the deserts (ESV—was in the wilderness) until his public appearance to Israel.

Gabriel told Mary about Jesus’ birth.

John 1

Jesus is the Word, equal with God from the beginning. He’s the creator and light of the world. Jesus came to His own, the Jews, but was rejected by them—for the most part.

John testified about Jesus—the One coming after Him but who existed before him.
John was the voice crying in the wilderness. He was baptizing in Bethany beyond / across the Jordan. John baptized Jesus to manifest / reveal Him to Israel.

Two of John's disciples followed Jesus, the Lamb of God. One of them, Andrew then told his brother Simon Peter about the Messiah. Jesus called Philip to follow Him, and Philip told Nathanael about Him of whom Moses and the Prophets wrote.

Jesus is the Son of God, King of Israel, Son of Man.

Verses 2-8

Lead your discussion back to Mark 1, and ask who and what verses 2-8 are about.

In verses 2 and 3 Mark quotes Isaiah and Malachi. Then John is named as the messenger.

What do the cross-references say? Ask what your group learned about John.

Isaiah 40:1-3

This is a prophecy about John the Baptist and his ministry before Jesus came on the scene in Israel. He was to clear / prepare the way for / of the Lord and make His way smooth / straight.

Malachi 3:1

John prepared or cleared the way before Jesus by preaching a baptism of repentance. John fulfilled Scripture.

What do verses 4-8 say about John?

Tell your group to look at the map "Israel in the Time of Christ" as a visual aid.

John preached a baptism of repentance for forgiveness of sins and told of the One mightier than him who would baptize in the Holy Spirit.

He prepared the way before Jesus' appearance, preaching, and ministry to Israel.

What does "baptize" mean?

Baptizo is "to immerse, submerge."¹ The word is used "figuratively, in reference to ideas associated with baptism, as an act of commitment and identification."²

Verses 8-13

What do verses 8-13 and the cross-references in Luke teach about the Holy Spirit?

Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit.

At Jesus' baptism the Spirit descended on Him like a dove. This showed John who He was, John 1:33. The Father stated from heaven that He is pleased in / with His Son Jesus. Luke also says this in Luke 3:21-22.

¹James Strong, *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon* (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995), G907.

²Timothy Friberg, Barbara Friberg and Neva F. Miller, *Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*, Baker's Greek New Testament library (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2000), 87.

Then the Spirit impelled Him to go (ESV—drove him out) into the wilderness where He was tempted by Satan for 40 days. And angels ministered to Him.

Luke 4:1-2, 14-19

Jesus was led around by /led by the Spirit in the wilderness when tempted.
He returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit.

In the Nazareth synagogue, Jesus read from Isaiah that the Lord’s Spirit was upon Him—

anointed Him to preach the gospel (ESV—proclaim the good news) to the poor,

sent Him to proclaim release / liberty to captives—captives of sin
and recovery of sight,

to set the oppressed free (ESV—set at liberty the oppressed),

to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord (ESV—the year of the Lord’s
favor)—the time of Jesus’ first coming.

Verses 14-15

What happened to John? What did Jesus do?

After John was taken into custody / arrested, then Jesus preached / proclaimed in Galilee.
The gospel of God—the time is fulfilled; His kingdom is at hand.
Jesus also called people to repent and believe the good news.

At this point, you can ask your group if there is any application they can make from John’s life.
What is required to be part of God’s kingdom? What should those who are part of it do?
Give time for them to discuss.

Verses 16-20

Who and what are these verses about? What’s a new repeated word?

Jesus called four men to “follow” Him.
Men were fishing on the Sea of Galilee.
Jesus called Simon and his brother Andrew to become fishers of men.

NOTE: The account in John 1 says Andrew was first one of John’s disciples and heard about Jesus from him, then told Simon. It seems that was before this account in Mark 1. Later Jesus gave the name Peter to Simon.

Then He called James and John, sons of Zebedee, and they also followed Him.

You might ask your group how they call people to follow Jesus. How do they fish for men?

Verses 21-28

What was the next event, and where did it happen?

Jesus went to Capernaum on the Sabbath and taught in the synagogue.

Ask what your group learned about synagogues.

A synagogue is a meeting place for Jews.
The Sabbath is one of the times they gather at a local synagogue.

What happened?

The people there were amazed / astonished at the authority with which Jesus taught.

The scribes, evidently who usually taught, didn't have the same authority.
A disruption was caused by a man in the synagogue with an unclean spirit. The spirit knew who Jesus was—the Holy One of God—and asked if He came to destroy them.

Jesus rebuked the spirit, and it came out of the man, but threw him into convulsions.
The people were amazed that even unclean spirits obeyed Jesus.

News spread from Capernaum into all the surrounding district /region of Galilee.

Verses 29-39

What are the events of these verses? Who was involved?

Jesus, James, John, Simon, and Andrew went to Simon and Andrew's house where Jesus healed Simon's mother-in-law. The effect of healing was immediate.

That evening demon-possessed people were brought to Him along with people suffering various diseases. Jesus healed them—He set free / liberated the captives.

Again, the demons knew who He was, so He didn't permit them to speak as the unclean spirit in the synagogue had done.

Jesus went to a secluded / desolate place to pray, and Simon and others looked for Him.

He and His disciples went to nearby / next towns for Him to preach.
He said that's why He came.
Jesus preached and cast out demons in synagogues throughout Galilee.

Verses 40-45

How does this chapter end? What's the last event? And the result?

Jesus had compassion / pity on the leper and cleansed him. He cautioned the man not to tell anyone, but go to the priest and make his offering. It was to be a testimony / proof.

But instead he freely proclaimed his healing. The result was that so many sought Jesus for healing that He and the disciples could no longer publicly enter a city (ESV—openly enter a town). They stayed out in unpopulated areas / desolate places where people came to Him.

Tell your group to look at their At a Glance charts and ask about a possible theme for Mark 1.

Maybe something like:

John preached repent; Jesus preached repent and believe in the gospel

or

John—repent; Jesus—baptized, tempted, preached, healed

Ask what they learned about Jesus and His ministry from Mark 1. Give time to share and discuss.

**MARK
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 2**

Lesson emphasis

- Mark 2–3

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, tell your group to look at their At a Glance charts and the map of Israel. Then ask what they remember from Mark 1. If they can't remember, tell them to look at the chapter theme on their At a Glance chart.

The first verse of Mark tells what the book is about—the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

At the end of this lesson's guide, there is a short list of how Jesus is referred to in these chapters which you can use as a visual aid. You can add each as your group discusses. Begin with the above titles for Him.

Chapter 1 quickly covers John the Baptist and his ministry, Jesus' baptism, and the beginning of His ministry. The first chapter shows Jesus as God's Son who has power over sickness, spirits, and sin.

These things began in the area of the Jordan River where John was baptizing, and the chapter ended in Galilee where Jesus taught in synagogues and ministered to people.

NOTE: Refer to the map when a new location is mentioned in the text.

MARK 2

Verses 1-12

Where was Jesus, and what were the circumstances?

Jesus was in Capernaum at home. There were so many people in the crowd that there was no room in the house.

What happened?

He healed a paralytic brought to Him by four men who had faith. Jesus told the man that His sins were forgiven. Then to demonstrate His authority to forgive sins, He told the man to get up and go home.

The result of Jesus healing the paralytic was amazement and the people who saw it glorifying God.

One group there, the scribes, thought Jesus blasphemed since God alone forgives sins. They didn't realize Jesus is God.

The Son of Man is used for the first time in verse 10.

What do the cross-references say about the Son of Man?

Daniel 7:13-14

This prophecy is still for the future.

It speaks of One like a Son of Man and the description is of Jesus.

He will receive the kingdom from the Ancient of Days—God the Father.

Mark 1:15

The time was fulfilled and the kingdom was at hand, referring to Jesus' first coming. The call was for repentance and belief.

Is there any application from this event for believers now? Give your group time to discuss what they think.

Verses 13-17

Who and what are these verses about?

Jesus called Levi—a tax collector—to follow Him, and he did.

Then at Levi's house Jesus and His disciples dined with Levi and other tax collectors and sinners. When the scribes of the Pharisees asked why Jesus did that, the answer was that He came to call sinners, not the righteous—the self-righteous like Pharisees.

