

Mark Leader's Guide

What is our goal for those you are leading? Most simply I would say that we want them to follow Jesus, to be His disciples for life. Our 2 Timothy study showed us the value of the Scriptures to teach, reprove, correct and train us. To follow Jesus we need to interact with Him through His word, and the Gospel of Mark gives us an eyewitness account of Jesus' life and teaching. It will be a rich place to spend the semester!

The packet your group will receive will help them to spend time in the passage over the week and give them a few questions to think about. Our hope is that it would serve as training wheels that prepare them to study other books on their own. We would like for the material to give a basic framework and a place to record ideas as the student reads Mark.

As the leader you will need to use your group time well. There is so much to this book that you will not be able to discuss it all. As with the Essentials of Spiritual Multiplication study, it would be helpful to use the process of Connect, Hear, Apply, and Tell.

Before the study:

Everyone in the group needs to work through the section for that week. Their participation in the discussion will be much more profitable that way.

During the study: (if 1:15 for this part of the small group time)

Connect: (around 10 minutes)

You want to connect the group to each other and to the topic for the week. It would be a good time to review what you've covered so far. Maybe ask a question or introduce an idea that relates to the week's topic.

Hear: (around 50 minutes)

Now you want to 'hear' what the Bible has to say through observation (what does it say?) and interpretation (what does it mean?). It may be helpful to read through the passage out loud together and then walk through it from beginning to end asking what was observed and what questions they had. With some of the longer passages you may need to focus on a portion of it. After you've moved through the passage, it's a good time to pull it together by asking, "What do you think is the main idea of the section?" or "What is Mark's point here?"

Apply: (around 10 minutes)

We don't want to end the semester just smarter. We want the Word to change our lives. You can't force those in your small group to take this step, but you can make sure you take the step yourself. And you can create an environment that assists your group in applying the scriptures to their lives. You want everyone to think about how they should live in light of what they've just learned or been reminded of. This needs to be practical and specific. Such as: 'I'm going to serve my roommate by keeping my part of the room clean and asking how I can pray for him' verses 'I'm going to be a better roommate.'

Mark

Tell: (around 5 minutes)

This is one more step in application and it's huge. If you tell someone what you've learned from reading the Bible it's much easier to continue engaging in spiritual things with that person and it may lead to an opportunity to share the Gospel. It also helps us to see that Bible study isn't just for us to know more and it's not just that *we* would live differently, but that we would share with others what has been given to us from the Lord. We must pass on what we've been given. This is an essential step in the process of spiritual multiplication.

First Week

So what will you do this week? This first week you need to give the material to those in your group and explain how it works (i.e. doing the work before hand). This means you need to be familiar with the format of the study to orient those in your group. Also, it would be good for you to read through the book a few times.

The first week covers **Mark's introduction 1:1-13**. Since they have not looked at it yet, work through those first 13 verses together. This should help them get an idea of what the book will be about and remind them how to observe, interpret, and apply.

Each week the front side of the material gives them space to write, and then the back asks them 3 or 4 **questions** to help them process the section. Also, there are 4 **boxes for tracking themes**. The Most important thing to get out of a gospel is who is Jesus. The first box gives a space to record what is learned about Him. The second theme is the response that people have to Jesus. As you read Mark you see people responding with faith, hatred, astonishment, and misunderstanding. This box gives a place to note these responses. The last 2 boxes give a space to record personal application and who they can tell about what they have learned of Jesus. Please help your group get to these last boxes and encourage one another to live them out.

Also there is a page for **paragraph titles** and a summary of the book for the end of the study. Please show them this so they can start to fill in their titles as they go. Ideally they would read the book a couple times and then fill those in as an overview before starting, but if they do them each week as you go that will be fine. I hope this gives them a sense of the big picture and helps them dig into the rich soil of Mark.

Thanks for leading! Please feel free to ask any questions you have along the way. I will be teaching it too. Brian.white@uscm.org 979-574-6933

Mark Student's Guide

This is going to be a great semester!

Remember, our goal in Bible Study is not merely to know more information, but it is to learn from the Lord and be transformed by Him to be more like Jesus. Paul's goal was to present every man complete in Christ. To accomplish this he emphasized the value of the Scriptures as he exhorted Timothy that they are profitable to teach, reprove, correct and train us that we may be adequate, prepared for every good work.

