

**THE HIGH  
AND HUMBLE  
KING**

**MARK SERIES GUIDE  
WEEKS 12-22**

## **WE EXIST FOR THE FAME OF JESUS**

Our Mission is to make disciples who:

Love God.

Love People.

Advance the Gospel.

Our Vision is to be a church:

For the City.

For the Military.

For the Fame of Jesus.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**MAY - NO EVENTS**

**WE ARE RESTING FROM COMMUNITY GROUPS AND  
EVENTS TO ESTABLISH RYTHMS OF REST AS A CHURCH**

**JUNE 2 - NIGHT OF PRAYER AND WORSHIP**

**THURSDAY - 6:30P - THE METRO**

**JUNE 5 - VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION COOKOUT**

**SUNDAY - 4P-6P - LAKE RIM PARK - DV SHELTER**

**JUNE 26 - COMMUNITY GROUP CONNECT**

**SUNDAY - AFTER 9A & 11A GATHERINGS**

**JULY 7 - NIGHT OF PRAYER AND WORSHIP**

**THURSDAY - 6:30P - THE METRO**

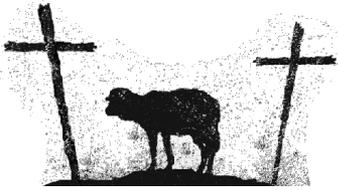
**JULY 17 - PARENT/CHILD DEDICATIONS**

**SUNDAY - DURING 9A & 11A GATHERINGS**

**JULY 31 - SERVICE TEAM CONNECT**

**SUNDAY - AFTER 9A & 11A GATHERINGS**

For more information and to RSVP  
visit: [www.veritasfayetteville.com/events](http://www.veritasfayetteville.com/events)



# MARK

THE HIGH AND HUMBLE KING

## WHY FOCUS ON THE GOSPEL OF MARK?

The Gospel of Mark is considered to be the first of the four Gospels. Mark is also the shortest of the four Gospels and yet Mark reminds us of the point of the entire Bible, the point of all of the Old Testament, and the point of Christ being sent to earth: “the forgiveness of sins” (Mark 1:4). Although we turned our backs on God, Mark shows us that God had a plan to restore us back to himself. We can be encouraged as we study the Gospel of Mark because although we are inconsistent, messy, fickle, and broken, Jesus came not “to call the righteous, but sinners” (Mark 2:17). Mark invites us into the inner circle of Jesus to be his disciples. Mark lets us in on the 3 years of Jesus’ ministry and does so to prove to the Roman audience and to the skeptics and doubters of our day that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, who suffered and died in our place, and who rose again as the High and Humble King.

## INTRODUCTION TO MARK

The author never names himself, but the unanimous testimony of the early church fathers was that the author was John Mark. Mark likely wrote this Gospel using information that was passed down to him by his friend, the Apostle Peter, who was one of the closest people to Jesus during his life on earth. Throughout Mark’s account we see a clear focus on the identity of Jesus and the works of Jesus. Jesus is seen as a man of action. Throughout all of this the picture of Jesus that emerges is a man who is compelling, mysterious, and revolutionary. Ultimately, the Gospel of Mark is about who Jesus is and how we should respond to him. We are forced to respond to the most important question we will ever answer when Jesus asks: “...who do you say that I am?” (Mark 8:29). The tomb is empty, and Jesus is alive! The High and Humble king is inviting you to follow and worship him, and to experience his transformational work through the gospel.

# ABOUT THE BOOKLET

This study guide is designed to help you take notes on Sundays and respond to what is heard each week as we walk through the Gospel of Mark. To help facilitate this, we will provide questions focused on our core values: Truth, Worship, Community, and Mission. These questions will also be used for Community Group discussion, so take notes and bring the booklet with you to Community Group to interact with others.

There are a few reasons we chose to use Truth, Worship, Community, and Mission for the questions for this study guide:

- These are the four core values of Veritas Church.
- They help us think through major areas of discipleship and what it looks like to follow Jesus.
- They lead us to see what is true about God, what is true about us in our brokenness and rebellion, what Jesus has done for us, how we need one another, and how all of this is meant to change how we live in our daily lives for the fame of Jesus.

