

## **Mark 1:1-8**

---

### **Background Info:**

- Gospel = good news.
- Mark quotes Isaiah 40:3 to show that God had always planned to send a messenger ahead of Jesus.
- Judea = the land of Israel.
- John lived a hard life in the wilderness. His clothes were rough, and he ate locusts and wild honey because there was nothing better for food.

**Summary:** The good news about Jesus begins with John the Baptist. John was the one that Isaiah prophesied would come and prepare the way for the Lord. John preached that people needed to repent in order for God to forgive them. At the Jordan River, John baptized people who believed the good news and wanted to get right with God. He also said that someone much greater was coming after him—Someone who would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. We must admit our sins, turn away from them, and turn to God for forgiveness. This is what it means to repent. 2. We must ask Jesus to save us and give us the Holy Spirit. Only the Holy Spirit can give us the power to live rightly.

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 1:9-20**

---

### **Background Info:**

- Jesus was born in Bethlehem but grew up in a little town called Nazareth near the Sea of Galilee.
- Jesus never sinned, but He was baptized as a public commitment to the will of the Father.
- God is a Trinity! The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit were all present when Jesus was baptized.
- John was arrested and executed because he criticized the immorality of Herod, the King.
- To repent means to change the direction of one's life from self-rule to God-rule.

**Summary:** Both His baptism and temptation display the humble and holy character of Jesus. It was at this time that He began His public ministry ending in His crucifixion and resurrection 3½ years later. Jesus called together a small group of disciples. He taught them to be fishers of men: they were to help others follow Jesus.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. We must honor Jesus and seek to imitate His humble and holy character. 2. We must repent. Repentance begins a life of being a follower of Jesus. 3. We must seek to help others become followers of Jesus.

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 1:21-34**

---

### **Background Info:**

- Capernaum was a town close to Nazareth.
- “Unclean spirit” = demon. The demon’s words about Jesus were true, but Jesus didn’t want testimony from a demon! He only wanted to cast the demon out and set the person free.
- Simon = the apostle Peter. Andrew was his brother.
- Sickness and demonic oppression are two different things, but Jesus is able to make all well.

**Summary:** Jesus taught with confident authority. When a man with a demon cried out against Jesus, Jesus ordered the demon to be quiet and come out. Jesus’ hearers were amazed that He had the power to do this. Later Jesus healed Peter’s mother-in-law from a fever. In the evening, many sick people and people oppressed by demons were brought to Jesus, and He healed them.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. We must acknowledge Jesus’ authority and let Him be Lord over every area of our lives. 2. Our loving response to Jesus is to serve Him with gratitude, as Peter’s mother-in-law did. 3. God brings people into our lives so we can minister to them with Jesus’ love and compassion.

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 1:35-45**

---

### **Background Info:**

- If Jesus was God, then why did Jesus need to pray? God the Father and Jesus the Son have the closest possible relationship, and relationships depend on communication! Jesus would have found it impossible *not* to pray.
- Galilee = the northern region of Israel.
- Lepers were “unclean.” No one touched a leper because that would make them “unclean” too, even if they didn’t pick up the disease.
- Jewish law, which came from Moses, required that a leper offer a sacrifice when he or she was cured.

**Summary:** Jesus made time to pray, and He received specific directions from God. He preached throughout Galilee. Jesus lovingly healed a leper who came to Him. He told the man not to talk about it, but the man didn’t follow Jesus’ directions. As a result, Jesus became so popular that He could no longer go to towns to minister.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. We must make time to pray and seek God’s specific directions. 2. God’s directions provide the agenda for our lives, not other people’s expectations.

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 2:1-12**

---

### **Background Info:**

- “paralytic” = a man who can’t walk
- Houses in this area had grass roofs, so it was not too hard to move some grass aside, make an opening, and lower the man through the roof in front of Jesus.
- scribes = the religious experts of Jesus’ day who taught the Bible according to Jewish traditions

**Summary:** Jesus was preaching to the crowd that came to the house where He was staying. Four men brought their paralyzed friend to Jesus. It was so crowded that they made an opening in the roof and lowered their friend through it in front of Jesus. Jesus declared that the man’s sins were forgiven. Some of Jesus’ hearers wondered if He was claiming to be God by saying this. Jesus explained that He had authority to forgive sins, and to prove it, He told the paralyzed man to pick up his bed and go home. The man did so, and the crowd praised God for the miracle and for Jesus’ authority to forgive.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. The first priority in our relationship with God is to deal with our sins. 2. Ask God if there are any barriers you can remove in order to bring your friends to Jesus.

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 2:13-22**

---

### **Background Info:**

- “Levi” is better known as Matthew. He collected taxes for the Romans, so most Jews hated him.
- Fasting: many people who wanted to be spiritual practiced fasting. They went without food to concentrate on prayer and show devotion to God.
- John’s disciples = the disciples of John the Baptist

**Summary:** Jesus passed by Levi (or Matthew), a tax collector, and called Matthew to follow Him. Matthew did so, and he even invited Jesus and His disciples to dinner. Some Pharisees wondered why Jesus would hang out with people like Matthew and his friends. Jesus explained that He was a doctor for the sick; He had come for people who knew they were sinners. When Jesus was asked why His disciples didn’t fast, He explained that He was like a groom, His disciples were like groomsmen, and right now it was time to celebrate! Jesus also explained that His new message couldn’t be joined to the old ways of doing things.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. We must be willing to leave everything else behind to follow Jesus. 2. We must admit our hearts are sinful, and ask Jesus to cure them.

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 2:23-3:6**

---

### **Background Info:**

- Sabbath = Saturday, the day on which the Jews were commanded to worship and do no work.
- Son of Man: a name Jesus commonly used for Himself.
- Pharisees: one of the main religious/political groups of Jesus' day. They believed in their traditions and detailed interpretations of the Bible as much as they believed the Bible itself.
- Herodians: another religious/political group that emphasized cooperation with the Roman Empire.

**Summary:** When Jesus' disciples picked a few heads of grain to eat, some Pharisees thought they were doing "work" on the Sabbath. Jesus replied that God made the Sabbath for people's benefit, and that He was Lord over its laws and rules. Jesus healed a man with a crippled hand on the Sabbath. The Pharisees decided that was also "work" and wanted to get rid of Jesus.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. Some things are more important than others, and the most important thing is to recognize that Jesus is Lord. 2. Ask God if there is a way you can bring love and healing to someone else today.