This packet is designed to help you dig into the book of Mark **and** be prepared to study other books on your own in the future. We have not packed it full of questions or our opinions, but have packed it full of space for you to record and reflect on Jesus. Who is this? What has He said and done? How do I respond to Him?... Our hope is that you would spend lots of time in the book and that time would not be driven by the need to fill in answers to our questions, but will be driven by your personal hunger to know Jesus.

Like most things in life: **You will get out of it what you put into it.**

If you just show up to your Bible study time you will be living off of others (would you let them chew your food for you?). Also, if you spend one day a week on Mark (would you eat once a week?), you will be missing out on what you could gain by soaking in it. Here is a suggested way to use your week if you were in Mark 5 days:

- Day 1 pray and **read** through the passage for the week.
- Day 2 pray and **read** through the passage for the week.
- Day 3 pray and read through the passage making **observations** and asking questions in the work space provided
- Day 4 review the passage, **consider** the questions we have asked, **consult** outside resources as needed (ie. soniclight.com), add to your **paragraph titles** page.
- Day 5 focus on how to **apply the passage** to your life.

Then as you come together with others you will be able to discuss the passage and learn from each other. Given the length of the book, you may not get to every question that is raised. However, your group's goal is to help you all grow in Christ likeness.

As with any book it is helpful to read it through as often as you can. It may be helpful to listen to it or read it in a few different versions over the semester as well. One difference from our study of 2 Timothy is that the Gospels are narrative, that is they tell a story. We will be taking 1-2 chapters each week. It may be helpful to think of the paragraphs as different scenes in a movie. Look for the relationships between the characters in the scene and look for connections from one scene to the next.

Observation: What does it say?

Start by looking for the basics:

Who – Who is performing or receiving the action?

What – What is occurring?

When – When is it occurring? Is there a sequence of events?

Where – Where is the action occurring? Does the location change within the paragraph?

Why – What is the goal or purpose for the action? Who benefits?

How – What is the means or manner for accomplishing the action?

Key Words (especially theologically important terms)

Important Connectives - Indicate relationships within and between paragraphs; such as...

after, then, as, until, before, when, now, while, because, for, since, so, therefore, thus, in order that, but.

Grammatical Construction - How does each word function in the sentence?

Verbs - What are the actions? Note the tense of the verb (when is the action performed)

Is there a list of commands?

Noun - name of a person, place, thing or quality

Adjective & Adverb - modifies or describes something

Figures of speech - Non-literal language (e.g. “I am the bread of life”)

Comparison: points out the similarities between two or more related ideas, or simply joining like ideas.

“...he will be **like** a tree firmly planted ...”(Ps.1:2-3)

Contrast: points out dissimilarities between thoughts or ideas. This indicator is often easily identified by the use of the word “but.”

“Now the deeds of the flesh are evident... **But** the fruit of the Spirit is...” (Galatians 5:19-23)

Questions: structure is built around questions posed and answered by the author (or a hypothetical opponent created by the author).

“What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase?” (Rom.6:1)

Repetition: reiteration of the same word or phrase (when a similar but not exact word, phrase or idea is repeated it is known as continuity)

Progression of Ideas: the movement of ideas from general to particular (Matt. 6:1-18) or particular to gen. (Jas 2).

Cause to Effect: the passage first states the cause and then directly correlates the effects. Romans 1:18-31 demonstrates the cause (rejection of God) and the effect (God gave them over). See also Romans 6:23.

Effect to Cause: opposite of cause to effect, the author states the effect and then substantiates it by stating the cause. In Romans 8:18-27 Paul describes the effect of longing, and in 8:28-30 he describes the cause, which is our certain future glorification.

Summarization: the author gathers the main ideas he has been trying to communicate and restates them in a summary. For examples see Hebrews 8:1-2 and Joshua 12.

Interpretation: What does it mean?

Observation is answering ‘what does it say?’ In interpretation you are asking ‘what does this mean?’ Or better ‘what does Paul mean here?’ As you observe, ask lots of questions like

What does this word mean?

Why does he use this analogy?

What does Paul mean when he says we “were dead”?