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Each week's Community Group discussion will include four types of questions:



1. TRUTH - Where do we see the truth about God, Jesus, and the gospel in this passage?



2. WORSHIP - What about this passage causes us to worship God?



3. COMMUNITY - Why is it impossible to live this passage out alone?



4. MISSION - How is this passage relevant for the broken world we live in?

## **A LETTER FROM YOUR PASTORS**

We want to spend 2016 focusing on the life and works of Jesus and Mark does this with great intentionality in his Gospel. Our hope and prayer is that you, whether you follow Jesus or you're in a spot where you're asking questions but just aren't sure, would experience the life-changing message of the gospel and that it would lead to a life lived following and worshiping Jesus. Here's what we know: we can't do this alone. We need the Holy Spirit to really bring change in our lives, so we want to encourage you to ask him to do that, to ask him to help you understand as you hear the gospel preached, as you study during the week, and as you gather with others in Community Groups. Ask the Holy Spirit to convict you of sin, to show you the areas that you aren't following Jesus, to satisfy you with the truth that Jesus has lived and died in your place to bring you into the family of God, and to lead you to truly follow and worship Jesus, the High and Humble King who has come, "not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45)

For the fame of Jesus,  
Your Pastors

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# MARK

THE HIGH AND HUMBLE KING

WEEK 12 - APRIL 24

READ MARK 4:1-20

## DEVOTIONAL

We begin to see Jesus use stories, parables, and analogies to describe the Kingdom of God. Jesus uses a parable of a sower. The sower doesn't discriminate where he scatters the seeds. He throws them on the side of the road, on rocky terrain, in deep weeds, and fertile soil. In this parable, Jesus is preceding his eventual command at the end of Mark: "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation." This parable shows us the way the Kingdom of God advances. The parable of the sower tells us that hearing the gospel is essential, but it takes the supernatural work of God the Spirit to give us the ability to hear and receive by faith.

## QUESTIONS



1. Do you have ears to hear the gospel? Do you tune in to the words of Scripture and the gospel, or do you tune them out?



2. Which of the four soils do you identify with now? Why? Which of the four soils have you identified more with in the past? Why?



3. How does understanding the parable or the soils/sower impact us as we relate in community?



4. How does the parable of the sower change the way you think about evangelism and living with gospel intentionality?





# MARK

THE HIGH AND HUMBLE KING

WEEK 13 - MAY 1

READ MARK 4:21-34

## DEVOTIONAL

The parables of Jesus continually describe the good news of the Kingdom of God, and we see how vast the Kingdom of God is. The Kingdom has come, and now we must respond with belief and repentance. Those who refuse to respond in belief and repentance will remain outside of the Kingdom. The Kingdom of God is hidden and then it is revealed. Jesus is communicating the Kingdom to those who are truly listening and interested. Our ability and desire to listen and hear rests alone in the grace of God.

## QUESTIONS



1. What does it mean for us to have “ears to hear”? When you read the Bible, how should you read from the Bible? For information or transformation? What is the difference?



2. If faith comes from hearing the Word of God, what are the obstacles that prevent you from hearing and growing in faith?



3. John the Baptist gives us a good example of humble servanthood. What kinds of people do we struggle serving? What does our struggle say about our hearts?



4. What objections do people you know have about believing the gospel? How do we better answer these objections?





# MARK

THE HIGH AND HUMBLE KING

WEEK 14 - MAY 8

READ MARK 4:35-41

## DEVOTIONAL

Jesus has already healed the sick, cast out demons, made the paralyzed to walk again, forgiven sins, and now Mark shows us the power of Jesus over creation. With only a calm word, Jesus stops a fierce storm. This brought awe and wonder among the disciples as they see the authority of Jesus in such a powerful way. The disciples were in many ways still learning about Jesus and questioning Jesus and his power, but here Jesus shows us his divinity. Who can stop the wind and the waves? Only God has that kind of authority, and Jesus is God.

## QUESTIONS



1. How can it bring comfort to you knowing that Jesus, in his sovereignty, led the disciples into this predicament?



2. Pain and fear reveal much about our need for spiritual growth. How do you think Jesus was using the storm to teach his disciples? What are similar ways in which God is teaching you through storms?