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 3:7-19**

---

### **Background Info:**

- The "sea" in Mark 3:7 is the Sea of Galilee.
- Idumea = a Roman province east of Judea; the area is known as "Edom" in the Old Testament
- "beyond the Jordan" means east of the Jordan River
- Tyre and Sidon were northwest of Galilee. People were coming to Jesus from all over Israel and the surrounding lands as well!

**Summary:** Great crowds came from all over Israel and even beyond to hear Jesus teach at the Sea of Galilee. Jesus was almost crushed by the crowds, and everyone who was sick wanted to touch Him and be healed. When Jesus cast out demons, He ordered them not to confess who He was. Afterward Jesus went up a mountain to pray. He then chose twelve of His disciples to be the apostles.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. In order to minister effectively, we often have to be flexible in how we do things. 2. Join in Jesus' work and share the work with others! 3. Jesus was never too busy to pray. We must set aside time for prayer so we can seek God's directions.

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 3:20-35**

---

### **Background Info:**

- Beelzebul = a name for Satan
- Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit: this is sometimes called “the unforgivable sin.” It involves attributing God’s work to the devil and rejecting Jesus throughout one’s lifetime.

**Summary:** Jesus and His disciples were extremely busy. Jesus’ family thought He was crazy and tried to take Him away. The scribes claimed that Jesus got His powers to cast out demons from Satan. Jesus replied that if a kingdom or a family is at war with itself, it can’t stand; Satan isn’t going to work against himself! Jesus warned that blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is unforgivable, because the scribes were claiming the Spirit within Jesus was really Satan. When Jesus’ mother and brothers came for Him, Jesus explained that those who do God’s will are His true family.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. No matter what other people think or say about you, do what God wants you to do. 2. Rejoice that Jesus has made you part of His family! 3. Ask God for His specific directions for you today.

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 4:1-12**

---

### **Background Info:**

- Got into a boat: the acoustics at the Sea of Galilee are like a natural auditorium. Jesus could get in a boat, speak from the water, and everyone on shore could hear Him.
- Mark 4:12 quotes Isaiah 6:9-10.
- Farmers in Jesus’ day would sow a field by walking around and flinging seed across it as they went.

**Summary:** Jesus taught the crowds at the Sea of Galilee with a parable about a farmer sowing his field. Seed fell on hard ground, shallow soil, soil with weeds and thorns, and also some good soil. The good soil produced a crop 30 to 100 times greater than what was sown! Jesus challenged His hearers to listen and think deeply about what He said. His disciples responded by asking what the parable meant. Jesus explained that He spoke in parables to discourage people who didn’t want to understand deeply.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. Ask God to show you what the soil of your heart is like. 2. Pray for a great desire to go deep with God into His truth and live as much of it as you can.

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 4:13-25**

---

### **Background Info:**

- Parable: a little story used to teach or make a point
- “He who has ears to hear, let him hear:” a call from Jesus to really consider what He said.

**Summary:** Jesus explained His parable to His disciples. The seed represents the gospel, and the different types of ground represent different types of people. Some don't accept it (hard ground); some aren't willing to go deep and endure (rocky ground); some let other things choke it out in their lives (thorny ground); and some are good soil and they bear fruit. Jesus then told His disciples that the gospel was like a lamp that would bring everything to light. Those who pay attention to Jesus' words will gain more understanding, and those who don't really listen will lose what they thought they had.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. Ask God to break up the hard ground, remove the rocks, and remove the weeds from the field of your heart so that you may be good soil. 2. Part of really hearing Jesus' words is sharing the gospel with others! When we do this, we will bear fruit and understand it better ourselves. 3. Ask God to give you more insight into His word. (James 1:5)

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 4:26-42**

---

### **Background Info:**

- The Kingdom of God: God's direct rule over the world through the network of His true followers. The primary unit of that network is the local church.
- In Jesus' time, the “other side” of the Sea of Galilee (the east side) is where the non-Jewish pagans lived.

**Summary:** Jesus taught that the Kingdom of God is like a planted seed; there is life within it that makes it grow. He also taught that when the tiniest seed of faith is planted in the soil of good hearts, the Kingdom grows up from them like a large tree. Jesus taught the crowds with parables and explained them later to His disciples. One day Jesus wanted to cross the Sea of Galilee. Jesus was sleeping in the back of the boat when a violent storm arose. The disciples woke Jesus, Jesus rebuked the wind and waves, and the storm vanished! The disciples were in awe of Jesus.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. Trust God and ask Him to grow His Kingdom in your heart every day. 2. Ask God to grow His Kingdom through your church. 3. As you follow Jesus, sometimes storms will come up in your life. Trust Jesus to deal with them and pull you through.

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 5:1-13**

---

### **Background Info:**

- Gerasenes (or Gergesenes, or Gadarenes): a Canaanite group of people.
- Legion: A Roman army unit that numbered 4,640 to 5,000 soldiers.
- Pigs: An unclean animal to the Jews. The herdsmen might have been raising the pigs for temple sacrifices to Baal, or they may have raised them for food.

**Summary:** When Jesus crossed the Sea of Galilee, a demon-possessed man met him. He lived among the tombs, wailing and cutting himself, and he was violently strong. He ran to Jesus, and the demon in him begged Jesus not to torment him. Jesus rebuked the demon and asked its name; the answer was “legion,” a multitude of demons. The demons begged Jesus to enter a herd of pigs, and Jesus gave them permission. The pigs, about 2,000 of them, ran into the Sea of Galilee and drowned.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. Don't be afraid of demons, for Jesus has authority over all of them! 2. Unsaved people are not enemies, and they aren't just sets of spiritual problems. Think of them and pray for them as people who need to be set free by Jesus.

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 5:14-24**

---

### **Background Info:**

- Decapolis: a set of ten non-Jewish towns east of the Sea of Galilee. The man set free from demons was so grateful that he did all that Jesus asked, and more!
- Ruler of the synagogue: a position similar to “pastor” or “church leader” in a local church today.

**Summary:** After their pigs drowned, the herdsmen fled and told everyone what happened. People came out and were amazed to see the demon-possessed man clothed and in his right mind. But the people were afraid of Jesus' power and asked Him to leave them. The man Jesus had healed begged to go with Him. Jesus told him to go home and tell his friends what God had done for him. The man went throughout the ten cities in his region, telling how Jesus had healed him.

