



THE  
GOSPEL  
OF  
MARK

DAILY READING PLAN

A NINE WEEK JOURNEY THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF MARK





JESUS CAME TO BRING A NEW WAY OF LIVING. THROUGHOUT HIS TEACHINGS, HIS MIRACLES AND THE EXAMPLE OF HIS LIFE HE CHALLENGED THE PREVAILING WAY OF LOOKING AT THE WORLD. HE DEMONSTRATED AND SPOKE OF A WAY OF LIVING THAT RESISTED SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS, SELF-PRESERVATION, SELF-CENTREDNESS , AND SHOWED HOW TO LIVE WITH GOD AT THE CENTRE, RELIANT ON HIM, SERVING HIM AND FINDING JOY IN HIM. HIS LIFE AND ACTIONS DEMONSTRATED A KINGDOM THAT WAS VICTORIOUS, COMPLETE AND FOUNDED ON GRACE. HE EXHORTED US TO LIVE IN IT AND THEREBY CHALLENGE THE NORM OF HUMANISTIC LIFE.

AS CHRISTIANS WE LIVE FROM THE FINISHED WORK OF THE CROSS WHICH ALLOWS US TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST'S LIFE.

READING YOUR BIBLE AND APPLYING IT, IN ITSELF, IS CHALLENGING THE NORM.

WELCOME TO OUR  
MARK SERIES.

WHERE WE CHALLENGE  
THE NORM

SIGN UP FOR A CONNECT  
GROUP HERE:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/HWrf2tYkiwgLLDK6VnqZB8>

# A SUMMARY OF MARK

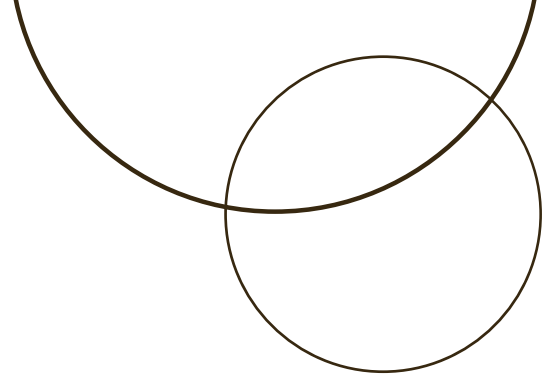
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The Book of Mark in your Bible gives you a bird's eye view of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. It reveals Jesus as King and saviour, as He initiates the Kingdom of God on earth. It is succinct, precise and packed – so many things happen in each chapter – so many things, in fact, that it would be impossible to cover everything before Christmas. So we are hoping that you will read it yourself in addition to listening to the preaching and in so doing experience the glory of Christ all over again.

We are hoping for an encounter with Christ and His good news that will cause you to live from the victorious reality of His Kingdom on earth and that we would together challenge the norm – life differently – life free– loved and infectious with the good news.

The book of Mark is traditionally thought to reflect the preaching and recollections of the apostle Peter as written down by John Mark, one of Jesus' early followers.

# SERMON SCHEDULE



The Revolution Begins	<b>Week 1</b>
The Lame Walk	<b>Week 2</b>
The Lord of the Sabbath	<b>Week 3</b>
Not in This Town	<b>Week 4</b>
Unstoppable Life	<b>Week 5</b>
Clean and Unclean	<b>Week 6</b>
Seeds	<b>Week 7</b>
Yeast	<b>Week 8</b>
Who is Jesus?	<b>Week 9</b>
Rich and Young	<b>Week 10</b>
The End of the Age	<b>Week 11</b>

# CONNECT GROUP ACTIVATION

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## 3. APPLICATION:

- Apply the word
- Does it reveal an attitude to change, a sin to forsake, a specific promise to claim, an example to follow, or a command to obey?

## 4. PRAYER

- Pray together according to the scripture and what each person shared.

**AS WE BEGIN OUR STUDY OF  
MARK, SPEND SOME TIME WITH  
YOUR CONNECT GROUP OR FAMILY OR BY  
YOURSELF PRAYING THROUGH THE  
FOLLOWING POINTS:**

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// Ask the Lord to increase your desire to read His Word. Ask for understanding as you read each week in preparation to hear the sermon and discuss the passage with your family and Connect Group.

