



**THE HIGH  
AND HUMBLE  
KING**

**MARK SERIES GUIDE 4  
WEEKS 34-44**

## **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**

**OCTOBER 22 - NEXT STEPS CLASS**

**SATURDAY - 9a-12p - FREEDOM CHRISTIAN ACADEMY**

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

**WEDNESDAY - 6:30p-8p - FREEDOM CHRISTIAN ACADEMY**

**NOVEMBER 20 - PARENT/CHILD DEDICATIONS**

**SUNDAY - DURING 9a & 11a GATHERING**

**DECEMBER 7 - CHRISTMAS CAROL COOKIE EXCHANGE**

**WEDNESDAY - 6:30p-8p - FREEDOM CHRISTIAN ACADEMY**

**DECEMBER 18**

**SUNDAY - 11a GATHERING ONLY**

**DECEMBER 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY WORSHIP**

**SUNDAY - 11a GATHERING ONLY**

**JANUARY 1**

**SUNDAY - 11a GATHERING ONLY**

For more information and to RSVP  
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# 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

### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

|  |
|--|
| <b>WEEK 34 - MARK 11:12-26 - PAGE 6</b>    |
| <b>WEEK 35 - MARK 11:27-12:12 - PAGE 8</b> |
| <b>WEEK 36 - MARK 12:13-27 - PAGE 10</b>   |
| <b>WEEK 37 - MARK 12:28-34 - PAGE 12</b>   |
| <b>WEEK 38 - MARK 12:35-44 - PAGE 14</b>   |
| <b>WEEK 39 - MARK 13:1-23 - PAGE 16</b>    |
| <b>WEEK 40 - MARK 13:24-37 - PAGE 18</b>   |
| <b>WEEK 41 - MARK 14:1-25 - PAGE 20</b>    |
| <b>WEEK 42 - MARK 14:26-72 - PAGE 22</b>   |
| <b>WEEK 43 - MARK 15:1-27 - PAGE 24</b>    |
| <b>WEEK 44 - MARK 16:1-20 - PAGE 26</b>    |



# MARK

THE HIGH AND HUMBLE KING

## WEEK 34

### READ MARK 11:12-26

### DEVOTIONAL

We tend to imagine Jesus without emotion or taking immediate action. In this section of scripture we see Jesus run money handlers out of the temple and curse a seemingly innocent fig tree on the way. After further inspection of his actions we see that Jesus was providing a real life parable to show the disciples that God values fruitfulness rather than just the appearance of fruitfulness. God's people, the Jews, had an appearance of godliness but lacked actual fruit that God produces in those who are faithful. After Jesus cleanses the temple he begins to teach that the temple should be called "a house of prayer for all the nations" (v. 17) and shows God's heart for all people to have faith in him and be forgiven. He continues to reveal himself as The High and Humble King who has an endless wealth of forgiveness that, if we will ask for it, we will receive every time.

### QUESTIONS



1. What does Jesus' dealing with those in the temple tell us about what is important to God?



2. Why did Jesus curse the fig tree? Why is this actually a reason for us to worship God?



3. In v. 25 why does Jesus shift his focus to forgiving one another? Why are Jesus' words on faith and forgiveness so intricately connected? What does this mean for this your community group? Who do you need to forgive or ask forgiveness from?



4. Jesus says that his father's house should be a "house of prayer for all nations." How does this change the way should think as a church? What practical steps could we take to make this true?

# NOTES

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing notes.



# MARK

THE HIGH AND HUMBLE KING

## WEEK 35

### READ MARK 11:27-12:12

### DEVOTIONAL

This isn't the first time the true authority of Jesus had been challenged (1:22, 1:27, 2:10-11). Here, the chief priests and scribes are not only talking about what just happened in the temple but also about the power with which Jesus has healed and cast out demons throughout his ministry. Interestingly enough, the opponents of Jesus do not want to speak against John the Baptist, but continue to question Jesus. As Jesus tells the parable of the tenants, the religious leaders know that he is speaking to them, but they fail to listen to his teaching. Therefore, instead of receiving instruction, their hearts are hardened.

### QUESTIONS



1. Take a moment to talk about the true authority of Jesus. Why do we still naturally resist authority, including that of Jesus? What is the connection to the fall in Genesis 3?



2. The religious leaders confess here that "We do not know" (v. 33). What are they using as a basis to assess if Jesus is who he says he is? Do they even have one?



3. What or who is the vineyard that Jesus talks about throughout the parable in chapter 12:1-12?



4. V. 12 tells us that the opponents of Jesus had long determined to arrest and eventually kill him (refer back to 11:18). Jesus knew this but didn't stop. What are the implications for us today as we strive to carry out the great commission? (See Matthew 28).