When Jesus returned across the Sea of Galilee, a synagogue leader met Him. He begged Jesus to come heal his dying daughter, and Jesus agreed to come.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. Thank God for all the mercy He has shown you in your life, and ask Him how much you can do for Him today! 2. All of us need God's help and healing. Don't hold back from coming to Him.

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 5:25-34**

---

### **Background Info:**

- Discharge of blood: the woman's health problem was embarrassing, and it made her "unclean" according to Jewish law. (Lev. 15:25)
- Normally, if an "unclean" person touched a "clean" person, that person would become "unclean" too. (Lev. 15:19; Hag. 2:13) This is why the woman was afraid when Jesus asked, "Who touched Me?"

**Summary:** While Jesus was on His way to heal a man's daughter, a crowd was pressing all around Him. A woman who had suffered with a discharge of blood for 12 years tried to touch Jesus for healing. She managed to touch His garment, and she was healed! Jesus felt power go out from Him and asked, "Who touched Me?" The woman fearfully admitted what she had done. Jesus lovingly reassured her and affirmed her faith.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. Everyone has at least one sin in their lives that they struggle with for years. Will you trust God to change you and give you victory in those areas? 2. The interruptions in our lives are often God's opportunities to minister and be a blessing. Ask God to give you a "holy opportunity" like that today!

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 5:35-43**

---

### **Background Info:**

- "sleeping:" The Jews sometimes used this word to describe the state of the dead waiting for the resurrection. People laughed at Jesus because they thought He meant literal sleep.
- Talitha cumi: Jesus and the Jews of His day spoke Aramaic as their native language. "Talitha cumi" are the original Aramaic words that Jesus actually spoke.

**Summary:** Some messengers from the synagogue leader's house told him that his daughter had died. They thought it was useless for Jesus to come, but Jesus told the man to trust Him. Jesus entered the house, where people were mourning for the girl, and said that she was not dead but asleep. The people laughed. With just the girl's parents and three of His disciples present, Jesus told the dead girl to rise. She got up and walked around! Her parents were amazed, but Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone and asked them to give her something to eat.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. When situations in your life go from bad to worse, keep on trusting God! 2. Don't worry if people will laugh at you for speaking God's truth or doing God's work. Just do it anyway.

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 6:1-13**

---

### **Background Info:**

- Mark 6:3 describes Jesus in relation to His earthly family. Joseph, Mary's husband, was a carpenter, so Jesus became one too. Joseph is not named in this verse, which suggests that he had already died.

**Summary:** Jesus returned to His hometown and taught in the synagogue. The townspeople were very surprised by His wisdom and His ability to perform miracles. They thought they knew all about Jesus and His family, and they were offended that Jesus didn't fit into their ideas about Him. Jesus could only heal a few people there because many people refused to believe in Him. Later Jesus sent out His twelve apostles to do ministry. He instructed them to live by faith and depend on the people who received them to provide for them. The apostles preached the message of repentance, cast out demons, and healed the sick in Jesus' name.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. We must learn the truth about Jesus from the Bible and accept Him as He really is. 2. You won't have all the resources or all the answers ahead of time to do what God calls you to do. You need to trust God and depend on Him as you do it!

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 6:14-29**

---

### **Background Info:**

- King Herod: not Herod the Great, who was king when Jesus was born, but one of his sons who was also named "Herod."
- Elijah: People in Jesus' day were looking for Elijah because Mal. 4:5 says that Elijah will come before the day of the Lord comes.

**Summary:** People had many ideas about Jesus! Some, including Herod, thought the spirit of John the Baptist was living in Him. Herod had imprisoned John because Herodias, his wife, got upset when John said their marriage was unlawful. Herod didn't want to kill John, but Herodias hated him. On Herod's birthday, Herod gave a feast and his daughter danced for him and his guests. She danced so well that Herod swore he would give her whatever she asked for as a reward. Herod's daughter consulted her mother, and Herodias told her to ask for John the Baptist's head. Herod was very sorry, but he didn't want to break his oath, so he did as she asked.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. Following Jesus can cost you everything. People won't always understand you or like you. Follow Jesus anyway!

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 6:30-44**

---

### **Background Info:**

- 200 denarii: A denarius was the standard daily wage for a field worker. In today's terms, 200 denarii would equal eight months' pay at an entry-level job.
- About 5,000 men: This is a count of the men only; (Matt. 14:21) there were thousands of women and children as well!

**Summary:** Jesus wanted His disciples to take a break from ministry. But people saw them leave by boat, and they ran around the lakeshore to meet them when they landed. Jesus felt compassion for such spiritually hungry people and He taught them. That night, Jesus asked His disciples to feed the crowd. They told Jesus that they didn't have enough money to do it; they only had five loaves of bread and two fish. Jesus told the crowd to sit down in groups. He blessed the food and gave it to His disciples to give to the people, and thousands were fed!

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. It's important to rest and take care of yourself. 2. How hungry are you for God's word? How much do you want Jesus today? 3. None of us has a lot to offer Jesus. But when we give Him what we do have, Jesus will bless it and multiply it!

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 6:45-56**

---

### **Background Info:**

- Bethsaida: a town on the north shore of the Sea of Galilee
- Fourth watch of the night: about 3:00 to 6:00 a.m.
- Gennesaret: a town on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee

**Summary:** Jesus dismissed the crowd, sent His disciples across the Sea of Galilee in a boat, and went up a mountain to pray. Jesus could see that His disciples were struggling against the wind. Late that night Jesus walked across the water to get where they were going. The disciples thought He was a ghost and they were terrified. But Jesus spoke calmly to them, and as soon as He got into their boat the wind ceased. The disciples didn't "get" Jesus yet. When they landed, people began coming to them and bringing those who were sick. Wherever Jesus went, people brought the sick to Him to touch Him and be made well.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. When we "struggle against the wind" in our lives, it's not always a spiritual problem; sometimes it's just the circumstances we are in. 2. We need to pray, and we need Jesus—all the time.

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 7:1-13**

---

### **Background Info:**

- In Mark 7:6-7, Jesus quotes Isaiah 29:13
- In Mark 7:10, Jesus quotes Ex. 20:12 and Ex. 21:17
- Corban: a gift-giving arrangement where someone dedicated something as a gift to God, to be given at a later time. According to the Pharisees' tradition, a person was not obligated to support their parents out of anything that was "corban."