// Think about specific areas of sin and darkness God has drawn you out of. Praise Him for rescuing you. Ask for strength to confess sin and flee from any darkness in which you currently find yourself.

// Throughout our study, we will see many miracles that Jesus performed. Pray for your faith to increase, that you would experience miracles in your life and praise for what He has done.

// Ask God to tune your heart to the Holy Spirit as He makes you aware of time, moments and milestones to leverage for fruitful discussions throughout this study.

// Pray that your connect group would have fruitful discussion each week and that, through the study of God's Word, you will grow together and pursue Christ with all your hearts.

// Pray for unity among the church as we walk through Mark together. Ask the Lord to speak through each communicator of the word who will preach each weekend and to sustain them through this series.

// Pray for the Spirit of God to reveal His person and power to us in a new and compelling way. May we experience the presence of God in profound ways and see miracles from His hand.

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## DAY ONE: MARK 1:1 – 15

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John the Baptist was baptising and preaching repentance. His message caused a great excitement and following, but he made sure that people knew someone even greater and more powerful was coming. Why is it important that this famous baptiser (John) baptised Jesus (v 9-11)? What does it mean to you that Jesus was baptised, tempted (v 12-13) and then began his ministry sharing the good news of God (v 14-15)? How can you identify with the fact that Jesus was tempted in the midst of being obedient?

## DAY TWO: MARK 1:16 – 28

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When Jesus called these men (v 16-20), what did their response look like? (Think about HOW they responded, WHAT they left behind, WHAT they may have been thinking/feeling...) How has Jesus called you? What has your response looked like? What can you learn from the response of the early disciples?

Jesus "taught them as one who had authority" (v 22). According to this passage, what does the authority of Jesus look like and how did it ignite his fame? How do you view the authority of Jesus and how are you spreading His fame?

## DAY THREE: MARK 1:29 – 45

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What stands out most to you about Jesus' character in these verses (his humility, his healing, his need for prayer, his view of people)? Maybe there are some specific words or phrases that stand out most to you? Which of those things would strengthen YOUR character? How could you potentially grow in those areas?

## DAY FOUR: MARK 2:1 – 17

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The paralytic and his friends were desperate to see Jesus. How did their need for Jesus cause them to act? What does that kind of desperation/need look like today? What does it look like for you?

## DAY FIVE: MARK 2:18 – 28

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Jesus was questioned about his DEFIANCE of some "important" rules and traditions... what was Jesus ultimately saying about them through his actions and response? How does Jesus' view of rules and tradition encourage or challenge you as you look at why you do the things you do?

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## WEEK 2 // MARK DAILY READINGS

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### DAY ONE: MARK 13:1–21

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Stubborn hearts hinder our ability to truly see and serve Jesus. We can easily become bound by human-made rules that can prevent us from doing what is best and fostering life in others (v. 1-6). Pure, seeking and humble hearts pursue Jesus, pushing through crowds just to touch him (v. 7-12). And ordinary men are who Jesus chose to be in his closest, most intimate group. He appointed and gave authority to simple, regular guys (v. 13-21). So where do you fit? Which group of people do you relate to best? What do these verses tell you about Jesus' ministry, leadership and how Jesus is calling and equipping you?

### DAY TWO: MARK 3:22–35

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The teachers of the law accused Jesus of being possessed by Beelzebub (another name for Satan). What was Jesus' response to the accusation (v. 23-30)? Why do you think he chose to speak in parables and not more simply, like, "No, I'm not Beelzebub, I'm Jesus"? How might you have responded differently if people were making a similar assumption about you? What does this passage show you about Jesus' character?

After this confrontation, Mark talks about a visit from Jesus' mother and brothers (v. 31-34). Jesus responds in an odd way after being told of their presence. What does Jesus' response tell you about how he regards those who believe in and follow the will of God? What does it tell you about his regard for you? How does that encourage you, or what questions does it raise for you?

### DAY THREE: MARK 4:1–20

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Jesus shared a parable about seed and then went into a little more detail while alone with the disciples. Initially, what do you understand about the seed (v. 3-8)? What do you think Jesus meant by "The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you" and those on the outside won't understand (v. 11-12)? Using Jesus' explanation, how would you compare yourself to the seed (v. 13-20)?