3. How can we as a community take more obedient risks that will help us to grow in our faith?



4. Christians should be distinguished from non-Christians by how we handle the storms of life. How can this affect the way we engage the world around us, and how can that be helpful in our missional efforts?





# MARK

THE HIGH AND HUMBLE KING

WEEK 15 - MAY 15

READ MARK 5:1-20

## DEVOTIONAL

Often we believe we are defined by our spiritual capacity. We often desire to seek after natural remedies to spiritual problems, especially when we are not receiving Jesus and pushing him away. However, the Apostle Paul tells us that our struggle is a spiritual one. C.S. Lewis once said, "There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them." We must strive to recognize the spiritual reality of Satan and demons and yet not be prone to extremes. In the end, Jesus alone can make us clean and give us freedom from the works of Satan and the demonic.

## QUESTIONS



Read through the text together. What does it say about the person of Jesus?



2. Have you ever considered that anxiety, depression, fear, worry, and doubt could be spiritual issues? Knowing this is possible, how can this change the way you pray and fight these things?



3. How is biblical community important in spiritual warfare?



4. In what ways do you underestimate the spiritual realities behind the problems that you face as a Christian living on mission?





# MARK

THE HIGH AND HUMBLE KING

WEEK 16 - MAY 22

READ MARK 5:21-43

## DEVOTIONAL

The Gospel of Mark has been showing us that there is no realm where Jesus does not have authority. As Abraham Kuyper once said, "There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, 'Mine!'" In this section of Scripture, Mark details two stories. Although these stories have differences, the primary theme is faith and the power Jesus has over sickness. We serve a powerful King that deserves our faith.

## QUESTIONS



1. Do you know anyone whose initial interest in Jesus was misguided? What steps can you and our community take to lead such a person to saving, biblical faith?



2. In times of sickness and suffering we often respond with complaining, mocking or diminishing the character of God. What kind of response do you gravitate towards in times of suffering? Why?



3. If we truly believe that the resurrection of Jesus is the assurance that our suffering is only temporary, how might that belief affect the way we address situations of suffering in community together?



4. How do these stories encourage us that there isn't a person or situation that is beyond Jesus' ability to restore?





# MARK

THE HIGH AND HUMBLE KING

WEEK 17 - MAY 29

READ MARK 6:1-6

## DEVOTIONAL

Chapter 6 begins with Jesus returning to his hometown of Nazareth where he is not received and is even mocked. Despite being mocked and the hometown crowd not receiving King Jesus, he continues to pursue them. The people of Nazareth couldn't be coerced because coercion has never been a good way to advance the gospel. It is the kindness of God that leads us to repentance.

## QUESTIONS



1. The rejection of Jesus by his own people was a messianic prophecy that had become a reality (Psalm 118:22, Acts 4:11). Why is rejection part of the gospel story?



2. The people of Nazareth rejected Jesus and we have rejected Jesus. We are no better than the people of Nazareth. How does this make the gospel all the more powerful in the text and in our lives?



3. What are ways in which the church treats Jesus with too much familiarity?



4. How important is it that we not offend people when we share the gospel with them?





# MARK

THE HIGH AND HUMBLE KING

WEEK 18 - JUNE 5

READ MARK 6:7-29

## DEVOTIONAL

Jesus has been teaching, training, and challenging his disciples. Now, he sends them out in ministry with authority to defeat all kinds of spiritual adversaries. Jesus even tells them to travel light. Jesus wants to ensure that they look to God as their provider of all of their needs. Discipleship is ultimately about growing in dependence on Jesus.

## QUESTIONS



1. Why would Jesus send out the disciples who were in many ways unprepared? Couldn't Jesus accomplish more by himself?



2. Why is it significant that Mark gives the longest account of John's death? What are some reasons for its prominence? What is Mark getting across?



3. Why is it so important that mission be communal and not simply individuals doing evangelism by themselves?



4. What is the true definition of success with regard to missions? What, then, is the nature of failure?





# MARK

THE HIGH AND HUMBLE KING

WEEK 19 - JUNE 12

READ MARK 6:30-56

## DEVOTIONAL

Jesus was busy with ministry. He was consistently serving others and yet we see him prioritize getting away to rest and focus on his relationship with God the Father. Jesus teaches his disciples the importance of this spiritual discipline because he knows it is essential to their mental, emotional, and spiritual health. We see Jesus feed thousands, walk on water, and heal the sick in this section of Scripture and yet it also describes the disciples still having hardened hearts.

