

# The Gospel of Mark Study Guide

## Overview

### Title

"Who Then Is This?": A Study Through the Gospel of Mark

### Chapter Themes

1. The Inauguration of the Kingdom of God
2. Challenges - Part 1
3. The Ministry Grows
4. Parables About the Kingdom
5. Jesus' Power Over Evil, Sickness, and Death
6. The Work of God's Kingdom Continues
7. Obeying God vs. Obeying Man
8. Misunderstanding - Part 1
9. Misunderstanding - Part 2
10. Misunderstanding - Part 3
11. The Triumphant Entry
12. Challenges - Part 2
13. The End Times
14. The Passover and Arrest
15. The Crucifixion
16. The Resurrection

### Outline

1. Prologue (1:1–13)
  - a. The Beginning of the Gospel (1:1)
  - b. John the Baptist's Ministry (1:2–8)
  - c. Jesus's Baptism (1:9–11)
  - d. The Temptations in the Wilderness (1:12–13)
2. The Person of Jesus Christ (1:14–8:30)
  - a. The Message of Jesus (1:14–15)
  - b. The Ministry of Jesus in Galilee (1:16–6:6)
    - i. The Ministry Begins (1:16–45)
    - ii. Controversies Towards Jesus' Actions (2:1–3:6)
    - iii. The Ministry Grows (3:7–3:20)

- iv. Accusations Against Jesus' Nature (3:21-30)
- v. The Priorities of Jesus (3:31-35)
- vi. Teachings About the Kingdom of God (4:1-34)
- vii. Miracles Around the Sea of Galilee (4:35-5:43)
- viii. Jesus Rejected by His Hometown (6:1-6)
- c. The Ministry of Jesus Expands Beyond Galilee (6:7-8:10)
  - i. The Twelve Sent Out (6:7-13)
  - ii. The Fate of John the Baptist (6:14-29)
  - iii. Jesus Feeds Five Thousand (6:30-44)
  - iv. More Miracles Around the Sea of Galilee (6:45-56)
  - v. Religion of Man vs. Obedience to God (7:1-23)
  - vi. Miracles Outside of Galilee (7:24-37)
  - vii. Jesus Feeds Four Thousand (8:1-10)
- d. Seeing Versus Perceiving (8:11-8:26)
- e. The Identity of Jesus Christ (8:27-30)
- 3. The Work of Jesus Christ (8:31-15:47)
  - a. The Mission of Jesus Misunderstood by the Disciples (8:31-9:1)
  - b. The Journey to Jerusalem (9:2-10:52)
    - i. The Transfiguration (9:2-13)
    - ii. Jesus Casts Out an Unclean Spirit (9:14-29)
    - iii. The Mission of Jesus Misunderstood by the Disciples Again (9:30-41)
    - iv. More Teachings About the Kingdom of God (9:42-10:31)
    - v. The Mission of Jesus Misunderstood by the Disciples Yet Again (10:32-45)
    - vi. The Healing of Blind Bartimaeus (10:46-52)
  - c. The Confrontations at Jerusalem (11:1-13:2)
    - i. The Triumphal Entry (11:1-11)
    - ii. Cursing the Fig Tree and Cleansing the Temple (11:12-25)
    - iii. Controversies in the Temple (11:27-13:2)\*
  - d. Seeing Versus Watching (13:3-37)
  - e. The Crucifixion of Jesus Christ (14:1-15:47)
    - i. The Plot Against Jesus and the Anointing at Bethany (14:1-11)
    - ii. The Last Passover (14:12-26)
    - iii. Jesus and the Disciples on the Mount of Olives (14:27-42)
    - iv. The Betrayal and Arrest (14:43-52)
    - v. The Trials (14:53-15:15)
    - vi. The Crucifixion (15:16-41)
    - vii. The Burial (15:42-47)
- 4. Epilogue (16:1-20)

- a. The Resurrection (16:1-8)
- b. Appendix (16:9-20)

\*Mark 11:26 is not present in the base manuscripts for the ESV.