**Summary:** The Pharisees and Bible experts saw Jesus' disciples eating with unwashed hands. They asked Jesus why the disciples didn't follow their traditions on this point. Jesus called them hypocrites for putting man-made regulations ahead of God's commandments. As an example, Jesus noted that the Pharisees allowed a person to use the tradition of "corban" to avoid responsibility for supporting one's parents.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. God's Word, and nothing else, is the standard for our lives. Read it and know it! 2. When God gives us a command, we want to follow the purposes and reasons for it when we keep it. 3. Ask God to draw your heart closer to Him, and make your heart more like His today.

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 7:14-30**

---

### **Background Info:**

- Tyre and Sidon: Places northwest of Israel on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea.
- "dogs:" A put-down that the Jews used to refer to Gentiles (non-Jewish people). Jesus was not a racist Himself, but He used this word to make His disciples think about their attitudes toward other people.

**Summary:** Jesus told the crowds that what comes out of a person defiles them, not what goes into them. When His disciples questioned what He meant, Jesus explained that food enters the stomach, not the heart! The evil words, thoughts, motives, and actions that come out of our hearts make us unclean before God. Jesus then went away to the Mediterranean coast. A Gentile woman came to beg Jesus to heal her daughter. Jesus said that He should minister to the Jews first, but the woman persisted in faith. Jesus answered her request and she went home to find that the demon had left her daughter.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. Is there anything unclean in your heart that God wants to remove? Ask Him about it today. 2. Pray about how you can share God's love with those who are different from you.

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 7:31-8:9**

---

### **Background Info:**

- Does Jesus' method of healing seem strange? For the man who could hear nothing before Jesus healed him, Jesus' touch was a specific communication about what was going on.

**Summary:** Jesus returned to the Decapolis region. The crowds brought Him a deaf man who also had difficulty speaking. Jesus took him aside, touched his ears and tongue, and commanded healing. The man was healed, and despite Jesus' orders not to talk about it, everyone did so anyway because they were completely amazed. A little later on, Jesus wanted to feed a crowd that had come to listen to Him before sending them home. His disciples didn't see how that could happen. Jesus took the seven loaves of bread and the fish that they had, asked the crowd to sit down, and told his disciples to distribute the food. About 4,000 were fed, and seven baskets of bread were left over.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. No matter how difficult or impossible a situation looks, Jesus can deal with it! 2. Don't do God's work out of your own resources. Bring what you have to Jesus, and let Him multiply its use!

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 8:10-21**

---

### **Background Info:**

- Dalmanutha: a town near the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee.
- leaven: yeast, the ingredient that makes bread rise. Jesus used leaven as a symbol for false teaching. (Matt. 16:12)

**Summary:** Jesus took a boat across the Sea of Galilee to the eastern shore. Some Pharisees came and argued with Him, challenging Jesus to produce a sign from heaven and prove Himself. Jesus knew these Pharisees were part of those who would not believe in Him, and He refused to give them a sign. Jesus got in the boat and left, and His disciples forgot to bring bread. Jesus warned them to beware the leaven of the Pharisees and the Herodians. The disciples thought Jesus was referring to the fact they had no bread. Jesus reminded His disciples that He had fed multitudes of people on two occasions, and He questioned their lack of understanding.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. We must accept Jesus on His own terms, not ours. 2. Both spiritual leaders and political leaders can persuade us to accept false ideas. Test everything to see whether it agrees with the Bible.

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 8:22-30**

---

### **Background Info:**

- Caesarea Philippi: A town in the northern mountains of Israel
- Christ = the Messiah, God's chosen deliverer. Jesus told His disciples not to reveal that He was the Christ because people had wrong ideas about what the Christ would do.

**Summary:** At Bethsaida, some people brought a blind man to Jesus. Jesus took him outside the village, spit on his eyes, and laid His hands on him. The man began to see partially. Jesus touched the man again, and then he could see fully. Jesus sent him straight home and took His disciples to Caesarea Philippi. He asked them who the crowds thought He was: common answers were John the Baptist, Elijah, or one of the prophets. Jesus then asked His disciples who they thought He was. Peter answered for them and said, "You are the Christ."

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. Our understanding grows in stages. Don't be content with a fuzzy view of God and Jesus; keep growing! 2. Many people have wrong ideas about Jesus. Who can you tell that Jesus is the Christ, the One who saves us from our sins?

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 8:31-9:1**

---

### **Background Info:**

- "Get behind me, Satan:" Peter didn't realize it, but Satan was using him to discourage Jesus from completing His mission.
- "take up his cross:" the only people who carried crosses were criminals on their way to be crucified.
- In Mark 8:35-37, the words "life" and "soul" are the same word in the original Greek text.

**Summary:** Jesus began to teach His disciples that He must suffer, be rejected by Israel's religious leaders, be killed, and rise again. Peter tried to rebuke Him, but Jesus rebuked Peter and told him that he was not focused on what God was doing. Jesus then told all the people with Him that following Him meant radical self-denial. He challenged them to surrender their lives to Him and to the gospel in order to gain eternal life. Jesus also said that some of them would live to see God's Kingdom come in power.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. We must give our lives completely to Jesus and His work; there is no other way to be saved. 2. Ask God if there is anything or any area in your life that still needs to be handed over to Him.

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 9:2-13**

---

### **Background Info:**

- rabbi = teacher
- Elijah: In Mark 9:11-13, Jesus and His disciples discuss the prophecy about Elijah in Mal. 4:5-6. John the Baptist fulfilled this prophecy. (Matt. 17:13)

**Summary:** Jesus took Peter, James, and John with Him up a high mountain. There Jesus' appearance changed to reveal His glory, and Elijah and Moses appeared and talked with Him. Not knowing what to say, Peter suggested they should make three tents for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. But a cloud overshadowed them, and God said, "This is My beloved Son; listen to Him." Looking around afterward, the three disciples saw only Jesus. Jesus told them to wait until after His resurrection to tell anyone what they had seen. They asked Jesus about a prophecy that Elijah must come first. Jesus indicated that John the Baptist was the "Elijah" of that prophecy, and just as John had suffered contempt, so He would too.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. Jesus is the Son of God and more important than any other prophet or teacher. He must have first place in our lives. 2. Listen to Jesus through the Bible and through prayer.

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 9:14-29**

---

### **Background Info:**

- "faithless generation:" Jesus used "generation" to refer to the unbelieving society of His day.