How does the cross-reference in 1 Corinthians relate to calling sinners? What does this reference say about the gospel?

1 Corinthians 15:1-5

The two main points are Jesus' death for sins and His resurrection.

When preached and believed, people are saved.

How should believers now, Jesus' modern disciples relate to sinners? What should be the church's call to sinners today?

Verses 18-22

What's the topic of these verses? How do Jesus' illustrations fit the conversation?

John had disciples, and so did the Pharisees.

They asked Jesus why His disciples didn't fast as the others did.

Jesus answered with an illustration of a bridegroom and his attendants / wedding guests. While Jesus was with His disciples they didn't fast, but they will when He leaves.

Two more illustrations are about old and new not mixing. Jesus brought in the new, and it replaced the old. The kingdom, the Holy Spirit, repentance and forgiveness were the new replacing what had been before—the Law.

Verses 23-28

How does this chapter end? How is Jesus referred to?

This was another time when the Pharisees questioned what Jesus and His disciples did or did not do. It had to do with the Sabbath this time.

Jesus said He is Lord of the Sabbath, which was made for man, not man made for the Sabbath.

Ask your group what they learned about the Sabbath from the cross-references.

Exodus 20:8-11; 34:21

The seventh day of the week is the Sabbath—Saturday.

God commanded Israel to keep it holy and do no work on this day. They were to rest.

Genesis 2:1-4

After His creation work on the first six days, God rested on the seventh and blessed it. He sanctified it.

Deuteronomy 5:12-15

Everyone in Israel was to keep the Sabbath. No work.

Exodus 31:12-17

The Sabbath is a sign between God and Israel. It's a perpetual covenant / covenant forever.

It has to do with Him being the God who sanctifies them. Whoever profanes the Sabbath will be cut off from his people. Those who do any work on the Sabbath are to be put to death.

Lead your discussion back to Mark 2:23-28.

How did Jesus answer the Pharisees regarding the Sabbath? Ask about the cross-reference.

He referred to the Old Testament, to David whom they knew about. It's an example of him eating consecrated bread / the bread of the Presence from the tabernacle.

1 Samuel 21:1-6

David did what was “unlawful” because he was hungry—just as Jesus’ disciples had done. But Jesus is Lord even of that.

NOTE: Ahimelech was Abiathar’s father according to 1 Samuel 22:20, but Abiathar became more prominent.

You can ask your group again about any application from this chapter, and then ask how they summarized the theme on their At a Glance chart.

Maybe something like:

Jesus, Son of Man—authority to forgive sins, calls sinners, Lord of the Sabbath

MARK 3

Verses 1-6

What happened in these verses?

Jesus again went into a synagogue on the Sabbath.

The Pharisees watched Jesus to see if He would heal a man's withered hand.
He reasoned with them again about what is lawful to do on the Sabbath.

The man's hand was restored, but their hearts were hardened to the point that they conspired with the Herodians how they could destroy Jesus.

His reaction to their hard hearts was anger and grief.

Verses 7-19

Where did Jesus go next and what happened?

Be sure your group looks at their map.

He and His disciples withdrew to the sea.

But a great multitude followed, from:

Galilee

Judea

Jerusalem

Idumea

Beyond the Jordan

Vicinity of / around Tyre and Sidon

His popularity with the people was growing because He healed and cast out unclean spirits, the spirits who knew who He was.

Then He went up on the mountain with His disciples.

Verses 16-19 give the names of the twelve.

Jesus sent them out to preach and gave them authority to cast out demons.

Ask your group what they learned about any of the twelve from the list they made about them in the lesson.

Verses 20-30

What happened in these verses?

Jesus went home, but couldn't even eat because of the crowd.

People followed Him everywhere, but "His own people" (ESV—his family) wanted to take custody of / seize Him thinking He'd lost His senses (ESV—was out of his mind).

His compassion toward those who needed Him was amazing.

Scribes from Jerusalem accused Him of casting out demons by Beelzebul, ruler / prince of the demons, evidently another name for Satan. Jesus spoke to them in parables; a kingdom and a house. Satan doesn't cast out himself.

What did Jesus say in verses 28-30? How did He explain what He meant?

Jesus said there was an eternal sin which will not be forgiven—blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. He said this because they accused Him of having an unclean spirit. The eternal sin was saying His Spirit was an unclean spirit.

Those who said this didn't recognize Jesus as God's Son, the Christ.

NOTE: You probably will need to give some time here for your group to help one another understand what this eternal sin of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is. There can be misunderstanding of it that puts people in fear or bondage.

Help your group understand that if they are believers, they've not committed this sin. They believe in who Jesus is, and they're forgiven.

Verses 31-35

Who are these verses about? What did Jesus say?

Jesus' mother and brothers sent word to Him.
He took opportunity to teach about God's family of believers.
His family is those who do the Father's will.

Does that still apply? How does one know he or she is part of God's family?

Ask your group what they recorded as a theme for chapter 3.

Maybe something like:
Conspiracy to destroy Jesus, 12 appointed, blasphemy against Spirit

Jesus

Christ

Son of God

Son of Man

Lord of Sabbath

**MARK
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 3**

Lesson emphasis
Mark 4–5

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, tell your group to look at their At a Glance charts and the map of Israel. Then ask what they remember from Mark 1–3. If they can't remember, tell them to look at the chapter themes on their At a Glance chart.

The first verse of Mark tells what the book is about—the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Chapter 1 quickly covers John the Baptist and his ministry, Jesus' baptism and the beginning of His ministry. The first chapter shows Jesus as God's Son who has power over sickness, spirits, and sin.

These things began in the area of the Jordan River where John was baptizing, and the chapter ended in Galilee where Jesus taught in synagogues and ministered to people.

NOTE: Refer to the map when a new location is mentioned in the text.

Mark 2

Jesus, Son of Man has authority to forgive sins. He called Levi the tax-collector to follow Him as one of His disciples. When the scribes questioned why He ate with tax-collectors and sinners, Jesus answered that He came to call sinners. He is Lord of the Sabbath.

Mark 3

After another healing in a synagogue on a Sabbath, the Pharisees conspired with Herodians to destroy Jesus. Jesus appointed 12 to be with Him, preach, and have authority. After He was accused of casting out demons by Beelzebul, He warned about blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.

MARK 4

Verses 1-2

How does this chapter begin? What's the setting?

Jesus was by the sea, and a large crowd gathered around Him.
So He got in a boat to teach the crowd on the land.

He taught them in parables.

Ask your group what they learned about parables from the article in the Appendix.

A parable is a story or proverb that teaches a moral lesson or truth.
It's true to life, but not factual.
There is a main point or theme of a parable.

Verses 3-34

What do these verses say about parables? Refer your group to the list they made on Day One.

Jesus told why He spoke in parables in verses 10-13. The twelve and others of His followers asked about the parables. He said they had been given the mystery of the kingdom of God, but those outside the kingdom got parables without understanding. Compare this with verses 33-34.

How do these parables relate to one another? What are they about?

The kingdom

What is the parable in verses 3-9?

Verses 3-9 tell the parable of a man sowing seed which fell among different soils.

Soil beside the road which the birds ate
Rocky ground on which it sprang up, then was scorched when the sun rose
Among the thorns and was choked by them, so no crop

Then some fell into good soil which produced 30, 60 and 100-fold crop.

NOTE: In verses 3, 9, 12, 15, 16, 18, 20, 22, 23, 24 and 33 Jesus used the words "listen" or "hear." This is a key repeated point in these verses about the parables.

What was Jesus' interpretation of this parable and how does it relate to the kingdom?

In verses 14-20 Jesus explained the parable to His disciples.

The seed represents the Word which various people hear.

Satan can take it away.

Some hear and receive the Word with joy, but then affliction or persecution because of the Word comes and they fall away since they have no firm root.

The seed on the thorns represents those who hear, but worries, deceit of riches and desires choke out the Word and it becomes unfruitful.

Then those who hear and accept the Word bear fruit—30, 60 and 100-fold.
Those are the ones who are part of God's kingdom.

What is the parable and interpretation in verses 21-25? How does it relate to the kingdom?

A lamp is not for hiding, but to give light, and hidden things will be revealed.
Jesus was revealing the kingdom of God. The kingdom was at hand.
He told of and showed the new.