Answering these questions is interpretation. Remember creativity in interpretation is not a virtue. Start your search for answers within the immediate context. Also, consider what others say now (your small group, pastor...) as well as in the past (commentaries). **Your goal is to discern the author’s intended meaning.**

Application: How does this touch my life?

Once you have discovered the universal principle(s) from the text, then you move to application. How does this truth connect to my life? By putting your application in words you begin to hold yourself accountable for becoming a doer of the Word. Some basic guidelines for application are: 1) focus on the main themes expressed by the author; 2) keep it short; 3) make it practical. An example of an application from Matthew 28:18-20 is “Wherever I am, I should proclaim the gospel to all men in hope of making some disciples.” Consider the following questions for application:

- Is there an example for me to follow or avoid? (Genesis 34; Joshua 1:9)
- Is there a sin or error for me to avoid? (1 Cor. 5:1)
- Is there a promise for me to claim? (Heb. 13:5)
- Is there a prayer for me to repeat? (Eph. 3:14-21)
- Is there a command for me to obey? (2 Timothy 2:22)
- Is there a condition for me to meet? (John 15:5)
- Is there a verse for me to memorize? (Psalm 119:11)
- Is there conviction from the Spirit to which I must respond? (1 Thess. 5:19)

Relate the application to your various relationships. Ask yourself, How should this application affect my attitudes, thoughts or actions:

- In relationship to God
- In relationship to myself
- In relationship to my family
- In relationship to my Christian friends
- In relationship to my non-Christians friends and the world
- In relationship to my adversary

Create a plan of action

So, what will I do today, or this week, or this month to implement this application? Who will I ask to hold me accountable? How and when will I evaluate my progress? A plan of action for our application from Matthew 28 might look something like this:

By the power of the Holy Spirit I commit myself to asking my neighbor to lunch this week. I commit to daily pray for his salvation and for the opportunity to present a verbal witness to him during lunch. I will ask my Bible study leader to hold me accountable to initiate this plan by asking me next week if I have followed through.

Mark

Paragraph Titles

As you read through a book, one way to begin to understand the flow is to give each paragraph a title. Keep it to a few words, but let it be descriptive enough to distinguish its contribution to the book.

1:1	10:1
1:2-8	10:2-12
1:9-11	10:13-16
1:12-13	10:17-22
1:14-15	10:23-31
1:16-20	10:32-34
1:21-28	10:35-45
1:29-31	10:46-52
1:32-34	11:1-10
1:35-39	11:11
1:40-45	11:12-14
2:1-12	11:15-18
2:13-14	11:19
2:15-17	11:20-26
2:18-22	11:27-33
2:23-28	12:1-12
3:1-6	12:13-17
3:7-12	12:18-27
3:13-19	12:28-34
3:20-30	12:35-37
3:31-35	12:38-40
4:1-9	12:41-44
4:10-20	13:1-2
4:21-25	13:3-8
4:26-29	13:9-13
4:30-32	13:14-23
4:33-34	13:24-27
4:35-41	13:28-32
5:1-20	13:33-37
5:21-24	14:1-2
5:25-34	14:3-9
5:35-43	14:10-11
6:1-6	14:12-16
6:7-13	14:17-21
6:14-29	14:22-25
6:30-44	14:26
6:45-52	14:27-31
6:53-56	14:32-42
7:1-23	14:43-50
7:24-30	14:51-52
7:31-37	14:53-65
8:1-10	14:66-72
8:11-13	15:1-5
8:14-21	15:6-15
8:22-26	15:16-20
8:27-30	15:21
8:31-38	15:22-32
9:1	15:33-41
9:2-8	15:42-47
9:9-13	16:1-8
9:14-29	16:9-11
9:30-32	16:12-13
9:33-37	16:14-18
9:38-50	16:19-20

Mark

lesson 1
Mark 1:1-13

Observations & Questions

(Use this section each week to record your observations and questions from the passage)

Mark

After you have spent time in the passage, this section will give a few questions to consider.

What does 1:1 tell us about this book and it's subject?

What is John's role/purpose? How did he fulfill it?

What does this introduction of Jesus (1:9-11) reveal about Him?

Mark 1:1-13 is Mark's introduction to the book. In light of this introduction, what should we do with the book? How should we respond to it? How should we respond to the person it reveals?