# MARK

THE HIGH AND HUMBLE KING

## WEEK 36

### READ MARK 12:13-27

#### DEVOTIONAL

The Pharisees and Herodians begin to take a different approach with Jesus. Maybe flattery will work? They know that he supports the way of God (v. 14), so they assume he must have a stance on paying taxes. Jesus, knowing these people are hypocrites, does not answer in the way they would like. A rejection of paying taxes would seem to be a rebellion against Caesar. However, a willingness to pay taxes would seem to compromise devotion to God. The focus here is not whether Rome is just or unjust, but what it looks like to willingly submit to God. Soon we will see that God's kingdom overcomes everything. Despite having a lack of knowledge of scripture and the power of God (v. 24) Jesus still gives those who believe a wonderful glimpse into what eternity with him will look like.

#### QUESTIONS



1. What is the difference between a compliment and flattery? Did this tactic work with Jesus? How do you think the crowd responded when Jesus gave such a wise answer?



2. There are several points on which we all disagree with our government. What does it look like for followers of Jesus to submit to the authority of government without compromising the commands of God?



3. Jesus doesn't hang on to the hope of life or death. Discuss other places in scripture where it talks about the eternal glory that is ahead for those that follow Jesus.



4. Have you ever met someone that seems to have that one trick question ready to pounce on a Christian? How can we be better prepared as we take the gospel to the nations? Write out these ways and put them to use.

# NOTES

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing notes.



# MARK

THE HIGH AND HUMBLE KING

## WEEK 37

### READ MARK 12:28-34

### DEVOTIONAL

We all love to ask the “great” questions: Who is the best basketball player in history? Who is the best pound for pound boxer in history? On and on. It’s natural for us to ask this. In this passage in Mark a religious leader comes and asks Jesus what the most important commandment is. Jesus’ answer can be summed up with two words: Love God. He then gives the leader the second most important commandment: Love People. This passage is where our mission statement comes from.

### QUESTIONS



1. Why is it important that God is “one” (v. 29)?



2. Why do you think we are commanded to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength? Practically, What do these represent and what does it look like to love God in this way?



3. How can you encourage those in your group to love God and love people? How do you need to be encouraged to love God and love people. Ask others in your group to pray for you in specific ways.



4. Jesus says in John 13:35, “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” Why do you think he says this? How can the world know God’s love by how Christians love one another?





# MARK

THE HIGH AND HUMBLE KING

## WEEK 38

### READ MARK 12:35-44

### DEVOTIONAL

Many Christians erroneously believe that Jesus saves us and then it is our works that keep us in right standing before God. Many believe that Jesus gets us on the “team” and then it’s our responsibility to work hard to stay on the “team.” When Jesus reminds his disciples to beware the scribes, he is reminding them that even though their outward actions seem pious their hearts are far from God. Jesus then lovingly shows us, by observing the poor widow giving out of her poverty, that God cares more about our hearts than what we give to him. The widow gave “more” in Jesus’ eyes not just because she was poor, but because she showed outwardly that she trusted God with everything that she had.

### QUESTIONS



1. Compare and contrast what Jesus says about the scribes and the widow. What does this show about what God values?



2. What is Jesus teaching about how we should read our bibles with his reciting and interpretation of Psalm 110:1?



3. Do we tend to give out of our need or our abundance? Would you consider your giving to be generous or sacrificial (to the point that it hurts a bit to give as much as you do)?



4. Why is the truth that God cares more about the state of our heart than the current amount of religious activity we do such good news to the world we live in today?





# MARK

THE HIGH AND HUMBLE KING

## WEEK 39

### READ MARK 13:1-23

### DEVOTIONAL

As humans, we all have a drive to know what's next. Teaching on the end times can be both comforting and troubling. We want to know what's next, but what should we do while we wait? We should study the word of God. We look to the places in the Bible that tell us the glories that await those who follow Jesus, not focussing on the catastrophes of what's constantly happening around us. Those catastrophes push us to pray, but as Jesus says in v. 11, we are not to be anxious. More than anything, as a church, let's pray Revelation 22:20, "Come, Lord Jesus."

### QUESTIONS



1. We are not told of when the end will be, but are told some things to look for. Why do you think Jesus has revealed these things? Is this list complete? What other parts of scripture can we point to, old testament and new, that affirm Jesus' predictions?



2. How can the persecution of followers of Jesus result in the spread of Christianity? How is God bigger than what's happening in the world today? What in your life is proof of this?



3. A saying at one of our sister churches is "A lone ranger is a dead ranger." Read v. 22 again. Discuss the importance of daily reading of the word and engulfing ourselves in community so that we don't become dead rangers.



4. We have plenty of media drilling into our heads what we should believe or think, But here, Jesus comforts us to not worry. How can these simple words drive us to make disciples of all nations?





# MARK

THE HIGH AND HUMBLE KING

## WEEK 40

### READ MARK 13:24-37

### DEVOTIONAL

This is one of those passages where it's really easy to miss the forest for the trees. We love to argue about how Jesus is coming back and when he's coming back, but Jesus himself says that no one knows when that is going to happen (v. 32). The main point from this passage and the beauty of this passage: Jesus is coming back. How amazing is that?

### QUESTIONS



1. Why is it crucial that we believe that Jesus is coming again? How does the false belief that Jesus is not coming again hurt the church?



2. What in this passage gives you hope? How can you worship God through this passage?



3. What is our responsibility as Christians until Jesus comes back? How can you carry this out as a community group?



4. How does the promise that Jesus is coming back motivate you to share the gospel with those around you who don't love Jesus? How can your group specifically pray for you in this?