**Summary:** Jesus returned and found a crowd arguing with His disciples. A man had brought his son to them because an evil spirit made him mute and threw him into seizures, but the disciples couldn't cast it out. Jesus lamented people's lack of faith and asked for the boy. The spirit convulsed the boy when it saw Jesus. Jesus asked the boy's father about the situation; he explained it and asked Jesus to help if He could. Jesus called for belief to replace the man's "if You can." The man cried out, "I do believe; help my unbelief!" Jesus commanded the evil spirit to leave and never return. The boy appeared dead after the spirit left, but Jesus took his hand and raised him up. Later on Jesus' disciples asked why they couldn't cast the demon out. Jesus replied that it could only be driven out by earnest prayer.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. Believe that God can do all things! 2. Encourage others to trust God more (for example, by sharing your own story). 3. Pray for yourself and others that your faith and theirs would grow.

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 9:30-37**

---

### **Background Info:**

- Jesus didn't want people to know where He was going (Mark 9:30) because they wouldn't understand that His death in Jerusalem was part of God's plan.

**Summary:** Jesus passed through Galilee, but He didn't want anyone to know about it. Jesus was telling his disciples that He would be handed over to people who would kill Him, but three days after His death He would rise again! His disciples were too afraid to ask Jesus what He meant by that. When they came to Capernaum, Jesus asked His disciples what they had been discussing among themselves. The disciples didn't answer because they had been arguing about which of them was the greatest. Jesus told them that the person who wanted to be first among them had to be the servant to everyone else. Then He put a child among them and explained that ministering to a child is like welcoming Jesus Himself and God the Father.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. We must humble ourselves and be willing to serve Jesus however He calls us to serve. 2. Pray for a new opportunity to serve God by serving someone else today.

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 9:38-50**

---

### **Background Info:**

- great millstone: a circular stone, large and heavy, used for grinding grain.
- Gehenna: some Bible versions use the Greek word "Gehenna" in Mark 9:43 and 9:47; it means "hell."

**Summary:** Jesus told John not to rebuke someone casting out demons in His name, because such a person was not opposed to them. Anyone who ministers to a Christian will receive his or her reward from God. On the other hand, anyone who causes a "child in the faith" to sin will receive strong condemnation. Do whatever it takes to get rid of sin in your life, because anything is better than going to hell, where destruction and suffering last forever. Everyone will be tested, so be prepared! If salt loses what makes it "salt," it's useless. Make sure you keep the "salt" of God's grace within you, and live at peace with other Christians.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. Is there any behavior in your life that you would not want a new Christian to imitate? Ask God how you can get rid of it! 2. Ask God to fill you with His grace to meet the needs that will come up today.

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 10:1-16**

---

### **Background Info:**

- region of Judea: the southern part of Israel
- beyond the Jordan: east of the Jordan River
- divorce: Jesus' teaching in Mark 10 gives the general principles. Other verses mention two exceptions to these principles. (Matt. 5:32; 1 Cor. 7:15)

**Summary:** While Jesus was teaching the crowds, some Pharisees tested Him by asking about divorce. Jesus asked them what the Law of Moses said; they replied that a man was permitted to divorce his wife. Jesus explained that God allowed this because human hearts are sinful. Marriage is supposed to be a permanent union between one man and one woman. A person who divorces and remarries someone else commits adultery against their former spouse. When children came up to Jesus, His disciples turned them away. But Jesus insisted that the children come to Him. He said that we must all have faith like a child in order to enter God's Kingdom.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. The Bible, not popular culture, provides the standards for our lives. 2. Trust God with direct and simple faith, just like a child. 3. Everyone is worthwhile to Jesus, so treat them that way!

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 10:17-31**

---

### **Background Info:**

- Wealthy people: the Pharisees taught that riches and wealth were the result of God's blessing and a sign of His favor. So Jesus' disciples were shocked to hear that it was hard for the rich to get into heaven!

**Summary:** A man approached Jesus and asked Him what he should do to gain eternal life. Jesus told him to keep the Ten Commandments. When the man replied that he had done so, Jesus told him to sell all his possessions, give the money to the poor, and follow Him. The man left sadly, because he was wealthy. Jesus then said it was hard for the wealthy, or anyone for that matter, to enter God's Kingdom. His disciples were amazed at this. Jesus explained that it was impossible for people to achieve salvation, but all things were possible for God. Peter mentioned that they had left everything to follow Jesus. Jesus said they would be rewarded many times over, and also persecuted, but they would receive eternal life.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. Ask God if there is anything that holds you back from following Jesus completely. 2. Surrender it to Him. 3. Don't try to earn salvation by doing good things; just ask God to save you.

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 10:32-45**

---

### **Background Info:**

- “the cup that I drink...the baptism with which I am baptized:” symbolic references to Jesus’ upcoming suffering and death. Jesus questioned James and John about this in Mark 10:38 because He would have responded differently if they had said “no.”

**Summary:** Jesus was leading His followers to Jerusalem, and they were amazed and afraid. He told His twelve apostles that in Jerusalem He would face suffering, humiliation, and death, but after three days He would rise again. James and John came to Jesus and asked that they sit next to Him in His Kingdom. Jesus replied that God the Father would assign this, not He Himself. When the other apostles were upset with James and John, Jesus called them together and explained that greatness in God’s Kingdom was not about having power over others, but serving others. He Himself was going to give His life as a ransom payment that would set many people free.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. Dedicate yourself fully to the work God has for you to do. 2. Following Jesus can involve some suffering. 3. Don’t worry about rank or power; just try to serve God as much as you can!

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 10:46-11:10**

---

### **Background Info:**

- Mount of Olives: a mountain ridge just to the east of Jerusalem.
- Bethpage and Bethany: two towns on the Mount of Olives.
- Hosanna! = “Save now!” an exclamation of praise

**Summary:** When Jesus and His followers left Jericho, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus was sitting by the road. He cried out, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” The crowds told him to be quiet, but Jesus called him over. When Jesus asked Bartimaeus what he wanted, he said that he wanted to see again. Jesus healed him, and he followed Jesus on the road. When Jesus got near the Mount of Olives, He sent two disciples ahead to fetch a donkey’s colt. They brought the colt to Jesus. The crowds spread their cloaks on the road, waved leafy branches, and shouted praises as Jesus rode the colt into Jerusalem.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. Like Bartimaeus, don’t let anything stop you from coming to Jesus and asking Him for mercy. 2. Recognize Jesus for who He is—your Savior and King—and follow Him today.