## Lesson Outline

1. The Ministry Begins: Mark 1:1-20
2. The Power to Cleanse: Mark 1:21-45
3. The Power to Forgive: Mark 2:1-3:6
4. You Must Decide For Yourself: Mark 3:7-35
5. Teachings About the Kingdom of God: Mark 4:1-34
6. Who Then Is This?: Mark 4:35-5:20
7. Amazing Power to Heal: Mark 5:21-43
8. Feeding the Multitude: Mark 6:1-56
9. Obeying God or Man: Mark 7:1-37
10. Beware of Leaven: Mark 8:1-21
11. Seeing But Not Perceiving: Mark 8:22-9:1
12. The Transfiguration: Mark 9:2-29
13. Seeing But Not Perceiving, Again: Mark 9:30-41
14. More Teachings About the Kingdom of God: Mark 9:42-10:31
15. Seeing But Not Perceiving, Yet Again: Mark 10:32-52
16. Jesus in Jerusalem: Mark 11:1-25
17. Challenges: Mark 11:27-12:37
18. Corrupted Religion: Mark 12:38-13:2
19. Signs of the End: Mark 13:3-37
20. The Last Passover: Mark 14:1-26
21. Accepting the Cup: Mark 14:27-52
22. On Trial: Mark 14:53-15:20
23. The Son of God: Mark 15:21-47
24. Only the Beginning: Mark 16:1-20

## Homiletical Outline

### Lesson 1

Title: The Ministry Begins

Focus Text: Mark 1:1-20

Idea: Jesus Christ is God in the flesh here to inaugurate the kingdom of God.

Application: Before any miracles are recorded, the message of Christ is one of repentance and faith.

## **Lesson 2**

Title: The Power to Cleanse

Focus Text: Mark 1:40-45

Idea: Jesus' absolute power over leprosy reveals His deity.

Application: Jesus has the power to heal.

## **Lesson 3**

Title: The Power to Forgive

Focus Text: Mark 2:1-12

Idea: Jesus' power is not limited to the physical world, He also has the power to heal spiritually.

Application: Physical health is often sought after, but it is our spiritual condition that is in dire need of healing.

## **Lesson 4**

Title: You Must Decide For Yourself

Focus Text: Mark 3:7-35

Idea: There are many opinions about who Christ is.

Application: Various opinions about Christ exist even today. The one you formulate has eternal consequences.

## **Lesson 5**

Title: Teachings About the Kingdom of God

Focus Text: Mark 4:1-20, 26-29

Idea: The spreading of the gospel message will result in a variety of responses, but true growth is in the hands of God.

Application: We should not lose heart when our efforts appear to be in vain, rather we are to trust God on the increase.

## **Lesson 6**

Title: Who Then Is This?

Focus Text: Mark 4:35-41

Idea: Jesus displays phenomenal power over creation itself.

Application: Even when we walk with God and know His power, we can fail to place full faith in Him.

## **Lesson 7**

Title: Amazing Power to Heal

Focus Text: Mark 5:21-43

Idea: Jesus displays power over death itself.

Application: Even when all hope seems lost, hope is not lost in Christ.

## **Lesson 8**

Title: Feeding the Multitude

Focus Text: Mark 6:30-44

Idea: Jesus provides food and provision in desperate times.

Application: Jesus can provide our needs even in the most desperate of times.

## **Lesson 9**

Title: Obeying God or Man

Focus Text: Mark 7:1-23

Idea: Despite God's commandments, the Pharisees pursue loopholes as long as appearances are good.

Application: People can create a lot of rules and regulations, but true godliness is a result of God's work in a person.

## **Lesson 10**

Title: Beware of Leaven

Focus Text: Mark 8:1-21

Idea: After feeding a second multitude, Jesus warns His disciples about the Pharisees. Despite witnessing what they have so far, the disciples themselves are slow to understand.