These boxes are for recording 2 themes and your application

<p>what do I learn about Jesus in this passage? (for example: He is introduced as the Christ and the Son of God. He is preceded by a messenger, John the Baptist. He is way greater than John He was baptized by John The Spirit descended on Him The Father identifies Him as His Beloved Son The Father is well pleased with Him...)</p>	<p>how did others respond to Him?</p>
<p>what is my response to this passage?</p>	<p>who can I tell?</p>

Mark

lesson 2
Mark 1:14-45

Observations & Questions

Mark

lesson 2
Mark 1:14-45

Where Mark 1:1-13 introduces the book and Jesus, 1:14-45 introduce Jesus' kingdom.
What do these paragraphs show us about His kingdom?

1:14-15

1:16-20

1:21-28

1:29-31

1:32-34

1:35-39

1:40-45

What is the "gospel" Jesus is preaching in verse 15?

What did it mean for the disciples to follow Jesus?

what do I learn about Jesus in this passage?	how did others respond to Him?
what is my response to this passage?	who can I tell?

Mark

lesson 3
Mark 2-3

Observations & Questions

Mark

There are 5 interchanges in 2:1-3:6. What 4 questions do the Pharisees ask?

What does each scene reveal about Jesus and His kingdom?

2:1-12

2:13-17

2:18-22

2:23-28

In 2:5 how can Jesus say the man's sins are forgiven?

How can Jesus be pure and holy and hang out with the tax collectors and sinners?

What is the Pharisee's verdict on Jesus?

In 3:7-35 Jesus interacts with a variety of people. Who are the 4 basic groups? How does Jesus treat them? What are their responses to Him?

3:7-12

3:13-19

3:20-21, 31-35

3:22-30

what do I learn about Jesus in this passage?	how did others respond to Him?
what is my response to this passage?	who can I tell?

Observations & Questions

This section has 4 parables (4 Soils, lamp, seed, mustard seed). Fortunately, Mark records Jesus' interpretation of the first one. When looking at a parable it is helpful to remember that they were memorable illustrations of spiritual truth. Make sure to get the big idea, and don't press the details too far. For example, 4:4 is not teaching to stay off of paved roads.

What is the main idea of each parable?

How do the 4 different parables relate?

What soil most represents your heart?

What is our role in the kingdom?

How can you sow the word? Harvest? Put the lamp on the lampstand?

Wouldn't you like to be there for 4:34!

what do I learn about Jesus in this passage?	how did others respond to Him?
what is my response to this passage?	who can I tell?

Mark

lesson 5
Mark 4:35-6:6

Observations & Questions

Mark

lesson 5
Mark 4:35-6:6

This section relates 4 scenes that reveal Jesus' power. What does He have power over?

4:35-41

5:1-20

5:25-34

5:35-43

If you were watching these things happen; would it change your view of Jesus? How?

Look back at the setting of these 4 scenes: 4:37-38; 5:3-5; 5:23,35; 5:25-26. What is a common thread through the 4 situations?

How does this compare to my interaction with Jesus?

what do I learn about Jesus in this passage?	how did others respond to Him?
what is my response to this passage?	who can I tell?

Mark

lesson 6
Mark 6:6-56

Observations & Questions

Mark

lesson 6
Mark 6:6-56

Recall the progression with the disciples: 1:17-18, 38; 2:14; 3:13-19; 4:34; 6:7-13.
How did Jesus involve the disciples in His mission?

Why do you think Mark includes this tangent, 6:14-29, on John the Baptist? How does it fit into the overall context?
How does Herod's court compare to Jesus'?"?

Jesus calls His disciples to come away and rest a while, but when they get *away* all these people are there. How would this make you feel if you were a disciple? How did Jesus respond?

As the food issue became apparent, the disciples evaluated the situation and gave a reasonable response. What was wrong with their solution?

If this is our model of ministry (impossible task, limited resources), what are we to do?

what do I learn about Jesus in this passage?	how did others respond to Him?
what is my response to this passage?	who can I tell?

Mark

lesson 7
Mark 7:1-8:26

Observations & Questions

Here Jesus rebukes the Pharisees for following tradition instead of God's word.
How do we do that today?