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 11:11-19**

---

### **Background Info:**

- There were no ripe figs on the tree, but there should have been unripe figs, which are also good to eat.
- The merchants in the temple were exchanging money for “temple currency,” selling approved animals for sacrifice, and making huge profits.

**Summary:** It was late when Jesus looked around the temple, so He left and came back the next day. On the way there, Jesus was hungry, so He went up to a fig tree and looked for something to eat. He found nothing, so He cursed the tree. When Jesus came to Jerusalem, He went into the temple, drove out the merchants, and overturned their tables. He did this because God’s house was supposed to be a house of prayer for everyone, but it had become a place where merchants ripped people off. The religious leaders wanted to destroy Jesus, but they were afraid of the crowds who were amazed by His teaching.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. What spiritual fruit do you see growing in your life? Put another way, how can God use you to serve others? 2. Is there anything in your life that gets in the way of prayer and worshiping God?

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 11:20-33**

---

### **Background Info:**

- “the baptism of John:” John the Baptist’s ministry of calling people to repent and be baptized. When Jesus’ authority was questioned, Jesus referred to John’s ministry because John had baptized Him too!

**Summary:** When Jesus and His disciples returned to Jerusalem, they saw that the fig tree Jesus had cursed was withered. Jesus taught them to have faith in God, to pray and believe fully that God would grant their prayer requests, and to forgive others when they prayed. When Jesus came into the temple, the religious leaders asked Him about His authority. Jesus related their question to a question about John the Baptist’s ministry—did it come from God or from human ideas? The chief priests didn’t dare answer “from God,” since they hadn’t listened to John, but they were afraid to say “from man” because of the crowds. They said they didn’t know, so Jesus refused to answer their question about His authority.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. Is there anyone you need to forgive so that you can hear from God and be in tune with Him? 2. In Jesus, you have full authority from God to do what He wants you to do. Do it today!

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 12:1-12**

---

### **Background Info:**

- In Mark 12:10-11, Jesus quotes Psalm 118:22-23.
- The vineyard is a symbol for Israel in Isaiah 5:1-7. The religious leaders remembered it and recognized that Jesus was telling His parable against them.

**Summary:** Jesus told a story about a man who planted a vineyard, leased it to tenants, and went away. When harvest time came, he sent a servant to the tenants to collect some of the fruit, but they beat up the servant and sent him away with nothing. The man sent other servants to the tenants, but the tenants struck them, mistreated them, and even killed them. Finally he sent his son to them, but they killed him and threw him out of the vineyard. Jesus noted that the man would destroy the tenants and give the field to others when he returned. He then quoted the Scripture that says the rejected stone has become the cornerstone. The temple leaders knew that Jesus was telling this story against them, but they feared the crowd's reaction if they arrested Him, so they left.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. Jesus is the Cornerstone! Is He just a part of your life, or the foundation for it? 2. How can you serve God more faithfully today?

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 12:13-27**

---

### **Background Info:**

- paying taxes to Caesar: Many Jews wondered if God wanted them to pay taxes to their Roman rulers.
- Sadducees: one of the main religious/political groups in Jesus' day. The Sadducees denied any doctrine if they thought it wasn't taught by the Law of Moses.

**Summary:** Some of the religious leaders tried to trip Jesus up! They asked Him whether God approved of paying taxes to Caesar. Jesus told them to give Caesar what belonged to him, and to give God what belonged to God. Next some Sadducees challenged Jesus with a story that they thought disproved the resurrection. Seven brothers married the same woman in succession as each brother died in turn. They asked whose wife the woman would be at the resurrection. Jesus replied that there is no marriage in the resurrected state. Then He quoted Exodus 3:6 to show that resurrection is a true doctrine.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. How can you honor our country's leaders today? Start by praying for them! 2. Ask God for a new way to honor Him today. 3. Have faith in God and never underestimate Him! God will always find a way to keep His word, even when we see no way.

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 12:28-37**

---

### **Background Info:**

- Jesus' first commandment comes from Deut. 6:5
- Jesus' second commandment comes from Lev. 19:17
- In Mark 12:36, Jesus quotes Psalm 110:1, which is a prophecy about the Messiah.

**Summary:** A religious leader asked Jesus which commandment in the Law was most important. Jesus answered that there were two key commandments. The first is to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength; the second is to love your neighbor as yourself. The man affirmed this and said that these commands were more important than the whole system of sacrifices. Jesus replied that he was close to God's Kingdom. Then Jesus posed a question of His own: We know that the Messiah is the Son of David. But if David calls the Messiah "Lord" in Psalm 110:1, how can the Messiah also be David's son? The crowds loved to hear Jesus.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. Knowing God's truth is not enough; we need to live it out! 2. How can you love God in the decisions you make or the actions you take today? 3. Think of a specific act of kindness that you can do for someone else.

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 12:38-13:2**

---

### **Background Info:**

- devour widows' houses: the Law of Moses prohibits taking advantage of widows on several occasions. (Ex. 22:22; Deut. 24:17; Deut. 27:19)

**Summary:** Jesus taught the people to watch out for the religious experts. He faulted them for loving their high social status and all the perks that came with it. Jesus also faulted them for finding ways to oppress widows and for praying long prayers just for show. Jesus watched the people putting offerings into the temple's collection box. Many rich people made large gifts, but one widow put in two small coins. Jesus remarked that the widow had given more than all the rest, because she was sacrificing out of her poverty. When Jesus and His disciples left the temple, the disciples remarked on how beautiful the buildings were. Jesus replied that one day they would be completely torn down.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. Don't try to impress others by "being spiritual." 2. Look out for those who are most vulnerable in society. 3. Does your giving and service to the Lord really cost you anything?

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 13:3-13**

---

### **Background Info:**

- Jesus had just predicted the destruction of the temple. His disciples recognized that was an end-times event, so they asked Jesus when the end would be and what sign would mark it.

**Summary:** Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked Jesus about the events of the end times. Jesus warned them not to be deceived, because teachers will arise who claim to represent Jesus and lead many people astray. Before the end comes, there will be wars, conflicts, and tension between nations. There will also be earthquakes and famines. Christians will be put on trial so they can witness about Jesus before the rulers, and the Holy Spirit will give them the words to say in those moments. The gospel will be preached to all nations before the end comes. People will deliver their own family members to death; everyone will hate Jesus' followers. But those who endure and follow Jesus to the end will be saved.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. When others ask you about your faith, ask the Holy Spirit for the words to say.  
2. Ask God for an opportunity to share the gospel today.  
3. Ask God for the strength to follow Jesus all the way.