# MARK

THE HIGH AND HUMBLE KING

## WEEK 41

## READ MARK 14:1-25

## DEVOTIONAL

In Jesus' last days of ministry he is completely focused on the task that he has been sent to do: "...give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45) and "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many." (Mark 14:24) Everything in his earthly ministry was building up to the point of his death at the hands of those who had celebrated his entry into Jerusalem as the Messiah. As he was heading to this night, it became more clear that he was preparing for death, still an unthinkable thing for the disciples, by the anointing of his body (a burial ritual), his betrayal, and the institution of what we are to celebrate each time we gather to remind us of the gospel: communion. Jesus, the king who deserved all, spent his last night before his death serving his disciples a modest meal before he would serve us all in his astonishing act of atonement.

## QUESTIONS



1. In this passage Jesus institutes the "new covenant" made possible by the shedding of his blood. What then is the "old covenant" and why is it important to understand what Jesus is talking about here? (See Exodus 24:3-8)



2. Why did Jesus have to die? What was symbolic about the anointing of Jesus' body in v. 3-9?

3. How does this passage change the way we think of taking communion?



4. Jesus rightly said that we would always have the poor with us. Is this discouraging for you to know that we will not be able to eradicate the needs of the poor? How does this keep us focused on our greater hope? How can we encourage one another to continue to help the poor? Where is your group meeting the needs of the poor in your group? In Fayetteville?







# MARK

THE HIGH AND HUMBLE KING

## WEEK 42

### READ MARK 14:26-72

#### DEVOTIONAL

Before anything could ever happen at the cross, Jesus praying in the garden had to take place. He had to spend time with the Father surrendering his will. He is fully God, but the amount of overwhelming sorrow he feels (v. 33) for the upcoming events shows us that he is also fully man. Eventually Jesus, as he said he would be, was arrested. His friends would flee with fear and Peter would deny he ever even knew him. He would be mocked, spat on, and “received with blows” (v. 65) as he was brought to the Roman guards. So many times throughout Mark we see Jesus command people not to speak of who he is or what they saw him do. Now, the secret is out and I am is about to show the world a love that they have never seen.

#### QUESTIONS



1. Spend time right now thinking about what Jesus has done for you. Why should we spend time thinking and praying over what happened in v. 26-72?



2. Jesus knew that in 24 hours, he would die. Not forgetting he's God, but also remembering he's a man, think of the weight of this knowledge. How would you feel? Could you do it? Does that drive you to know your deeper need for a saviour?



3. What example is Jesus trying to set with taking his disciples with him to the garden to pray? Why do you think he goes back and forth between being alone and being with his disciples?



4. Of all the gods that are worshipped around the world, the story of Jesus is unique. What's different about Jesus and the gospel that allows us to take this story to all of the unreached? How can v. 62 be a war cry for us to go to all nations?





# MARK

THE HIGH AND HUMBLE KING

## WEEK 43

### READ MARK 15:1-47

### DEVOTIONAL

The unfortunate reality of those familiar with the account of Jesus' death and burial is that it is very easy for the familiar to become common, for us to hear so much about the death of Jesus that it doesn't amaze us or cause us to worship any longer. Fight that tendency today! The message of the gospel can be summed up in four words: Jesus in my place. This is your savior mocked, beaten beyond recognition, hung on a cross, and dying for you. This is your savior taking what you deserved and giving you what only he deserved. Worship him today for this!

### QUESTIONS



1. Why did Jesus have to die?



2. When you see a cross or think of the cross, do you think of it as horrible or glorious? For either answer, why?



3. How can you and your community group center yourselves around the gospel more and more so that the familiar wouldn't grow common?



4. How can you and your community group center yourselves around the gospel more and more so that the familiar wouldn't grow common?





# MARK

THE HIGH AND HUMBLE KING

## WEEK 44

### READ MARK 16:1-20

### DEVOTIONAL

The resurrection of Jesus is the central point of all of human history, and if it is true it changes everything. A lot of times we want to argue over how old the earth is, and other historical details, but it really does boil down to this: Did Jesus really die and did he really rise from the dead? If he did rise from the dead it proves that "(1) There is a God (2) Jesus is that God (3) the Bible is true, and (4) heaven and hell are real, and (5) Jesus makes the difference whether you go to one or the other."

(Points above quoted from a sermon by Danny Akin).

### QUESTIONS



1. What historical evidence exists for the resurrection of Jesus? Why is this evidence important?



2. When you ponder your faith, or when you face doubts, what is the bottom line for you— what is your anchor? How do you give a brief answer to the question, "Why are you a Christian?"



3. How can those in your community group encourage you as you "...Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation." (v. 15)? Who are people the Lord has clearly put in your life that you might share the gospel with them? Ask for your group to pray for them by name.



4. Spend time as a group specifically praying, by name, for those you know who are don't yet follow Jesus. Pray for opportunities to share the gospel with them, and for boldness in sharing the gospel. The tomb is empty, let's tell people!



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