His caution was to take care what one listens to.
Those outside the kingdom heard in parables, but didn't understand.

If a person like a scribe or Pharisee measured what he heard by his own standard, he did not believe what Jesus said. But others like Jesus' disciples measured what He said and believed it. They received the kingdom.

To those who "had"—heard and believed the kingdom truth—more would be given.

What is the parable and explanation in verses 26-29? How does it relate to the kingdom?

Another parable is about a man sowing seed and not knowing how it sprouts. This is what God's kingdom is like—it grows, and there will be a harvest at the right time. God causes the growth of His kingdom.

Ask about the parable and explanation in verses 30-32. How does it relate to the kingdom?

God's kingdom is like a mustard seed in that it begins small and outgrows all others.

Verses 35-41

What happened in these verses?

Jesus and the disciples were going to the other side of the sea when a storm arose, and He was asleep. They thought they would perish, but He rebuked the wind and sea.

Jesus' question to them was why they feared instead of having faith.
With great fear they asked themselves who Jesus was that the elements obeyed Him.

You might ask your group what they've learned so far in Mark about Jesus' authority.

He forgives sins.
He has power over sickness, evil spirits, the sea and wind.

What is a possible theme for this chapter? Tell your group to look at what they noted on the At a Glance chart.

Parables about the kingdom; wind and sea obeyed Jesus

MARK 5

Verses 1-20

What is the event? What do these verses teach about Jesus?

Jesus and His disciples went to the country of the Gerasenes on the other side of the sea. A man with an unclean spirit bowed before Jesus and called Him the Son of the Most High God. Again, the unclean spirits knew who Jesus was.

Jesus asked the name of the spirit, and it was Legion for there were many in this man. They asked to be sent into the pigs and not out of the country. Jesus gave permission, and they entered the 2,000 pigs who then ran down a hill into the sea and were drowned.

Word spread, and people asked Jesus to leave their region. But the man who had been demon-possessed wanted to go with Him.

Verses 2 and 15 use different terms for the same condition.
The man had unclean spirits.
He was demon-possessed.

Jesus instructed the man to tell what the Lord had done for him, the mercy He had had on him. The man proclaimed in Decapolis, and the people who heard were amazed. Contrast this with the people in verse 17.

Verses 21-43

What two events are in these verses? What happened?

Verses 21-24

Jairus, the ruler of a synagogue asked Jesus to heal his twelve-year-old daughter who was about to die. He believed Jesus would heal her.

Verses 25-34

On the way to his house, a woman with a twelve-year hemorrhage touched Jesus' garments and was healed. Jesus said her faith had healed her.

Verses 35-43

Jairus's daughter died, but Jesus raised her. Peter, James and John were with Him when He raised the girl from the dead.

Ask your group what they learned about fear and faith. Give time for them to discuss application.

What is a possible theme for this chapter?

Jesus cast out Legion, healed 12-year hemorrhage, and raised a dead girl

**MARK
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 4**

Lesson emphasis

Mark 6–7

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, ask what your group remembers from Mark 1–5. If they need help, tell them to look at the chapter themes on their At a Glance chart. Also, refer them to the map as a visual aid for this discussion.

The first verse of Mark tells what the book is about—the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Mark 1

The first chapter shows John the Baptist and his ministry; Jesus’ baptism and the beginning of His ministry; Jesus as God’s Son who has power over sickness and spirits.

Jesus said the time was fulfilled, and the kingdom was at hand.

Mark 2

Jesus, Son of Man has authority to forgive sins. He called Levi the tax-collector to follow Him as one of His disciples. When the scribes questioned why He ate with tax-collectors and sinners, Jesus answered that He came to call sinners. He is Lord of the Sabbath.

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After another healing in a synagogue on a Sabbath, the Pharisees conspired with Herodians to destroy Jesus. Jesus appointed twelve to be with Him, preach and have authority. After He was accused of casting out demons by Beelzebul, He warned about blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.

Mark 4

Jesus told parables about the kingdom and explained the meaning to His disciples, but others didn’t understand. In this chapter, the wind and sea obey the Son of God.

Mark 5

Jesus cast out a Legion of demons from a man, but people asked Him to leave their region. Word about Him spread in the area of Decapolis and people were amazed.

He healed a woman and raised a dead girl. His power was demonstrated more and more.

You might ask your group what they’ve learned about who their Savior is.

MARK 6

Verses 1-6

What happened in these verses and where, when?

Jesus and His disciples went to His hometown.

NOTE: Some think His hometown refers to Nazareth where Jesus was raised, Mark 1:24. But others say Capernaum, Mark 2:1. According to this context, it seems more like Nazareth than Capernaum. The people there knew Jesus was a carpenter, Mary's son, and the names of his brothers; his sisters were there with them.

He taught in the synagogue on the Sabbath, and the people listening were astonished, again. They had questions about Him since they knew His family. They were offended and didn't believe. Jesus' ministry was limited there because of their unbelief.

Verses 7-13

Who and what are these verses about?

Jesus sent out the twelve in pairs, and He gave them authority to cast out demons. They preached repentance, and healed many sick.

Jesus' instructions to the twelve were not to take anything with them and stay in the same house in a village. If the people didn't listen, they were to shake the dust off their feet to testify against them.

You might ask your group how they handle rejection or unbelief from others when they try to minister to them.

Verses 14-29

Who heard what was going on, and what was the result?

Herod the king and others were talking about who Jesus was and why He could do miracles. Some thought He was Elijah or another of the prophets, but Herod thought He was John the Baptist raised from the dead.

What had happened to John the Baptist?

John confronted Herod about his sin of marrying his brother's wife. Herod feared John and protected him from Herodias who wanted John dead.

But when Herod promised her daughter whatever she desired, Herodias told her to ask for John's head.

Verses 30-44

How do these verses begin? What are the main events?

The apostles reported to Jesus about what they had done and taught when He sent them out, verses 7-13. He wanted them to go to a secluded place to rest for a while, but that didn't happen.

A large crowd was on the shore and He had compassion on them. They were like sheep without a shepherd, so He taught them. When it was late, the disciples suggested sending the crowd away to get food. But Jesus said for them to feed the crowd.

He multiplied the five loaves of bread and two fish to feed 5,000 men. And there were leftovers after the people ate and were satisfied.

Where do people turn when they have needs? Who can satisfy all needs?

Verses 45-52

What were the miracles in these verses? How did the disciples react?

Jesus sent the disciples to Bethsaida on a boat, while He sent the crowd away. He went to the mountain to pray and saw them struggling in the boat at the fourth watch of the night, 3 to 6 a.m.³

He went to them walking on the water, and got in the boat with them. They were terrified at the sight, but He commanded them not to be afraid. Again, Jesus' disciples saw that He had power over the wind and sea, and they were astonished.

They didn't understand who He is at this point, as their hearts were hardened or their minds were dull.⁴

Ask your group what this shows about who Jesus is...for their lives.

Verses 53-56

How does this chapter end? Also, discuss the cross-references.

Jesus' ministry was spreading to more and more people who needed Him.
Many wanted to touch the fringe of His cloak to be healed.

Numbers 15:37-41

God told Israel to make tassels on the corners of their garments and put a blue cord on the tassel. The tassels were to remind them of His commandments, to obey and be holy before Him.

³ New American Standard Bible: 1995 update, marginal note (Mk 6:48) (LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).

⁴ New American Standard Bible: 1995 update, marginal note (Mk 6:52) (LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).

Jesus was a man of Israel and therefore had the tassels or fringe on His cloak.

Matthew 9:20-22

This text says the woman in Mark 5:25-34 touched the fringe of His cloak, not just His cloak. She was healed as power went out from Jesus.

What is a possible theme for this chapter? Tell your group to look at what they noted on the At a Glance chart.

12 sent out; Herod and John the Baptist; Jesus fed 5,000 and walked on sea

MARK 7

Verses 1-23

What are the main points of this encounter?

Pharisees and scribes again questioned why Jesus' disciples didn't do certain things.

In this case the question had to do with keeping certain traditions Jewish elders had passed down. The Pharisees, scribes, and Jews kept the traditions.

Jesus pointed out that they had rejected or made void God's commandments by their traditions.

Does that kind of thing happen in churches now? Give your group time to discuss this and what some traditions of men might be.

What did Jesus teach about defilement?