## WEEK 2 // MARK DAILY READINGS

### MARK DAILY READING CONTINUED

#### DAY FOUR: MARK 4:21 – 34

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Here Jesus mentions how silly it would be for one to hide a lamp under a bowl. It would be the same as us turning on a lamp and then covering it with a blanket. What use is the lamp or its light when it is covered? What is blocking your light? What are you concealing that needs to be revealed? Maybe a struggle that needs accountability, a story that needs to be shared, a gift or service that needs to be given? How does the parable about the lamp (v. 21-25) compare to the parables of the seed (v. 26-34)?

#### DAY FIVE: MARK 4:35 – 41

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The interesting part of this story is that the disciples were exactly where Jesus told them and wanted them to be... and yet a storm came... a storm with waves big enough to overcome the boat and put fear in the disciples (many who were experienced fishermen). What was frustrating to the disciples about Jesus continuing to sleep through the storm? What would you have been feeling if you were one of the disciples? What "storm" have you been through where you questioned God's motives and even his presence? What does this passage tell you about Jesus' power and presence in the midst of storms? What have you learned about God from past experience that has better prepared you for future storms? What can you learn from this passage that may better prepare you for being in the midst of an overwhelming storm?



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### DAY ONE: MARK 5:1 – 20

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Jesus again authenticates His ministry through a miracle; this time He shows He has power (and authority) over demons by casting them out of this man. The previously demon-possessed man was so grateful for what Jesus had done for him that he wanted to go with Jesus (v. 18). But look at Jesus' response in verse 19-20. Jesus had a greater goal in mind. He preferred for the man to stay and display God's greatness by witnessing to others. What has been your response to God's work in your life? When have you desired to do one thing (stay where it's comfortable) but Jesus called you to something bigger? What might that look like for you right now? How can you learn from this man's response to Jesus' request (v. 20)?

### DAY TWO: MARK 5:21 – 34

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This woman displays remarkable faith. She was confident of Jesus' power. Faith's significance does not come from the person who has it, but rather who/what it is in. Who or what do you put your faith in... yourself? Your job? Someone close to you? Or in God? How is that faith shown in your life? What are you willing to do to get close to Jesus/grow in your faith? What risks are you willing to take? How does your faith show your confidence of Jesus' power?

### DAY THREE: MARK 5:35 – 43

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It's interesting the parallels between today's story and the one you read yesterday. The woman had been afflicted for 12 years and had faith to be healed, and now the father of a 12-year-old child had faith she could be healed. Both are powerful examples of faith and Jesus' ministry to the hurting. But let's take a different look... re-read verse 40. If Jesus were here today, what would cause you to laugh? Obviously Jesus said and did some things that could have been called "ridiculous". What "ridiculous" word would you love to hear from God or see happen? What kind of faith do you have in His ability to say/do it? How have you boxed in Jesus with your idea of who He is and what He can do?

## WEEK 3 // MARK DAILY READINGS

### MARK DAILY READING CONTINUED

#### DAY FOUR: MARK 6:1 – 13

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What do you see as the problem with these people (v. 1-6)? Jesus had returned to his hometown... to people who knew Him, His family and had seen Him grow up. The problem with these people is that they were so familiar with Jesus (or so they thought) that it actually hindered their faith. Sometimes we hear stories of Jesus so often (or simply feel we know everything we need to know about Him) that we become bored... and that boredom hinders our faith. How can you keep the proper view of Jesus today and in the future so that your faith can continue growing? What kind of faith do you see in the disciples that they would follow Jesus' calling to "take nothing", go out in pairs and preach and heal with authority? If those ordinary men could leave everything and follow with faith, what may be holding you back?

#### DAY FIVE: MARK 6:14 – 29

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How do you think Herod viewed John the Baptist? What is significant about the death of John the Baptist? How/why was Herod swayed into doing something that caused him such distress? What can you learn from Herod? How can you make sure to avoid the same mistake? Why is it important to set up boundaries and prepare for challenging, tempting times in advance? What have you learned from personal experience of times that you neglected to prepare for those times?