Jesus also contrasts the external and the heart. What external things made the Pharisees appear holy?
How does Jesus challenge this way of thinking?

How do we follow external rules to make ourselves look good?

How do the Gentile woman and deaf man contrast the Pharisees?

The disciples continue to have hard hearts. How does the blind man contrast them?

what do I learn about Jesus in this passage?	how did others respond to Him?
what is my response to this passage?	who can I tell?

Mark

lesson 8
Mark 8:27-9:50

Observations & Questions

The scene in 8:27-30 is pivotal in the flow of Mark's gospel. What do the disciples understand about Jesus at this point?

From this point on, Jesus foreshadows the conclusion of His earthly ministry. What does He tell the 12, and how do they respond?

How does the call to radical discipleship in 8:34-38 connect to:
Peter's confession in 8:29?

The mission Jesus has already given them?

Our lives today?

How does the Transfiguration relate to Peter's confession and the events Jesus has foreshadowed?
Why might the Father have this meeting with the Son at this point?

what do I learn about Jesus in this passage?	how did others respond to Him?
what is my response to this passage?	who can I tell?

Mark

lesson 9
Mark 10:1-11:26

Observations & Questions

How do the paragraphs in 10:1-31 relate to one another?

One theme is the question raised by the 12, “who can be saved?” How does Jesus answer this?

In 10:32 there is a shift as they head to Jerusalem. What is Jesus emphasizing at this point?

What is on the minds of the 12?

What is Jesus’ model of leadership?

How does this compare to your ideas of leadership?

In chapter 11 they enter Jerusalem. What is the crowd’s reaction?

After Jesus cleanses the temple, how do the leaders react? What is driving their response?

What drives our response to him today?

what do I learn about Jesus in this passage?	how did others respond to Him?
what is my response to this passage?	who can I tell?

Mark

lesson 10
Mark 11:27-12:44

Observations & Questions

What question do the chief priests ask in 11:28? How does this question flow through the rest of these paragraphs?

11:27-33

12:1-12

12:13-17

12:18-27

12:28-34

12:35-37

12:38-40

12:41-44

So, where does His authority come from?

In light of that, how should we respond to Him? Why don't we?

what do I learn about Jesus in this passage?	how did others respond to Him?
what is my response to this passage?	who can I tell?

Mark

lesson 11
Mark 13:1-37

Observations & Questions

This section is challenging to understand. Like reading the prophets, when they look forward it can be difficult to pin point which future event they are describing. Sometimes there is overlap and a number of events are in view.

What question prompts Jesus' discussion?

What is His main application point (13:5, 9, 13, 33, 35, 37) for His audience?

What do 13:24-27 reveal about the return of the Son of Man?

This has not happened yet. If this day is coming, how should we live today?

what do I learn about Jesus in this passage?	how did others respond to Him?
what is my response to this passage?	who can I tell?

Mark

lesson 12
Mark 14:1-72

Observations & Questions

What events does Jesus foreshadow here?

Who is in control of these events?

Consider Jesus' prayer in 14:34-36. If there were another way to reconcile God and man, what would this unanswered prayer tell us about the Father?

In 14:61-65 what are they accusing Jesus of? Why don't they believe his answer?

Under what circumstances do you act like Peter and the 12 here? What do you value more than Jesus at those times?

what do I learn about Jesus in this passage?	how did others respond to Him?
what is my response to Jesus from this passage?	who can I tell?

Mark

lesson 13
Mark 15-16

Observations & Questions

What is the charge against Jesus?

Sum up what happens in chapter 15.

There is some debate about the ending of Mark. What if Mark ended at 16:8 and there were not 3 other gospels? What would be lost?

Reread 1:1. What does the resurrection mean in context of this entire book?

So, who is Jesus? Teacher? Prophet? Christ? Son of God? King?...

Summary

Having examined the details of the entire book through observation, interpretation and application, it is now time to put all the parts back together. Using your understanding of the book, synthesize your work through the following exercises:

- 1. Review your paragraph titles. Make the necessary changes and group the paragraphs so you can see the large scale flow of the book.
- 2. Summarize the main lessons God has taught you through the book of Mark.

what do I learn about Jesus in this passage?	how did others respond to Him?
what is my response to this passage?	who can I tell?