## QUESTIONS



1. In verse 34, Jesus sees us as sheep and sees himself as a shepherd. a) What does it tell us about ourselves that he sees us as sheep? b) What does it tell us about him that he sees himself as a shepherd?



2. Mark 6:52 tells us that the disciples lacked understanding because “their hearts were hardened.” What are some of the factors in your own life that lead to a hardened heart?



3. Why is compassion such an important aspect about the life and ministry of Jesus? How should compassion mark the church and our community?



4. When there are so many important things to accomplish in life and yet so many other opportunities for ministry, why is it so important that we get away and rest? How is this helpful? What does it accomplish?





# MARK

THE HIGH AND HUMBLE KING

WEEK 20 - JUNE 19

READ MARK 7:1-23

## DEVOTIONAL

Mark describes the Pharisees and scribes as those who police others for their own benefit. They were continually forcing people to follow and obey a standard that God did not require. These religious leaders of Jesus' day accused the disciples of Jesus of defilement and yet Jesus says it was they who were spiritually unclean.

## QUESTIONS



1. How do we see the mercy of God through Jesus as he teaches on true defilement?



2. Do you ever feel like the filth of your soul or life is too dirty for Jesus to clean? Why?



3. How do we bring the gospel to bear when someone in our church community feels too dirty for Jesus to cleanse?



4. Why is the phrase "guilt by association" so counter to the gospel and the mission of God? How can we stay faithful to Jesus and yet associate with people who are far from Jesus and whose way of living we aren't comfortable with?





# MARK

THE HIGH AND HUMBLE KING

WEEK 21 - JUNE 26

READ MARK 7:24-37

## DEVOTIONAL

Jesus has done much of his ministry to the Jewish people and yet we also see him engage in ministry to the Gentiles (non-Jewish people). The Mosaic law required that worshippers be “ritually clean,” physically healthy, have no contact with dead animals or people, abstain from a list of prohibited foods, and so on. The purpose of these rules were to act as a “visual aid” to show us that we needed to be holy before God. Mark shows us that sin is first and foremost a matter of the heart. Sin can’t be dealt with by external washing but only by internal spiritual intervention by Jesus.

## QUESTIONS



1. Consider verses 24-26. Think of all the ways in which Mark is pointing out what an “unclean” situation Jesus now involves himself in. What does this say about the ministry of Jesus?



2. In verses 28-30, how does she react? What does this teach us about how to meet Christ by faith?



3. Do these miracles offer you hope? Does the miraculous work of Jesus bring about astonishment? Out of response to what Jesus has done for you, how can we more faithfully serve others?



4. How can the good news of God’s love to all people groups in Christ be clearly seen in these texts?





# MARK

THE HIGH AND HUMBLE KING

WEEK 22 - JULY 3

READ MARK 8:1-26

## DEVOTIONAL

It is easy to be confused and frustrated at the lack of faith of the Jews in the Old Testament and the disciples of Jesus in the New Testament. In the OT, the Jews experienced such miraculous works in the exodus from Egypt through plagues and a sea parting. The miraculous works of God continued and yet they began to worship a golden cow. The disciples of Jesus weren't any better. They have fed thousands and thousands of people with only a few loaves of bread and a few fish. They see Jesus teach and exercise his authority in miraculous ways and yet they continually struggle in faith. Their stories are very similar to ours, and Mark is helping us to see our place in the story and our continual need for Jesus.

## QUESTIONS



1. In verses 1-10, what differences are there between this feeding miracle and the one in Mark 6:30? What might be Mark's purpose in including this one?



2. In verse 11, why do the Pharisees ask for a sign? Why won't Jesus give them one? What does this teach us about the nature of faith in Jesus?



3. We often struggle to see how things will work out in life. How can the church community be more helpful in times of unbelief and struggle?



4. When we worry, we communicate that our God is not very big or powerful. That isn't true, but this is what we often communicate in our evangelism. How does our worry affect our evangelistic efforts?



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