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# WEEK 4 // MARK DAILY READINGS

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## DAY ONE: MARK 6:30–44

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What is most impressive to you about this story? Be sure to take time to find something new... resist the temptation to view it as you always have if it's very familiar to you. (Remember how Ron has challenged us not to ignore a statement because you think it isn't significant.) Read one sentence at a time and be intentional about processing what is happening along the way. When you get to a statement that stands out to you, stop to think about it. What image does it give you of the disciples? Of Jesus? How does their example challenge or encourage you?

## DAY TWO: MARK 6:45–56

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Verse 45 starts with "Immediately..." What does that mean to you? Why did Jesus send the disciples on ahead? What is significant about this? This is the second time we see Jesus put the disciples on a boat headed for a storm (first example was in Mark 4:35-41). What learning experience have you faced over and over? Why do you think the repetition was/is necessary? When he saw them straining, Jesus went out to the disciples but almost passed them by (v. 48). Why do you think He might have passed them? The disciples had just witnessed the feeding of the 5000 and now had seen Jesus walk on water (and again the calming of a storm). Yet, "they had not understood... their hearts were hardened" (v. 52). When have you missed the message of Jesus because your heart was hardened?

## DAY THREE: MARK 7:1–13

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Here we see another defiance of tradition. Why might the washing have been so important? Why do you think the Pharisees got so upset? What is your response when you see others doing things differently than you have traditionally done/are doing? Re-read verse 7. What does it mean to you? What might you need to re-evaluate or change in order to be sure rules or traditions made by men aren't overshadowing your love and devotion to God? Ask God to show you how you might be worshiping in vain.

## WEEK 4 // MARK DAILY READINGS

### MARK DAILY READING CONTINUED

#### DAY FOUR: MARK 7:14–23

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Jesus is referring to clean vs. unclean meats and ceremonial washing (like in v. 1-13 from yesterday). He wanted to point out that purity comes from internal cleanness, not external observances. Read Proverbs 4:23. How might this apply to the verses in Mark? What can you or should you be doing to better guard your heart? How might guarding your heart help protect you from worshiping in vain?

#### DAY FIVE: MARK 7:24–37

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The woman had heard of Jesus and came begging. What image do you have of her? Her character? Her view of Christ? She was specific and intentional in her request to Jesus, asking for a small amount, a “crumb” of His help. Jesus knew her heart and saw her faith; her request was granted. What can you learn from this woman for how to approach God in your prayer life? After reading about Jesus healing the possessed daughter, we read about Him healing a deaf and mute man. When is a recent time you have seen an amazing thing? For example, the healing of a friend or family member, a birth, safety in a dangerous situation, relational healing... When is the last time something caught your breath and made you sit back in awe? Did you give God the credit? How might He have been at work? How do these two stories of healing encourage your faith? How might they frustrate you (for example, you or someone close to you needs healing that you haven't seen, etc.)? Take some throughout your day to release whatever emotions today's reading brought for you: excitement and awe - thank and praise Him... frustration and mistrust - tell Him, He can handle it... Challenge yourself to be honest. Take a chance on letting go.

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## DAY ONE: MARK 8:1 – 10

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Can you believe it? ANOTHER feeding of the masses! The crowd had been following Jesus for three days and was now out of food. They could have left in time to get back and eat (knowing they were low on food) but they chose to stay. Now they couldn't make it back without fainting. They were eager to hear what Jesus had to say. Their passion was stronger than their desire for food... their desire to be comfortable. What are you willing to sacrifice to follow Jesus? What is most comfortable that would be the most difficult to give up? What does that look like for you today?

## DAY TWO: MARK 8:11 – 21

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The disciples have already seen Jesus miraculously provide food for a crowd... TWICE (6:30-44 & 8:1-10), but yet again we find them worrying about bread. They lacked faith despite what they had seen. Imagine yourself in their shoes. Would you have so easily forgotten Jesus' provision? Why or why not, do you think? If we're honest with ourselves, we have all done it. We fail to make connections with what God has done in the past to what we need to trust Him for today. Take some time to list all the ways He has provided for you in the past and begin to make some connections with how remembering the past can help you trust God today (both with your life and/or the life of someone close to you).