It's not what goes into a person, but what comes out from the heart that defiles.
Evil comes from the heart of a person.

How does understanding these things Jesus taught help believers when confronted with legalism of any form?

Verses 24-30

Where did Jesus go and what happened there?

He went to the region of Tyre.

The text repeats that Jesus didn't want people to know where He was or what He did, but word about Him and His whereabouts spread quickly.

There Jesus cast a demon out of a Gentile woman's daughter. The woman understood what Jesus said and reasoned well with Him. He came to the Jews first, then Gentiles.

Verses 31-37

Where did He go next, and what happened there?

From Tyre through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee in the region of Decapolis

This was still mainly Gentile area, and it's where the man healed of Legion went to tell what the Lord had done for him. People there had been amazed at what he reported.

There Jesus healed a man who was deaf and spoke with difficulty.
Again, word spread about Him and brought astonishment.

He makes the deaf to hear.

What is a possible theme for this chapter?

Men's traditions and God's Word, defilement; Jesus healed Gentiles

**MARK
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 5**

Lesson emphasis
Mark 8–9

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, ask what your group remembers from Mark 1–7. If they need help, tell them to look at the chapter themes on their At a Glance chart. Also, direct them to the map as a visual aid for this review and the discussion of Mark 8 and 9.

NOTE: Keep your review brief because there is a lot to discuss from this lesson.

The first verse of Mark tells what the book is about—the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Mark 1–7

The first chapter shows John the Baptist and his ministry; Jesus’ baptism and the beginning of His ministry; Jesus as God’s Son who has power over sickness and spirits.

He came to call sinners.

Jesus said the time was fulfilled, and the kingdom was at hand. He told parables about the kingdom and explained the meaning to His disciples, but others didn’t understand.

Jesus, Son of Man, Lord of the Sabbath, has authority to forgive sins. He has authority over demons and sickness. The Son of God has authority over the wind and sea, and even death.

He multiplied food to feed over 5,000 people.
He walked on the sea.

Jesus appointed 12 to be with Him, preach and have authority. He sent them out in pairs to teach, heal, and cast out demons.

Some Pharisees from Jerusalem questioned why Jesus’ disciples didn’t keep the elders’ traditions, and He confronted them about holding their traditions higher than God’s Word. Defilement comes from the heart, not from what goes into a person.

Close to the end of chapter 7, Jesus healed a Gentile woman—He came for all who need Him.

MARK 8

Verses 1-10

What happened in these verses and where?

In the area of Decapolis, mainly Gentile territory, Jesus fed 4,000 people from seven loaves of bread and a few small fish. As with the 5,000, they ate until satisfied and had some left over.

NOTE: The 5,000+ in Mark 6 were probably Jews, and the 4,000 in chapter 8 Gentiles. You don't need to bring this up unless your group does.

Jesus and His disciples left that area of the Decapolis and went to the district of Dalmanutha.

Tell your group to look at their map to see His travels and where He was for the events.

Verses 11-13

Who showed up again in these verses, and what happened?

The Pharisees
argued with Jesus
tested Him
sought a sign

Jesus again sighed deeply, then said no sign would be given this generation. Then He left them.

Verses 14-21

What happened next?

Jesus warned the disciples about the leaven of the Pharisees and Herod, but they were focused on the fact that they had no bread. They didn't remember the 5,000 and the 4,000.

He pointed out their lack of understanding at that point.

Ask your group to consider if they forget what the Lord has done for them in the past. Give some time to discuss.

Verses 22-26

What happened and where? Also, discuss the cross-reference.

At Bethsaida Jesus restored a man's sight in stages, then the man saw clearly.

Jesus told him to go home but not into the village. So far in Mark, this is consistent with Jesus telling those in Jewish territory not to tell what He has done. The only person He told to spread the news was the demon-possessed man He healed in the country of Gerasenes in the area of Decapolis.

Matthew 11:2-5

Jesus quoted to John's disciples what Isaiah prophesied about Him.
He was the Expected One who restored sight, healed the lame and lepers and deaf.
He even raised the dead.

He preached the gospel.

At this point, you might ask your group if there is anything in these first 26 verses that especially ministered to them or that they had a question about. Give time for them to discuss.

Verses 27-33

What happened on the way to Caesarea Philippi?

Jesus asked the disciples who people said He was.
The answers were John the Baptist, Elijah, and other prophets.

Then He asked them who they said the Son of Man was.
The Father revealed to Peter who Jesus is.
The Christ, the Son of the living God—Matthew 16:13-17.

What was the Son of Man's future?

Suffer many things
Rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes
Killed
After three days rise

What did Peter think about those plainly stated facts?

Peter rebuked Jesus.
Then Jesus rebuked Satan.
Peter had believed the devil's lie about what would happen to Jesus.

Verses 34-38

What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus?

Deny self
Take up his cross—lose earthly life for the eternal
Follow Jesus
Don't be ashamed of Him and His words; or Jesus will be ashamed of you when He comes.

Give your group time to discuss what application they find in Jesus' description of His followers.
How are these manifested in their lives?

Then ask what they noted as a possible theme for Mark 8 on their At a Glance chart.

Jesus fed 4,000; Pharisees tested; disciples not yet understand; You are the Christ

MARK 9

Verses 1-8

What statement did Jesus make in verse 1?

He said that some of those with Him wouldn't die until they saw God's kingdom with power.

What is the event? How does Jesus' statement in verse 1 relate to what happened in verses 2-8?

Six days later He took Peter, James, and John with Him up on a high mountain where He was transfigured.

Radiant garments
Elijah and Moses appeared and talked to Jesus

Peter, James, and John were terrified, but Peter suggested they make three tabernacles for Jesus, Elijah, and Moses. Compare this with Hebrews 12:21—people are terrified when they get a glimpse of God.

Voice from the cloud said Jesus was His Son, listen to Him.
Then Elijah and Moses were gone.

His transfiguration showed the power of God's kingdom. Moses and Elijah are part of the kingdom.

How do the cross-references in Mark 1 and Matthew relate to these verses?

Mark 1:11

At Jesus' baptism, the Father spoke from heaven that Jesus is His beloved Son.

He was well-pleased with His Son.

Matthew 17:5

God also said at the transfiguration that He was well-pleased with His Son.

Ask what your group learned from the cross-references about Elijah and Moses.

1 Kings 18:36 and John 1:17

Elijah was a prophet who spoke the Lord's word.
Moses wrote the Law.

Acts 3:18-26

The prophets spoke of Christ's suffering, His going to heaven and return.

Moses said God would raise a prophet like Him from among Israel and they should listen to Him. He spoke of Jesus. Whoever doesn't heed what He says will be destroyed.

All prophets from Samuel onward announced His days.

Luke 24:27

Moses and the prophets spoke of Jesus.

Now ask the question from the lesson, “Why do you think Elijah and Moses appeared with Jesus on the mountain?”

God’s voice from heaven said to listen to His Son even though Moses and Elijah were with Him. God made what Jesus said equal to or greater than the Law and Prophets.

Lead your discussion back to Mark 9.

What was the subject after the transfiguration, verses 9-13? Discuss cross-references also.

Jesus told the three not to tell what they’d seen until the Son of Man rose from the dead.

They discussed what rising from the dead meant, showing they still didn’t fully understand what Jesus said.

Then there was a question about Elijah coming first.
Jesus said he had come.

Malachi 4:4-6

This is a prophecy about Elijah coming before the day of the Lord. He’ll restore hearts.

Matthew 11:7-15

Jesus spoke about John the Baptist—a prophet and more than a prophet. Then Jesus quoted from Malachi and referred the prophecy to John. The prophets and the Law prophesied until John, who seemed to be the last before the time was fulfilled for the kingdom of God to be at hand.

Men tried to force their way into God’s kingdom, but can’t. Maybe that statement referred to the Pharisees and scribes who thought the kingdom was theirs because they were Jewish leaders and kept the letter of the Law plus what they’d added to it.

Then Jesus said John was Elijah.

NOTE: Watch your time here, there is more to discuss from Mark 9.

Verses 14-29

What happened in these verses?

Jesus’ disciples couldn’t cast out a demon from a man’s son.

Jesus again referred to unbelief. It was an unbelieving generation.