Application: We have a tendency to want a sign from God before we act, but ignore many signs in the process.

## **Lesson 11**

Title: Seeing But Not Perceiving

Focus Text: Mark 8:22-9:1

Idea: Prefaced by the only two-part healing in Jesus' ministry, the disciples display an apparent knowledge of Jesus, but not a full understanding.

Application: Even though we may acknowledge Jesus Christ, our expectations can be misguided if we do not properly understand who He is.

## **Lesson 12**

Title: The Transfiguration

Focus Text: Mark 9:2-13

Idea: Jesus is transfigured in the presence of Peter, James, and John.

Application: Jesus is the true Son of God, and we should listen to Him.

## **Lesson 13**

Title: Seeing But Not Perceiving, Again

Focus Text: Mark 9:30-41

Idea: For a second time, Jesus foretells His mission, but the disciples do not understand.

Application: Short-sightedness can lead us to focus on our greatness, position, and glory rather than the advancement of the gospel.

## **Lesson 14**

Title: More Teachings About the Kingdom of God

Focus Text: Mark 9:42-50; 10:17-31

Idea: Jesus teaches some pointed truths about life in the Kingdom of God.

Application: If we name the name of Christ, there should be no sin too small and no possession too valuable to forsake for the cause of Christ.

## **Lesson 15**

Title: Seeing But Not Perceiving, Yet Again

Focus Text: Mark 10:32-45

Idea: For a third time, Jesus foretells of His mission of sacrifice on the cross, but the disciples still do not understand.

Application: Oftentimes, Christians have a tendency to focus on the wrong things rather than what truly matters.

## **Lesson 16**

Title: Jesus in Jerusalem

Focus Text: Mark 11:1-25

Idea: Jesus enters Jerusalem for the final week before the cross and begins to confront the issues there.

Application: Religion that does not bear fruit is useless.

## **Lesson 17**

Title: Challenges

Focus Text: Mark 12:13-34

Idea: Various groups challenge Jesus in an attempt to trap Him in His words.

Application: No amount of religious knowledge can replace genuine faith in Jesus Christ.

## **Lesson 18**

Title: Corrupted Religion

Focus Text: Mark 12:38-13:2

Idea: In a seemingly unrelated sequence of narrative, Jesus reveals the depths of corruption the Jews have instilled in Israel's religious practices.

Application: External appearances are in vain when there is no grace or mercy being extended to others.

## **Lesson 19**

Title: Signs of the End

Focus Text: Mark 13:3-37

Idea: Jesus foretells of what will happen at the end of the age.

Application: Observing the events of the world and watching for the return of Christ are two different things.

## **Lesson 20**

Title: The Last Passover

Focus Text: Mark 14:12-26

Idea: Jesus observes His last Passover meal with His disciples before the cross, and He leaves behind an observance for the church.

Application: The Lord's Supper is a sacred, memorial observance that recalls what Christ has done for us.

## **Lesson 21**

Title: Accepting the Cup

Focus Text: Mark 14:32-42

Idea: In the greatest example of submission to God's will, Jesus prepared for the cross by praying to God the Father.

Application: True prayer results in submission to God's will.

## **Lesson 22**

Title: On Trial

Focus Text: Mark 14:53-65; 15:1-15

Idea: Jesus is rushed through phony trials and condemned to death.

Application: Jesus Christ was treated like a criminal for the crimes that we have committed.

## **Lesson 23**

Title: The Son of God

Focus Text: Mark 15:21-41

Idea: Jesus suffered and died on the cross of Calvary thus fulfilling His mission and providing absolute proof to His true nature and ministry.

Application: Understanding who Christ is and answering the gospel-long question, "Who then is this?", is a necessity for true faith in Christ.

## **Lesson 24**

Title: Only the Beginning

Focus Text: Mark 16:1-8

Idea: Jesus has risen from the dead.

Application: Victory over death has been secured and the gospel has just begun.