Think a little deeper: what did Jesus mean when mentioning the "yeast of the Pharisees"? How does that contribute to Jesus' frustration with the disciples for still not understanding? What does it mean for you?

## DAY THREE: MARK 8:22 – 9:1

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Again Jesus heals a man in need, showing His disciples and followers His compassionate nature and power (v. 22-26). Then He asks the disciples who people say He is (v. 27). What were some of the ideas? How was Jesus similar to those people? What sets Him apart? Who do YOU say He is? Pray and praise Him for those things.

Peter didn't have a big enough perspective (v 33). He saw only the brushstrokes of a bigger masterpiece. The strokes seemed rough up close, but if he had stepped back, he might have seen the bigger picture. This is how it is when we see things from our perspective instead of God's. Even though we can't always see the big picture, we can trust that He has our best interest in mind (Isaiah 55:8-9, Jeremiah 29:11-13). How can you begin to step back and look for the big picture today? How can you release the things that are still a mystery to trust His big picture even if you can't see the details.



# WEEK 5 // MARK DAILY READINGS

## MARK DAILY READING CONTINUED

### DAY FOUR: MARK 9:2–13

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Verse 7 is the climax of this passage. What do you think is the significance of this moment? What is the significance of what the “voice from the cloud”/God said? Jesus’ position as the Son of God seems to call for faith and obedience on the part of the disciples. What implication does that have in your life today? In what areas are you neglecting faith and/or avoiding obedience?

### DAY FIVE: MARK 9:14–29

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This is a great scene of Jesus’ power in ministry. The disciples were confused as to why they couldn’t cast the demon out themselves. Jesus responds in verse 29, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer” (ESV). Prayerlessness leads to powerlessness. Practice praying today. What steps can you take toward making prayer a part of your regular life?

If you’ve never “practiced prayer” and are wondering where to even begin, here is some help:

PRAISE God for who He is to you and what He has done for you.

Release your struggles/sin. Ask for His ultimate forgiveness and make a conscious decision to turn from those actions (REPENT).

Express any areas where you need His HELP today, this week, this month.

Lift up the names of OTHERS who are in need of God’s healing, grace, mercy, hope, etc.

Acknowledge God’s ability to EQUIP you with whatever you need to face today.

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## DAY ONE: MARK 9:30–50

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There are three different sections here (v. 33-37, v. 38-41, v. 42-50). Read each carefully, pick the one that grabs your attention most and use it for your focus today. What do the verses cause you to think about? What picture does it give you of the disciples? Of Jesus? How is it challenging you to make a change? Maybe you need to focus less on yourself and more on the bigger picture God is trying to reveal to you... Maybe you need to be more accepting of those who do things a little differently than you... Maybe you need to change your view of sin to be more in line with how Jesus views it...

## DAY TWO: MARK 10:1–16

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Divorce can be a difficult topic. First, as Jesus did in His response to the Pharisees, establish what marriage means to you. Jesus made reference to what is written in Genesis. Read Genesis 1:27-28 and 2:20-24. What picture do these verses give of marriage? What was Jesus' point? Why do you think He decided to point back to God's intentions for marriage when responding to the Pharisees' question about divorce? How does your view of marriage line up with God's intention for a husband and wife? Take some time today to pray for marriages: yours (current or future), the marriages of friends or family, the marriages of your church or community. Pray also about your personal view/definition of marriage.

## DAY THREE: MARK 10:17–31

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What was this man asking Jesus? This man knew all the commandments and had kept them since he was a boy (v. 20). So why was he concerned about eternal life? What did Jesus say was his next step? Why did it turn out to be discouraging for the man? Where are you in your relationship with God today? If you ask God what to do in order to grow in your faith and obedience, what might His response be? What propels you toward or holds you back from taking any next steps of faith? Why? What should you do?

# WEEK 6 // MARK DAILY READINGS

## MARK DAILY READING CONTINUED

### DAY FOUR: MARK 10:32–45

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Jesus predicted His death to the disciples before in 8:31-9:1 and 9:31-32. Why do you think He did it again (v. 32-34)? What would you have been thinking/feeling if you were one of the disciples? How might this have been difficult for you to understand and accept? What do you think of the boldness of James and John's request in verse 35? What do you think of Jesus' response? How would you have felt if you were one of the other disciples, hearing about this conversation (v. 41)? Again Jesus reminds the disciples that their focus is off-center. What does Jesus say is most important? How might you need to re-center your focus to be more in line with Jesus?