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 13:14-27**

---

### **Background Info:**

- “let the reader understand” in Mark 13:14: remember what Daniel prophesied (Dan. 9:27, Dan. 11:31).
- the elect = the chosen ones whom God will save
- from the four winds = from every direction

**Summary:** When the Antichrist stands in the temple and profanes it, flee to the mountains! Don't turn back for anything, just run! For then there will be the greatest tribulation ever. But God will cut it short for the sake of His chosen ones—otherwise, no one would make it. And if anyone says, “Look, the Messiah!” don't believe them, for false messiahs and false teachers will abound. But after that tribulation, the sun, moon, and stars will fail, and Jesus will return on the clouds with great power and glory! He will send forth His angels to gather God's chosen ones from wherever they are.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. These events haven't happened yet, but we can apply general principles from this passage. For example, is there any destructive or immoral thing in your life from which you need to flee?  
2. God loves you! Depend on Him, and you will make it.  
3. Great power is available to us in the Lord Jesus.

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 13:28-37**

---

### **Background Info:**

- this generation: Jesus often uses this phrase to describe those who don't believe His message.
- "nor the Son:" Jesus set aside His knowledge of one specific fact when He came to earth. But after His resurrection, Jesus responded differently when He was asked about His return. (Acts 1:6-8)

**Summary:** When a fig tree sprouts leaves, they are signs that summer is near. In the same way, the events Jesus has described are signs that His return is near. "This generation" will remain until all these events occur, and Jesus' words will stand forever. But no one knows the exact time Jesus will return, so keep alert! Jesus is like a master who puts his servants in charge of his house while he is away. He gives them their work assignments and tells the doorman to keep alert! Jesus says it again—keep alert! Do your work faithfully until He returns, because you don't know when that will be—keep alert!

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. Don't believe anyone who names a specific date for Jesus' return. 2. If you don't know God's "work assignment" for you, ask Him! 3. Look forward to Jesus' return and serve Him faithfully!

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 14:1-11**

---

### **Background Info:**

- Passover: the holiday celebrating Israel's deliverance from Egypt.
- Feast of Unleavened Bread: a holy festival that begins with Passover and continues for one week afterward.

**Summary:** Before the Passover, the religious leaders were discussing how they could arrest Jesus quietly and kill Him. Jesus was staying in the town of Bethany, and while He was eating supper, a woman came and poured very expensive perfume over His head. Some of the disciples said, "What a waste! That perfume should have been sold and the money given to the poor." Jesus replied that they would always be able to give to the poor, but they wouldn't always have Him. He also said that the woman had anointed Him for burial. Then Judas Iscariot went to the religious leaders and offered to betray Jesus to them. The leaders were glad and promised to pay Judas.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. How much have you sacrificed to follow Jesus? 2. Don't judge other people's ministries too harshly when their hearts are right; let God be the judge. Pay attention to your own heart instead.

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 14:12-26**

---

### **Background Info:**

- “man carrying water jar”: women, not men, carried the water in Jesus’ day, so this man would have stood out. He may have been a member of the Essenes, a religious community of men.

**Summary:** The disciples asked where they should go to prepare for the Passover. Jesus told them to follow a man carrying a water jar. At his house, they should ask to use the guest room—it would be a large upper room. The disciples found everything as Jesus predicted, and they prepared for the Passover meal. That evening, as Jesus and His disciples were eating, He predicted that one of them would betray Him. Jesus took bread, blessed it, and said, “This is My body.” He took a cup of wine and gave thanks. After they all drank from it, He said, “This is My blood of the covenant, poured out for many.” Afterward they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. God will give you His directions if you are ready to follow them. 2. Celebrate what God has done for us! Say “Thank You” to God for something you don’t usually thank Him. 3. Celebrate communion (the Lord’s Supper) regularly.

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 14:27-42**

---

### **Background Info:**

- Gethsemane is on the hillside of the Mount of Olives.
- Abba: Aramaic for “my father,” a more intimate way to say “father” that is almost like “dad.”

**Summary:** Jesus told His disciples that they would all fall away. When Peter declared that he would not, Jesus told Peter that he would deny Jesus three times that night! All the disciples affirmed that they would never deny Jesus. Then Jesus went to Gethsemane to pray. He asked Peter, James, and John to keep watch with Him. Jesus prayed, asking the Father to take away the suffering that He was about to face; but He submitted to doing the Father’s will. Jesus returned and found Peter, James, and John sleeping. He charged them to keep awake and pray so they could avoid temptation. Jesus prayed again, and returned to find them sleeping again, a second and a third time. Then Jesus roused His disciples because the time had come for Him to be betrayed.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. Pray for God’s will to be done in your life. 2. Prepare yourself to face temptation with prayer! Think of an issue you often face, and ask God for a new way to deal with it.

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 14:43-54**

---

### **Background Info:**

- Judas had to identify Jesus because it was after dark, and because many people were camping out on the hillside to celebrate the Passover at Jerusalem.
- A kiss (between members of the same sex) was a customary greeting at this time.

**Summary:** Judas Iscariot led a group armed with swords and clubs to Jesus. He went up to Jesus and greeted Him with a kiss. The armed group seized Jesus. One of His disciples drew a sword and cut off the ear of the high priest's servant. Jesus asked His captors why they hadn't arrested Him at the temple. He also noted that the Scriptures had to be fulfilled. All of Jesus' disciples ran away. One of them tried to follow, but when the group grabbed him, he slipped out of his garment and fled. The group took Jesus to the high priest's residence, and all the priests and elders assembled there. Peter followed at a distance and waited in the courtyard, warming himself by a fire.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. You can't follow Jesus in your own strength. Depend on the Holy Spirit! 2. Even when it all looks hopeless, God's Word will never fail.

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 14:55-65**

---

### **Background Info:**

- Sanhedrin: Israel's ruling religious council. Some Bible versions use this word in Mark 14:55
- "Blessed" or "Blessed One" = God. The high priest asked Jesus if He was the Son of God in Mark 14:61.
- In Mark 14:62, "Power" also means "God."