Jesus said all is possible to him who believes, and the boy's father confessed his belief. He also asked for help in his unbelief, then Jesus cast out the deaf and mute spirit.

Later His disciples asked why they couldn't cast the demon out of the boy, and Jesus answered that it needed prayer. Power or authority to cast out demons was not enough in this situation.

What do the cross-references say about belief and prayer?

Matthew 17:14-21

This is Matthew's record of the same event. And here it adds that the disciples had a little faith. Nothing is impossible with faith. Jesus added fasting to prayer in this text. (ESV, see note on verse 20.)

Matthew 21:18-22

All you ask in prayer, believing (ESV—if you have faith), you will receive.

You can ask your group what they can apply about faith and prayer and Jesus helping unbelief.

Verses 30-32

What did Jesus tell the disciples again?

He would be delivered to men who would kill Him. They still didn't understand, but were afraid to ask more about it.

He prepared them ahead of time for what they would face, whether or not they understood it at the time.

Verses 33-41

Where did Jesus go and what were the discussions about?

Capernaum

The disciples discussed who among them was the greatest. Jesus said the servant is the greatest, and demonstrated with a child.

John asked about someone casting out demons in Jesus' name who was not with them. Jesus told them not to hinder because those doing miracles in His name would not be able to speak evil of Him afterward. He who is not against us is for us.

Those who care for Christians won't lose their reward.

Ask what application your group got from these discussions.

Verses 42-50

How does this chapter end? Ask about application.

Whoever causes a believing child to stumble will suffer great consequences.

Entering the kingdom of God is far more important than pursuing physical desires.

Hell is where the worm doesn't die and the fire is not quenched.

Jesus ended by saying to be at peace with one another; maybe relating this statement and illustration to verse 34.

What is a possible theme for Mark 9?

Transfiguration, belief and prayer, greatness and children, hell

**MARK
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 6**

Lesson emphasis

Mark 10–11

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, ask your group what Mark is about.

The first verse says the book is about the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Then you can ask what they remember from Mark 1–9.

Jesus said the time was fulfilled, and the kingdom was at hand.

He told parables about the kingdom and explained the meaning to His disciples, but others didn't understand.

Jesus came to call sinners.

Jesus, Son of Man, Lord of the Sabbath, has authority to forgive sins.
He has authority over demons, sickness, the wind and sea, and even death.

Jesus appointed 12 to be with Him, preach, and have authority. He sent them out in pairs to teach, heal, and cast out demons.

He had compassion on people.
His area of ministry centered around the Sea of Galilee.

Tell your group to look at their map as a visual aid for this discussion. Refer to it when Jesus went to another location.

MARK 10

Verses 1-12

Where did Jesus go? What happened in these verses? Discuss the cross-references.

He went to the region of Judea.

Pharisees tested Jesus about divorce. Again, their question had to do with what was lawful. Jesus asked what the law, Moses, said about divorce in Deuteronomy 24:1-4.

But He told them it was because of their hardness of heart that Moses wrote the commandment.

Genesis 2:18, 20-25

Then He restated what marriage was from the beginning. A man and woman become one flesh, husband and wife, joined by God and not to be separated by man.

Matthew 5:27-32

A similar passage to Mark 10:1-12. But in Matthew, Jesus stated a reason for divorce—unchastity / sexual immorality.

1 Corinthians 7:10-16

If a believing wife leaves her husband, she's to remain unmarried or be reconciled to her believing husband. But if one is married to an unbeliever who divorces the believer, the believer is not under bondage.

NOTE: Watch your time here. If your group wants more study on marriage and divorce, you can recommend the 40-Minute Study—Building a Marriage That Really Works or the Precept Upon Precept study on marriage.

Verses 13-16

Lead your discussion back to Mark 10. What is the next event?

When Jesus' disciples didn't want children brought to Him, He was indignant and took opportunity to teach about who will be part of God's kingdom. To enter the kingdom people have to receive it like a child—trusting.

He showed love, kindness, and blessing to the children He touched and held.

How does the cross-reference in Matthew relate to these verses in Mark 10?

Matthew 18:1-6

Jesus sat a child before the disciples as an example of what He said. People have to become like children to enter the kingdom—humble.

Ask your group what they're learning about entering God's kingdom.

Verses 17-31

Who and what are these verses about?

A wealthy man asked Jesus what he had to do to inherit eternal life. He was a religious man who had kept the law from his youth.

In verse 21 Jesus told him the cost for eternal life—sell his possessions and give to the poor.

Compare this with Mark 8:34-38.

Jesus loved the man and called him to store riches in heaven instead of earth and follow Him. But evidently he didn't because he went away grieving.

Jesus told His disciples it's difficult for men, especially the rich, to enter God's kingdom. But it's not impossible with God.

How do eternal life, entering the kingdom, and being saved relate?

In this passage, Jesus equated having eternal life with entering the kingdom and being saved. They are three ways of saying the same thing.

Ask about Peter's and Jesus' statements in verses 28-31.

The disciples had left everything to follow Jesus. That's basically what Jesus told the rich man to do. They were doing what Mark 8:34-35 says.

Jesus responded that those who leave all to follow Him will have 100 times more in this present age and eternal life. And again He changed the order of what the world thinks—first last and the last will be first.

Verses 32-34

Where was Jesus going and what did He say about it?

To Jerusalem
delivered to chief priests and scribes
condemned to death
handed over to Gentiles
mock, spit on, scourge, and kill Him
after three days, rise again

How many times had Jesus told the disciples about this?

In Mark 8 and 9 He had told the disciples twice before about His coming death and resurrection. But they had not understood what He meant.

Verses 35-45

Who and what are these verses about?

James and John asked to be seated at His right and left hands in His glory. They had seen his glory on the mountain.

They didn't know what they were asking, but Jesus did. He knew what He would have to go through before His glory. When He asked if they were able, they said they were—but didn't know what He meant.

But Jesus understood and said they would drink the same cup and be baptized with the same baptism as He was. But He didn't say who would sit where in glory.

The other ten disciples heard and were indignant toward James and John, but Jesus took opportunity to teach about authority and serving.

The Son of Man came to serve and to give His life a ransom for many.

Ask your group what they learned about being a servant. Give them time to discuss application.

You might ask: Can you give some specific examples of ways others have served you? What effect did their service have on you?

Verses 46-52

Where? Who? What are these verses about?

At Jericho, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus cried out to Jesus, Son of David, for mercy. Jesus told him his faith made him well, and he regained his sight.

What do the cross-references say about Jesus being the Son of David?

Isaiah 9:6-7

This is a prophecy about Jesus. He'll rule on David's throne and over his kingdom.

Those in Israel in Jesus' time knew who David was. Bartimaeus' reference to Jesus as Son of David showed he believed in Him as the coming king.

Jeremiah 33:14-17

This is another prophecy about one from David's line sitting on his throne ruling in righteousness and justice.

Matthew 1:1

Jesus' genealogy—He was a descendant of David's line. He is also Messiah.

Ask what your group noted as a possible theme for Mark 10 on their At a Glance chart.

Divorce, eternal life; Jesus headed to Jerusalem, healed blind Bartimaeus in Jericho

MARK 11

Verses 1-11

How does this chapter begin? Where was Jesus and what happened?

Jesus and disciples approached Jerusalem at Bethphage and Bethany near the Mount of Olives. He sent two into the village to get a colt for Him to ride into Jerusalem.

People put coats and branches on the road and shouted as He rode by. They recognized who He was.

Hosanna! “Save, we pray.”⁵

They blessed Him as the One who comes in the Lord’s name.
And they blessed David’s coming kingdom.
The two are connected.

How does the cross-reference in Zechariah relate to this event?

Zechariah 9:9

This prophesied what happened in Mark 11.
The King was coming to Jerusalem on a donkey, bringing salvation.

Verses 12-14

What happened in these verses?

The next day after leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry.
He looked at a fig tree for evidently anything to eat.
But it wasn’t the season for figs so there was nothing but leaves on it.
Then He spoke to it saying no one eat fruit from it again.
And the disciples heard it.

NOTE: Skip to verses 20-26 for your group to see what Jesus said about the tree.

Verses 20-26

How did Jesus use the fig tree as an illustration?

As an example of faith in prayer.
He taught the disciples about prayer—believe, don’t doubt, and forgive.