### DAY FIVE: MARK 10:46–52

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What stands out to you from this passage? Bartimaeus knew who Jesus was and called Him by name. When others became annoyed and told him to be quiet, he merely grew louder and more insistent. What does this show you about Bartimaeus' faith? What can you learn from him?

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- Apply the word
- Does it reveal an attitude to change, a sin to forsake, a specific promise to claim, an example to follow, or a command to obey?

## 4. PRAYER

- Pray together according to the scripture and what each person shared.



# WEEK 7 // MARK DAILY READINGS

## AS YOU BEGIN:

- (1) Find a quiet place where you can be alone. This is important for you to more easily focus as you read and have an awareness of God's presence. Prepare yourself to listen.
- (2) Read the verses and highlight the main points that stand out to you. Right down your observation in your journal and pray about in this process. Whether you have read the verses before or not, approach them with an eagerness to learn something new about the life and character of Jesus.
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## DAY ONE: MARK 11:1–14

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During Jesus' triumphal entry the crowd is ecstatic! They love Him. They shout blessings and yell "Hosanna!" Yet, in a few days they will change from adoration to accusation (Mark 14-15). They will no longer be yelling for his glory, but for his death. How capricious is their faith? Can your faith be fickle at times? Have you praised him one day and then blamed him the next? Think back to an example and why your faith may have waivered. Have you ever said one thing while believing and living another? Why? What steps can you take today toward more constant faith and obedience?

## DAY TWO: MARK 11:15–33

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Jesus commands His disciples to have faith (v. 22-25). Faith has the power to move mountains (v. 23 and Matthew 17:20)! The creator of the universe will answer the honest and humble prayer that is said in faith. Do you believe that? What hesitations do you have? One of the things that can hinder prayer is the refusal to forgive someone (v 25). We are commanded to forgive others as we have been forgiven (Matthew 18:21-22, Ephesians 4:32). Who do you need to forgive and truly release from whatever you have been holding against them? Do you realize it stands in the way of your own forgiveness and personal relationship with God? As hard as it may be, forgiving them today is essential to your personal growth. Spend some time in prayer today about forgiveness: how you have forgiven and how you need to be forgiving. Ask God to reveal any areas where you need to make some changes and that He would give you the strength and courage to do so. (Remember, there's power in prayer...)

## DAY THREE: MARK 12:1–17

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Who do you think the characters in the parable might represent? Do you see who represents God in the parable? Who represents Jesus? The Jews? The prophets? The idea of the parable is that those who reject God will ultimately be rejected. Put yourself in the place of the tenants. How would you have responded? Do you think that there are things that God is "renting" to you now? What are they? How do you care for them? What connections can you make to this passage? What is standing out for you to learn?  
It's not "tax season" right now, but maybe verses 13-17 can help to give you some perspective in how to view taxes. What do you think Jesus' teaching meant then? What do you think it means now? What about for you personally? How does it help to give perspective for how you view your money? God cares about all the details of your life... even taxes. Take some time to pray about how God wants you to view, use and give your money. How can you honor God with your cash? And even in taxes?

# WEEK 7 // MARK DAILY READINGS

## MARK DAILY READING CONTINUED

### DAY FOUR: MARK 12:18–34

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What do you think Jesus is trying to teach in verses 18-27? Why do you think it is meaningful for us to read and understand this principle? What does it cause you to think about?

The most important thing you can possibly do is love God with all that you are. List examples of what that could actually look like. How have you seen other people love God with all that they are? How would your life look different if you actually loved God that way? What does it truly mean to love your neighbor as yourself? First, who is your neighbor (think broader than your street)? How are you loving them? How are you neglecting them? What steps can you take toward loving God more fully and loving your neighbor as yourself? Pray about what you can be doing and begin to make a list of a few simple, attainable goals to help you better live out the greatest commandment.