**Summary:** The chief priests and the council were trying to find testimony they could use to put Jesus to death. But they couldn't because the lies from various witnesses didn't agree with each other. Then some witnesses said that Jesus had claimed He would destroy the temple and build another one in three days, but even on this point they couldn't agree. The high priest challenged Jesus to respond, but He kept silent. Finally the high priest asked Jesus whether He was the Son of God. Jesus affirmed it, and the high priest called it blasphemy. The council voted to put Jesus to death; they spit on Him, struck Him, mocked Him, and the guards beat Him.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. Sometimes there is a price to pay for telling the truth. Follow Jesus' example. 2. Look past the sufferings of this world and look forward to Jesus' return.

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 14:66-15:5**

---

### **Background Info:**

- Pilate: the Roman governor over Judea
- “King of the Jews:” The chief priests and elders were saying that Jesus claimed to be a king, so He was a challenge to Roman rule.

**Summary:** As Peter warmed himself by the fire, a servant of the high priest identified Peter as one of Jesus’ disciples. Peter denied it. A rooster crowed. The same servant girl told others that Peter was a disciple. Peter denied it again. One of the others said that Peter must be a disciple of Jesus because of his Galilean accent. Peter swore that he did not know Jesus. Then the rooster crowed again; Peter remembered Jesus’ prediction, and he wept bitterly. When morning came, the chief priests and leaders bound Jesus and took Him to Pilate, the governor. When Pilate asked Him whether He was King of the Jews, Jesus did not deny it. But He did not answer the charges that the chief priests and leaders brought against Him, which amazed Pilate.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. Don’t react to situations out of fear. God is with you—depend on Him! 2. Be ready to testify about your faith in Jesus.

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 15:6-20**

---

### **Background Info:**

- At the feast: the Festival of Unleavened Bread, which included Passover.
- “Crucify Him!” Crucifixion was an extremely cruel and painful method of execution that the Romans reserved for the worst offenses.

**Summary:** At the festival, Pilate would release a prisoner to show goodwill. When the crowd asked for this, Pilate suggested that he release Jesus. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to ask for Barabbas, an insurgent and murderer. When Pilate asked about Jesus, the crowd shouted, “Crucify Him!” Pilate asked what wrong He had done, but the crowd shouted even louder, “Crucify Him!” Pilate caved in to the crowd, released Barabbas, and had Jesus scourged. Then the soldiers led Jesus away and called their unit together. They mocked Jesus, put a crown of thorns on His head, spit on Him, and struck Him. Then they took Jesus away to be crucified.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. Popular opinion is not truth. Don’t give in to what’s popular at the moment or live your life around it. 2. Never forget what Jesus went through to save you; thank Him for it today.

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 15:21-39**

---

### **Background Info:**

- carry his cross: the person to be crucified carried their own crossbeam. If they were too weak to do so, the soldiers would force someone else to carry it.
- Wine mixed with myrrh: a sedative to dull the pain, which Jesus refused.
- Third hour: 9 am Sixth hour: noon Ninth hour: 3 pm

**Summary:** The soldiers made Simon of Cyrene carry Jesus' cross to Golgotha. They crucified Jesus there. The charge over His head read "the King of the Jews." People, including the religious leaders, mocked Him, saying that if He was the Christ, He should save Himself and come down from the cross. Two robbers crucified with Jesus also insulted Him. Darkness came over the area for three hours. Then Jesus cried out, "My God, why have you forsaken Me?" He breathed His last, and the veil of the temple was ripped apart. When the centurion saw how Jesus died, he knew that Jesus was innocent.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. Is Jesus your Savior and King? He deserves lordship over every area of your life.  
2. God wants to have a close relationship with you!  
Draw near to Him through Jesus.

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 15:40-47**

---

### **Background Info:**

- already dead: it could take a couple days to die by crucifixion, so Pilate was surprised to hear Jesus was already dead that afternoon.
- A tomb cut in the rock: Only the rich could afford these. Joseph gave Jesus his own tomb. (Matt. 27:60)

**Summary:** Some women, including Mary Magdalene, Salome, and another woman named Mary, watched Jesus' crucifixion. They had supported Him in Galilee and followed Him to Jerusalem. That evening Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for Jesus' body. Pilate was surprised to hear Jesus had already died; he called the centurion and verified it. Pilate granted Joseph's request. Joseph bought a linen shroud, wrapped Jesus' body in it, and laid it in a tomb cut from the rock. He rolled a stone wheel across the entrance. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary saw where Jesus was buried.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. Joseph of Arimathea stopped worrying about what his fellow council members might think and stepped forward to honor Jesus. What step do you need to take to honor Jesus today?

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 16:1-8**

---

### **Background Info:**

- The women bought spices to give Jesus' body the standard preparations for burial. The Jews did no work on the Sabbath, so they came to the tomb early Sunday morning.
- The "young man dressed in white" was an angel.

**Summary:** After the Sabbath, Mary Magdalene, Salome, and the other Mary bought spices to anoint Jesus' body. They went to the tomb at sunrise on Sunday morning. They wondered how they would roll aside the very large stone from the entrance. But they saw that the stone had been rolled away! When they entered the tomb, there was an angel sitting on the right side. He said, "Don't be alarmed! You're looking for Jesus, but He is not here— He has risen! Go tell His disciples, including Peter, to go to Galilee. You will meet Him there." The women fled from the tomb, shaking with holy fear and astonishment. They said nothing to anyone as they ran from there.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. Do what God wants you to do, and trust Him to roll away the "large stones" in your life that you can't move. 2. Tell others that Jesus has risen! He's not a dead Teacher, He's a living Savior!

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?

## **Mark 16:9-20**

---

### **Background Info:**

- Early on in the process of recopying and distributing Mark's gospel, the text of Mark 16:9-20 became corrupt. Do not build your faith on anything unique in this passage that appears nowhere else in the Bible (like picking up snakes and drinking poison).

**Summary:** Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene. She went and told the disciples who were in mourning, but they didn't believe her. Jesus appeared to two other disciples as they were walking. They went back and told the others, but the others didn't believe them either. Later Jesus appeared to the eleven disciples and rebuked them for their unbelief. He told them to preach the gospel to the whole world and to baptize those who believed. He gave signs that would identify believers. Then Jesus was taken up to heaven to sit at God's right hand, and the disciples went and preached the gospel everywhere.

**What Do We Do With This?** 1. The one true sign that marks every believer is the presence of the Holy Spirit. Pray for the Holy Spirit's renewal and leading in your life. 2. Preach the gospel! 3. Work together with your church to spread the gospel!

### **Feedback:**

- ❖ What did you learn?
- ❖ Did anything challenge you?
- ❖ Did anything encourage you?
- ❖ What else do you want to know?