Discuss the related cross-references.

1 John 5:14 and John 15:7

Ask according to His will, abiding in Him and His words abiding within.
And God will grant the request.

NOTE: Your group might read various interpretations of what the fig tree represented. Jesus stated clearly what He meant by His actions. So don’t lose time here discussing interpretations not relevant to this text.

Verses 15-18

Ask your group about these verses.

Jesus entered the temple and drove out those buying and selling. He even turned over tables and seats because people were changing money and selling doves there.

⁵ Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998), G5614.

He quoted from what was written in the Old Testament about the temple. It was to be a house of prayer.

When the chief priests and scribes heard what Jesus had done, they began seeking how to destroy Him. They were afraid of Him because of the crowd being astonished at His teaching.

How did Jesus reason with the religious people? What can believers learn from that?

From God's Law, the Old Testament
It's a pattern for Christians to follow.

Verse 19

How does this statement compare with the cross-reference in Luke?

At evening, He and His disciples went out of the city.

Luke 21:37-38

He spent the night on the Mount of Olives.

Maybe they stayed in Bethany because of what Mark 11:11 says.

Verses 27-33

What happened in these verses?

Again in the temple, the chief priests and scribes questioned Jesus about His authority. He didn't answer them, but asked what they believed about John's baptism.

But Jesus had shown His authority when He cleared the temple of the merchants.

Ask your group how they summarized this chapter on the At a Glance chart.

Jesus rode into Jerusalem, cleared the temple, cursed the fig tree

You might end this discussion by asking what they learned about Jesus in this lesson that applies to them and their circumstances.

**MARK
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 7**

Lesson emphasis

Mark 12–13

REVIEW

Ask your group what Mark is about. You might suggest they write this on Mark at a Glance as the book theme if they have not.

The gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God

Ask them what they remember about Jesus in chapters 1–11. Give time for several to share briefly.

Then ask what happened in Mark 11:27-33.

Jesus was in the temple with the chief priests, scribes, and elders.
They had questioned His authority to drive out those buying and selling.

MARK 12

Verses 1-12

Who and what are these verses about?

Jesus told a parable to the chief priests, scribes and elders.

A man planted and prepared a vineyard and rented it to vine-growers. At harvest, he sent slaves to receive produce from the vineyard, but the vine-growers beat some and killed others. Then the man sent his beloved son whom they also killed.

The parable confronted the builders, Jewish leaders, with their rejection of God's prophets and His Son.

Then Jesus challenged them with the Scripture about the chief corner stone which the builders rejected. They stumbled over the stone, and Jesus told the consequences.

The kingdom of God will be taken from the rulers of Israel and given to others, those who believe, who accept Jesus as the Son of God.

Because of this confrontation the chief priests and Pharisees were seeking to seize Jesus, but didn't because they feared the people.

Why did Jesus use parables?

Mark 4:10-12, 33-34

Jesus' followers were given the mystery of the kingdom, but those outside—such as these Jewish leaders in Mark 11–12—received everything in parables. They didn't understand the spiritual truth behind the parables.

But they understood that Jesus spoke the parable in Mark 12 against them. They were the builders who rejected the stone—Jesus.

What does the 1 Peter cross-reference say about the stone?

1 Peter 2:4-10

Jesus, the living stone rejected by the builders, became the corner stone.

Believers are living stones being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices to God through Christ.

Those who disbelieve, like the Jewish leaders in Jesus' day, stumble because they are disobedient to the word, reject the message.

Verses 13-17

Who was sent to Jesus next and why? What was the result?

Pharisees and Herodians tried to trap Jesus in a statement. But He knew it was a test and amazed them with His response to give Caesar what is his and God what is His.

Ask your group what they learned from Jesus' response. Give a brief time for discussion.

Verses 18-27

Who questioned Jesus next and about what?

The Sadducees asked Him about the resurrection. And they included Scripture in their hypothetical situation.

How does the Acts cross-reference describe the Sadducees?

Acts 23:8

The Sadducees didn't believe in resurrection, angels or spirits.

In Mark 12:24-27, how did Jesus answer the Sadducees?

He pointed out what they didn't understand
the Scriptures
or God's power.

He used Scripture to answer. He is the God of the living, not the dead.

Verses 28-34

Who asked the next question and what was it? How did Jesus answer?

One of the scribes heard the Sadducees arguing and knew Jesus had answered them well. He asked about the foremost commandment and Jesus gave the foremost and the second.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.
Love your neighbor as yourself.

The scribe agreed, loving is more important than offerings and sacrifices.
Jesus said he was not far from the kingdom of God.

Ask your group why they think Jesus said these are the two greatest commandments. How does this relate to the scribe's response?

The scribe understood that obedience out of love for God and others is more than rote obedience to the law. It's more than merely giving an offering or sacrifice.

Matthew 22:40

The whole Law and prophets depend on these two commandments.

Give time for your group to discuss how this relates to their lives. Do they obey, and what is their motive for obedience?

What was the result of how Jesus responded to all the questions?

No more questions.

Luke 20:39-40

They didn't have courage to question Jesus anymore.

Jesus' answers, His reasoning put an end to the religious leaders trying to trap Him with their questions.

Verses 35-37

Ask about Jesus' teachings in these verses.

He spoke to the crowds in the temple.
Christ descended from David, but is also his Lord.

Verses 38-40

Who and what did Jesus warn about?

Beware of the scribes who wanted their religious activities to be seen and admired, yet at the same time they devoured widows' houses.

Their actions and motivation were direct contrasts with the two greatest commandments.

Jesus said they will receive greater condemnation.

Verses 41-44

Who and what are these verses about?

Jesus saw people putting their gifts into the treasury / offering box—the rich and a poor widow. He said that the widow’s two small coins were more than the rich put in because she gave all she had.

Contrast this with verse 40.

Ask your group what they noted as a possible theme for Mark 12.

Maybe something like:

Vineyard parable; Sadducees tested Jesus, no more questions; greatest commandment, widow’s giving

MARK 13

Verses 1-2

How does the chapter begin?

Going out of the temple, one of Jesus’ disciples commented on the stones and buildings.

Jesus said they would all be torn down.

Verses 3-8

What are these verses about and where did this teaching take place?

On the Mount of Olives opposite the temple

Peter, James, John, and Andrew questioned Jesus privately:

When will these things be?

What will be the sign when all will be fulfilled?

Jesus responded with instructions and warnings to His disciples.

See to it that no one misleads you.

Others will come and mislead many, saying they’re the Christ.

Don’t be frightened about wars, rumors of war, earthquakes, famines.

They’re not the end; they’re the beginning of birth pangs.

Verses 9-13

What did Jesus say in these verses? What are His warnings?

Be on your guard.

For My sake you'll

be delivered before courts,

flogged in synagogues,

and stand before governors and kings.

Family members will betray one another, even to death.

You'll be hated by all because of My name.

The gospel must first be preached to all the nations before the end comes.

But don't worry beforehand about what to say when arrested. The Holy Spirit will give what to speak in that hour.

The one who endures to the end will be saved.

Ask your group why they think Jesus told His disciples these things.

Jesus wanted His followers to know what was going to happen so they wouldn't be misled, frightened, or worried.

Then let them briefly discuss any application for believers today. You might ask: How do you think you will/would deal with these kinds of things?

Verses 14-27

Tell your group to look at Day 5 in the lesson—their list of events for these verses.

What is the sequence? As you discuss the events, relate them to the warnings.

When you see the abomination of desolation where it shouldn't be:

Those in Judea, Jews, must flee to the mountains.

The one on the housetop must not get anything out of his house.

One in the field must not turn back.

This indicates an urgency to leave Jerusalem at that time.

How do the cross-references relate?

Matthew 24:15-16 are parallel verses to Mark 13:14.

The abomination of desolation will stand in the holy place, in the temple of the Jews.

Daniel 12:11

From the time when the abomination of desolation is set up in the temple and the sacrifices are stopped, there will be 1,290 days. So there will be sacrifices in the temple until the abomination of desolation is set up there.

NOTE: The 1,290 days are not part of this lesson, only the abomination of desolation. But if anyone brings it up, some think these days include the 3½ years before Jesus' return and 30 more days of His setting up His earthly kingdom.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

The day of the Lord, yet future, will not come until the man of lawlessness is revealed by taking his seat in the temple, displaying himself as God, which is another description of the abomination of desolation.