### DAY FIVE: MARK 12:35–44

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God always cares more about the inside than the outside. The Pharisees seem to always have it together (on the outside), yet Jesus constantly condemns them (because He knows their heart). The widow gave all she had, which wasn't much. What was Jesus' response? He pointed her out, made an example of her... commended her heart. If the emphasis isn't on what we give God or even the amount, what is it that God is wanting? He not only looks at what we give but also what we are holding back. He also looks at how and why we give. What are you currently giving (time, money, skills, etc.)? Take some time today to examine your heart. How and why are you giving (or not giving)? What adjustments need to be made? How can you use the example of the widow to influence your giving attitude and actions?

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## WEEK 8 // MARK DAILY READINGS

### AS YOU BEGIN:

- (1) Find a quiet place where you can be alone. This is important for you to more easily focus as you read and have an awareness of God's presence. Prepare yourself to listen.
- (2) Read the verses and highlight the main points that stand out to you. Right down your observation in your journal and pray about in this process. Whether you have read the verses before or not, approach them with an eagerness to learn something new about the life and character of Jesus.
- (3) Ponder the question(s) and apply the word. Does it reveal an attitude to change, a sin to forsake, a specific promise to claim, an example to follow, or a command to obey? Whatever it is, be intentional about thinking and praying about it throughout your day.

### DAY ONE: MARK 13:1–23

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Re-read verses 1-2. What do you think Jesus is trying to say to the disciples? The disciples were very impressed with the magnificence of the temple. However, Jesus values very little outward pomp where there is no purity of heart. How have you fallen for what looks good on the outside over what is truly good on the inside? How have you worked harder on your personal image than on your heart? It's a struggle for many of us. Spend some time in prayer today before you move on to the rest of the passage praying about what you truly value and the state of your heart.

Moving on to verses 3-23... What emotions does this passage bring up within you? How does Jesus' attitude/description go with his favor for heart over pomp? He makes some pretty bold statements in this passage. What stands out most for you? What is difficult for you to take in? Why? Jesus was careful to caution against deception. Be awakened to be on your guard. When all around is in disorder, disciples of Christ may enjoy holy security and peace of mind. How can you/do you take heed to not be drawn away from Christ and your duty to Him? What do you think has the potential to do just that (look at what may have drawn you away in the past)? Pray for discernment for today and the days to come.

### DAY TWO: MARK 13:24–37

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Close your eyes and imagine what you just read. (Read again if you need to.) Really try to picture it. What do you see? How do you feel? How do you picture Jesus in that moment? Is it beyond your imagination? How? What urgency do verses 32-37 stir within you? How are these verses encouraging? How are they challenging? Are you ok/comfortable with some mystery? Why or why not? Why do you think "that day or hour" (v. 32) is kept a mystery? What does that mean for you?

### DAY THREE: MARK 14:1–26

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The words of verse 9 are penetrating, "I tell you the truth, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her." Why was what this woman did of such importance? What can you learn from her? What is interesting about the timing of this precious moment to you (hint: v. 1-2 and v. 10-11 are the bookends to this story of a woman honoring Jesus)? What have you been offering Jesus? What are you offering Him today?

Taking of the Lord's Supper is a common ritual in churches. How does this story give understanding to the meaning of that ritual? How does reading this passage (v. 12-26) give depth to your meaning/understanding of the Lord's Supper both then (for the disciples) and now (for you)?

# WEEK 8 // MARK DAILY READINGS

## MARK DAILY READING CONTINUED

### DAY FOUR: MARK 14:27–42

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Does Peter's response to Jesus surprise you (v. 29 and 31)? Why or why not? How can you identify with Peter in this story? Do you think he truly believed in what he was saying to Jesus? Explain. As you read on (in v. 32-41), how would you describe Peter's behavior? How does it line up with his dialogue with Jesus in the earlier verses? What do you think you would have done if you were Peter in that moment? It's easier to have an idea of what our behavior might be/should be from an outside objective perspective. However, in the moment, it's easy to succumb to temptation (like Jesus was saying in v. 38). What impresses you most about this passage? What do you find most challenging? How has what you have read going to make an impact in your day? In your week? In your faith?