Lead your group back to Mark 13 and continue discussing the sequence of events.

In those days—the days of the abomination of desolation—there will be a tribulation such as has not occurred since creation until now and never will.

The severity is such that no life will be saved, except the Lord shorten the time for the elect's sake.

NOTE: In this context, "elect" in verses 20 and 22 probably refers to believing Jews.

During this time, there will be false Christs and prophets, but don't believe.

Take heed—Jesus told all this in advance.

In those days, after the tribulation:

sun darkened
moon not give light
stars fall from heaven
powers in the heavens shaken

Then

see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

He'll send forth His angels and gather His elect.

Verses 28-32

What is the parable in these verses? How does it relate to what Jesus had just taught?

A fig tree sprouting leaves indicates summer is near.

The events Jesus taught indicate His coming is near—He's at the door.

The generation that sees these things happen—the events just prior to His coming—will not pass away until they all take place.

Jesus' words are sure. Heaven and earth will pass away, but His words won't.

Only the Father knows the day and hour for the Son's coming

Verses 33-37

What's the repeated phrase and why? How does Jesus use the illustration to make His point?

“Take heed / be on guard” is repeated in verse 33.

Keep or be on the alert (ESV—keep or stay awake) is repeated three times.

Like slaves in a house while their master is away, no one knows when he'll return.

Jesus' coming is like that—no one knows when. So, be alert.

Which commands or warnings in this chapter relate to believers now? What do you need to remember while waiting for His return?

Ask about a possible theme for Mark 13.

The Son of Man is coming—Be on the alert / stay awake

**MARK
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 8**

Lesson emphasis

- Mark 14

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, you might ask your group if someone asked them who Jesus is how they can answer from what they've studied in Mark.

Give them time to share what they remember from Mark. Tell them they can look at their At a Glance chart if they need help.

MARK 14

Verses 1-2

Who are these verses about, and when was it?

Two days before Passover and Unleavened Bread

Chief priests and scribes wanted to seize Jesus by stealth and kill him, but not during the festival, because they thought the people might riot.

Ask your group what they learned from the cross-references about Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread. Tell them to look at the chart "The Feasts of Israel" as a visual aid for this part of your discussion

Exodus 12:1-27; Leviticus 23:5-6

The Passover is a memorial to Israel celebrated on the 14th day of the first month.

The blood of an unblemished lamb on their doorposts was a sign for the Lord to pass over the houses of the Israelites when He went through Egypt and struck down the firstborn. The roasted flesh of the lamb was eaten that night, along with bitter herbs and unleavened bread.

1 Corinthians 5:7

Christ our Passover was sacrificed.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread, beginning on the fifteenth day of the month for seven days, was also a permanent ordinance. They were to eat only unleavened bread.

Deuteronomy 16:16

The Feast of Unleavened Bread, including the Passover, was one of the three times a year the males were to appear before the Lord in the place He chose—Jerusalem.

How did these feasts complicate the priests and scribes' plans?

With the very large amount of people in Jerusalem for Passover, it would have been difficult to seize Jesus and not cause a riot. They were fearful of the people, 11:18; 12:12.

Verses 3-11

Where was Jesus and what happened in verses 3-9? Tell your group to look at the map as a visual aid for this discussion.

He was eating with Simon at his home in Bethany.

A woman anointed Jesus' head with very costly perfume worth 300 denarii—about a year's wages. Some were indignant, but Jesus said she had done a good deed anointing Him for His burial.

He also said the account of what the woman had done will be spoken of wherever the gospel is preached.

According to verses 10-11, how did Judas' actions contrast with the woman's?

Judas, one of the twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus.
They promised him money for his betrayal.
Judas then began to seek an opportune time for the betrayal.

Verses 12-25

What happened in these verses?

It was the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb was being sacrificed.

Jesus sent two disciples into the city to prepare the Passover for them all to eat it.

Then when it was evening, Jesus and the twelve ate the Passover together.

Jesus told the twelve that one of them was going to betray Him, and they were grieved.

Verse 21 says His death was written, but woe to the one who betrayed Him.

Ask about the cross-reference in John.

John 13:21-30

Satan entered Judas after he took the morsel, and then he left.

Lead your discussion back to Mark 14:22-25. What happened?

While they were eating, Jesus blessed and broke bread, giving it to the other disciples. He said the bread was His body. He gave them to drink from the cup, saying it was the blood of covenant, poured out for many.

NOTE: The bread and wine were symbolic of Jesus' body and blood since His body was still intact and His blood had not been shed at that point. His statements were figurative, not literal.

Ask what the group learned about this covenant from the cross-references.

Luke 22:17-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Luke specifies that the covenant Jesus referred to was the new covenant.

Believers participate in the “Lord’s Supper” in remembrance of Him and to proclaim His death until He comes.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

This prophesies that God would make a new covenant, not like the old covenant of the law.

The new covenant promised:

God’s law within, written on hearts
He is their God and they His people
All will know Him
Forgiveness, sins remembered no more

1 Peter 1:18-19

Peter wrote to believers that redemption is by the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless.

Ask your group what they need to remember the next time they take the Lord’s Supper, Communion. Give them a brief time to share.

Verses 26-31

Where did Jesus and His followers go next, and what did Jesus tell them? Ask about the cross-references.

To the Mount of Olives

Jesus quoted from Zechariah 13:7, saying the disciples will all fall away. God will strike Jesus the shepherd, and the sheep, the disciples, will be scattered.

Then He said that after He was raised from the dead, He would go ahead of them to Galilee.

They all said they wouldn’t deny Him—the same attitude as in Mark 10:38-39.

But God's word in Zechariah was to be fulfilled.

And Peter would deny Jesus three times before a rooster crowed twice.

Give your group a brief time to discuss application for them.

Verses 32-42

What happened and where? Ask about the cross-reference in Luke.

They came to Gethsemane and Jesus took Peter, James, and John with Him to pray.

Jesus

very distressed and troubled
soul deeply grieved to the point of death

He prayed, asking if the cup might be removed from Him; yet God's will, not His.

Luke 22:43-44

Jesus was in agony praying very fervently. His sweat was like drops of blood. An angel came and strengthened Him.

Three times Jesus left the three men and came and found them sleeping. He asked them to watch and pray that they not come into temptation.

The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

The third time Jesus said the hour had come. The Son of Man was betrayed to sinners.

Ask your group what they learned about watching and praying. About doing the Father's will.

Verses 43-65

Who showed up and what happened?

Judas came, along with a crowd with swords and clubs, and kissed Jesus.

They seized Him—at night, away from the crowds in the temple.

The Scripture was fulfilled.

The disciples left Him and fled—just as Jesus said they would in 14:27.

Jesus was led to the high priest where the chief priests, elders, and scribes were gathered.

Peter followed at a distance and entered the high priest's courtyard.

They tried to obtain testimony to put Jesus to death—inconsistent, false testimony.

What evidence convicted Jesus? What was the charge and why? Discuss the cross-references where relevant.

Jesus was accused of blasphemy and condemned to death when He responded to the high priest about being the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One.

In verse 62 Jesus quoted from the Old Testament, speaking of Himself being the fulfillment.

The Son of Man at God's right hand and coming again

Psalm 110:1

The Lord God told the Lord Jesus to sit at His right hand until He put His enemies at His feet.

Mark 12:35-36

Jesus quoted the Psalm from David about Himself.

Leviticus 24:13-16

In the Law, the penalty for blasphemy was stoning.

Mark 10:33-34

Jesus said that after the chief priests and scribes condemned Him to death, then they would hand Him over to Gentiles who would mock, spit on, scourge, and kill Him.

Verse 65 of Mark 14 says that the Jews also spit at Him and beat Him, even before He got to the Romans.

Verses 66-72

How does the chapter end?

Peter denied Jesus three times before the rooster crowed a second time, just as Jesus said. He began to weep.

Ask your group for any other application from this chapter and give them a brief time for discussion.

Then ask what they wrote on Mark at a Glance as a possible theme for chapter 14.

Anointed for burial, Passover, betrayal, trial, Peter denied

**MARK
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 9**

Lesson emphasis

Mark 15–16

REVIEW

To begin this last discussion of Mark, ask your group what the main theme of Mark is. How does this gospel begin? Tell them to look at their At a Glance chart as a visual aid.

The gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God

You might ask what else they remember from Mark.

Jesus said the kingdom was at hand.

He had all authority, yet He was compassionate—He healed and cast out demons.

He chose 12 men to be His apostles.

The Son of Man came to serve.

He came to save sinners, but He confronted the self-righteous religious.

They tried to trap Him by asking questions, but He answered wisely and truthfully.

Then ask what they remember from Mark 14.

Chief priests and scribes sought to seize Jesus

Jesus anointed by woman

Judas to the chief priests to betray Jesus

Passover Meal with disciples—Jesus' body, His blood of the covenant

Prayer in Gethsemane

Judas's kiss and Jesus seized

False testimony and Jesus accused of blasphemy before high priest

Peter denied Jesus three times

MARK 15

Verses 1-15

Where was Jesus taken and when? What happened?

Early in the morning Jesus was delivered to Pilate, the Roman governor.

When Pilate asked if He was King of the Jews, Jesus responded positively. Pilate was amazed that Jesus made no answer to charges against Him.

The chief priests handed Jesus over because of envy. They stirred up the crowd to ask for the release of a murderer Barabbas, rather than Jesus.

When Pilate asked what to do with Jesus, they shouted “Crucify Him!” To satisfy the crowd, Pilate had Jesus scourged and handed Him over to be crucified.

Verses 16-21

How was Jesus treated in these verses? Where and by whom?

Taken by soldiers to the palace
Whole Roman cohort called together

Dressed in purple, crown of thorns
Mocked, beat on His head, spit on
Led to be crucified—Simon of Cyrene carried His cross

How does the cross-reference in Isaiah relate to these events?

Mark 15:1-20 was a fulfillment of Isaiah 52:14–53:8.

appearance marred more than any man
by His scourging we are healed
oppressed, afflicted, but did not open His mouth
like a lamb led to slaughter
taken away by oppression and judgment

Verses 22-39

What happened during His crucifixion? What was fulfilled from Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53?

Golgotha
lots cast for His garments
inscription of the charge: King of the Jews
Scripture fulfilled—numbered with the transgressors—robbers on his right and left
hurling abuse, wagging heads, mocking
6th hour—darkness
9th hour—My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?
cried and breathed His last
veil in the temple torn in two from top to bottom

Ask what your group learned from the other cross-references about Jesus’ death.

Philippians 2:5-9

Jesus is equal with God, but humbled Himself to take man’s form and suffer death on the cross. God exalted Him and gave Him the name above all names.

Hebrews 2:9

He died for everyone.

2 Corinthians 5:21

Jesus knew no sin, but He was made sin so that sinners can be made righteous.

What was the significance of the torn veil?

Exodus 26:31-33; Leviticus 16:2

The veil was the partition between the holy place and the holy of holies.

God was in the cloud above the mercy seat. Aaron the high priest could not enter the holy of holies whenever he wanted or he would die.

Hebrews 10:19-20

Because of the Jesus' blood, believers have confidence to enter the holy place, the presence of God, through the veil—Jesus' flesh.

Ask what the centurion acknowledged and how the cross-references relate.

Truly this man was the Son of God—the book theme

Mark 1:1 the book began this way—Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

The unclean spirits recognized Jesus as the Son of God, Mark 3:11.

Matthew 16:13-17

The Father revealed to Peter that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Verses 40-47

Who and what are these verses about?

Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the Less and Joses, Salome—looking on at a distance. In Galilee, they followed Jesus and ministered to Him.

Other women also came up with Him to Jerusalem.

One prominent member of the Council was Joseph of Arimathea who was waiting for God's kingdom. He asked Pilate for Jesus' body. Then he took Jesus down from the cross, wrapped Him in linen cloth, and laid Him in a tomb.

When Jesus was taken down from the cross, the women looked to see where He was laid.

What additional insights do the cross-references give about Jesus' burial?

Luke 23:50-54

Joseph was a good and righteous man who didn't consent to the Council's plan and action. He laid Jesus' body in a tomb cut into the rock, where no body had been before.

John 19:38-42

Joseph was a secret disciple for fear of the Jews. Nicodemus, who had first come to Jesus at night, John 3, brought myrrh and aloes. They bound Jesus' body in linen wrappings with spices and laid it in a new tomb nearby.

What is a possible theme for Mark 15?

Jesus before Pilate, scourged, mocked, crucified, buried

MARK 16

Verses 1-8

What is the timing and series of events?

On the first day of the week, Mary, Mary, and Salome came with spices to anoint Jesus' body. The stone was rolled away and they were amazed, seeing a young man in a white robe in the tomb.

He told them Jesus had risen. He said to tell the disciples and Peter that Jesus will meet them in Galilee, just as He had told them in Mark 14:28.

They were trembling and astonished and fled, saying nothing to anyone in their fear.

Ask about the result of the resurrection from the cross-references.

Romans 4:24-25

Jesus was crucified because of men's transgressions and raised for believers to be justified.

John 6:53-58

Those who eat Jesus' flesh and drink His blood live forever. Jesus gives spiritual life. The one who eats and drinks abides in Jesus and Jesus in him. This speaks of believers in Him.

Romans 10:9-10

Confessing Jesus as Lord results in salvation.
Believing in the heart God raised Him from the dead results in righteousness.

Verses 9-20

Who did Jesus appear to, and what happened when He did?

NOTE: As noted in the workbook, brackets around verses 9-20 indicate words not in the oldest manuscripts and therefore probably not in the original writings.

Verses 9-11, Jesus first appeared to Mary Magdalene She reported it to those who had been with Him, but they refused to believe it.

Verses 12-13, He appeared in a different form to two of them walking. They reported it to the others, but they didn't believe them either.

What does the cross-reference in Luke 24 say happened?

Luke 24:13-32

The day of Jesus' resurrection two of His disciples were going from Jerusalem to Emmaus. Jesus appeared to them and explained things about Himself beginning in Moses and all the Scriptures—the Old Testament.

Their hearts burned as He explained the Scripture to them.
After His explanation, they recognized Him.

Ask your group if their hearts burn as they study these lessons about Jesus. Ask if they explain these things to others.

Lead your discussion back to Mark 16:14-20. Who else did Jesus appear to?

He appeared to the eleven, reproaching them because they had not believed those who had seen Him.

He told them to go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

What is the gospel they were to preach according to 1 Corinthians 15?

1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 17

Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures and was buried.
He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures and appeared to many.

The gospel is the word believers stand in.
They're saved by it, if they hold fast to it.

The resurrection is an essential part of the gospel. If Christ was not raised, faith is worthless and people are still in their sins.

Ask your group to think about what they share when they share the gospel. Are they sharing what God's Word says is the gospel?

Lead the discussion back to Mark 16:16-20.

What do these verses say? And discuss cross-references.

He who has believed and has been baptized is saved.

Mark 1:8

Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit.

The unbeliever is condemned.

Signs will accompany believers:

cast out demons in Jesus' name
speak in new tongues
pick up serpents
not hurt by drinking deadly poison
lay hands on sick and they recover

Signs were a confirmation of the words the disciples preached.

Acts 2:1-11

On Pentecost believers were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them ability. They spoke of the mighty deeds of God in the languages of the Jews in Jerusalem.

Acts 8:4-8

As a result of persecution, the church scattered and preached the word where they went. Philip went to Samaria proclaiming Christ, and performed signs. Unclean spirits came out of people, and the paralyzed and lame were healed.

Acts 28:1-9

When shipwrecked on an island called Malta, a viper bit Paul. He shook it off into the fire and suffered no harm. Paul also healed many of diseases there.

How does the chapter end?

Jesus was received into heaven and sat down at God's right hand.

The disciples preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word by signs.

NOTE: As noted in the workbook, the bracketed italicized words after verse 20 are in a few later manuscripts and versions, usually after verse 8.

If these fit after verse 8, the women were to report to Peter and his companions.

After that, Jesus sent them to proclaim eternal salvation from east to west.

What is a possible theme for Mark 16?

Jesus rose, appeared; Go into all the world and preach / proclaim the gospel

To end your discussion, ask your group if there is anything in Mark that has helped them since they started the course. Let them share how God has used the Gospel of Mark in their lives.