### DAY FIVE: MARK 14:43–65

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Can you picture the scene? Try to imagine what Jesus was thinking... what Judas was thinking/feeling... what the crowd was thinking... what Peter and the others (who were just praying with Jesus in the garden) were thinking/feeling... What do you make of verse 50? As confident as Peter may have been in assuring Jesus he would never leave or disown Him (v. 29 and 31), verse 50 causes us to believe that even he "deserted [Jesus] and fled". What do you think of Peter's character? How might you have compassion or understanding for his behavior? What do you think about Peter's behavior in verse 53-54?

What stands out to you about Jesus' trial (v. 55-65)? What do you think about Jesus choosing to remain silent (v. 60-61) and Jesus' chosen response (v. 62)? Verse 64 ends with Jesus being condemned as "worthy of death" (NIV) or "deserving death" (ESV) or "guilty of death" (KJV). What do you think of those phrases? Of this public disapproval of Jesus? How does this passage change or enhance your view of Jesus and His purpose?



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# WEEK 9 // MARK DAILY READINGS

## AS YOU BEGIN:

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## DAY ONE: MARK 14:66–72

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Peter, often a spokesman for the rest of the disciples, denies Jesus not once, but three times! What started out as one lie quickly compounded to a mess. Peter, feeling guilty, began to become angry. This anger turns to shame when he is found out. Do you, like Peter, ever lose your temper when you are under pressure? How do you deal with being found out when you have lied or tried to cover something up? How do you deal with recognizing failure (or do you simply ignore it)? How can you improve in these areas? What can you learn from Peter?

## DAY TWO: MARK 15:1–20

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In the end of this section we see Jesus being mocked. The guards are spitting on Him and ridiculing Him. Our Savior, the Creator of the world, was willing to be tried and humiliated (and ultimately put to death) for you. What does that make you think about? How does it make you feel? What are you willing to go through for Him? His willingness to be humbled for our sake should change the way we live today. What does that/should that look like in your life?

## DAY THREE: MARK 15:21–47

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Take some time to really think about today's reading. Too often we quickly pass through this part of Scripture because "we already know the story" or "we've read it many times before." Try to find something new in this story... this is the story that offers you new life. It was on the cross that Jesus took the punishment for our sin upon Himself. Our job is to not go back to it. Often when we come to Christ in salvation we give Him our sin, but soon realize we miss it. We begin to go back to our old ways. God makes it clear that this will never satisfy us. We need to cling to God and not turn back to our old ways. What are you tempted to go back to? What are you tempted to hold on to because it feels safe and comfortable? If you are unsure, take some time to pray Psalm 139:23-24, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." If/when you find something you need to give up (and leave on the cross), pray about all you have read today. Ask God to give you the strength to move forward, to accept the grace he has lavished on you and live in the mercy of His love.

# WEEK 9 // MARK DAILY READINGS

## MARK DAILY READING CONTINUED

### DAY FOUR: MARK 16:1–13

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The gospel is not good news unless Jesus rises again. 1 Corinthians 15:14 says, “And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.” Three verses later in verse 17 Paul says, “And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.”

Basically, what Paul is saying is if the resurrection isn’t real, then his preaching, as well as his faith, is a waste; it’s useless. Paul’s life was centered on his faith and preaching, and these both revolved around the resurrection. So, if Christ wasn’t raised from the dead, Paul’s life was purposeless. The question is... would yours be too?

Think about it... If Christ didn’t rise from the dead, how much of your life would be wasted? Would it be a couple hours on Sunday morning? A few minutes before meals? 15 minutes in the morning? Whatever time you have spent related to Christ would be a waste if this were the case. How much of your time is that? But, if Christ is alive, then all time spent without Him is a waste. Knowing He is alive, is your life like Paul’s, full of things that are Christ centered? Or is it full of things that are futile?

### DAY FIVE: MARK 16:14–20

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Jesus comes and gives His final words to His disciples. What He calls them to do is go and make more disciples. ‘Teach others what I taught you’ is what He is saying. That’s the same thing He is calling us to... that He’s calling YOU to. How have you been encouraged as you’ve learned more about the character and life of Jesus and the disciples? How have you been challenged? Who can you come alongside and show what you have been learning as you have studied the book of Mark?

THE  
GOSPEL  
OF  
MARK

