

THE HIGH AND HUMBLE KING

MARK SERIES GUIDE

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

**FEBRUARY 20 - NEXT STEPS CLASS
SATURDAY - 9A-12P - SUITE 308**

**FEBRUARY 27 - VERITASKIDS TRAINING
SATURDAY - 9A-11A - SUITE 308**

**MARCH 2 - MAY 4 - WOMEN'S DISCIPLESHIP
WEDNESDAYS - 9A-11A & 6:30P-8P - SUITE 308**

**MARCH 3 - NIGHT OF PRAYER AND WORSHIP
THURSDAY - 6:30P - THE METRO**

**MARCH 5 - APRIL 9 - MEN'S DISCIPLESHIP
SATURDAYS - 8A-10A - BASEMENT CLASSROOM**

**MARCH 6 - PARENT CHILD DEDICATIONS
SUNDAY - DURING 9A & 11A GATHERINGS**

**APRIL 3 - SERVICE TEAM CONNECT
SATURDAY - AFTER 9A & 11A GATHERINGS**

**APRIL 7 - NIGHT OF PRAYER AND WORSHIP
THURSDAY - 6:30P - THE METRO**

**APRIL 16 - SERVICE TEAM TRAINING
SATURDAY - 9A-12A - THE METRO**

For more information and to RSVP
visit: 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 God's 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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WEEK 1 - FEBRUARY 7

READ MARK 1:1; 10:35-45

DEVOTIONAL

Jesus tells His disciples that leadership in the Kingdom of God isn't like the leadership they have seen in the world. Worldly leaders lead with power over people. This is not the way Jesus describes those who aspire to greatness in the kingdom of God. The greater the servant you are, the greater a leader you are for Jesus. Of course, Jesus didn't only teach this lesson, He lived it. Hebrews 12:2 says that we should "look to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." Let's follow our leader and be great in His kingdom by living our lives as servants.

QUESTIONS



1. Look at the text and discuss how the Gospel is clearly displayed in the life Jesus wants us to model.



2. How do our idols and selfish desires get in the way of us having worshipful lives?



3. If greatness in the Kingdom of God is servanthood and slavery, how can this shape our community toward health? Who are some people in your family, neighborhood, and workplace that you can actively serve this week?



4. Verse 45 is the theme verse for the entire Gospel of Mark. What was Jesus' ultimate service for the world (John 10:14-15) and how is He our model for living the Christian life in the world?

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MARK

THE HIGH AND HUMBLE KING

WEEK 2 - FEBRUARY 14

READ MARK 1:1-11

DEVOTIONAL

The Gospel is a word that has almost become cool to use. You could say that it is used so much in churches that we could easily forget what it actually means. The Gospel of Mark introduces the “good news” account, and Mark tells of the preparation made for Jesus through the last Old Testament Prophet, John the Baptist. He came to prepare the way and to proclaim that something greater than the Old Covenant has come, and also that someone greater than John the Baptist has come. Because of the New Covenant in Jesus Christ, our hearts are washed and renewed by the Spirit of God given to us.

QUESTIONS



1. In your own words, what is the Gospel, the Son of God (v.1)? How does the Old Testament help us to better understand the Gospel?



2. Why is it important that our love and belief in Jesus be expressed in repentance (the turning away from sin & idols)?



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?

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MARK

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WEEK 3 - FEBRUARY 21

READ MARK 1:12-20

DEVOTIONAL

Life is full of temptations and struggles. We can be encouraged by knowing that Jesus identifies with us in our struggles and temptations and yet, He also is our model for what faithfulness looks like. He gives us a model for effective and faithful life and ministry. We see Jesus show us victory over sin and Satan. Just as Jesus called His disciples to believe and follow Him, so too Jesus calls us to believe and follow Him.

QUESTIONS



1. How does God communicate His love for us by allowing Jesus to be tempted in the wilderness?



2. What are the temptations that get in the way of your worship of Jesus? How can the example of Jesus fighting Satan, serve as our example?



3. Jesus called the disciples to follow Him and join His community as His disciples. Why is there often something we have to leave behind, in order to be disciples of Jesus in the community of faith?



4. Jesus told His disciples that He would make them "fishers of men." What does that mean? Pray and think about how our community can be better "fishers of men," so as to advance the Gospel.

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MARK

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WEEK 4 - FEBRUARY 28

READ MARK 1:21-28

DEVOTIONAL

All authority has been given to Jesus. Mark shows this to be true by giving account to his uniquely authoritative teaching and also His command over demons. This is something that has separated Jesus from all other teachers in History. The teachings of Jesus are astonishing. The listeners are almost always amazed or alarmed at what He says. Jesus spoke as if He was God and people listened intently.

QUESTIONS



1. In verse 22, why were they astonished at His teaching, and how was it different than the scribes?



2. How is the respect we show for the Bible different from the way we should worship Jesus, the Living Word of God?



3. People often struggle to submit all of our thinking and living to the Lordship of Jesus. How can we answer those who struggle like that?



4. In what ways can demonstrations of the authority of Jesus be used to spread the gospel today?

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MARK

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WEEK 5 - MARCH 6

READ MARK 1:29-34

DEVOTIONAL

Jesus was very concerned with those who were sick, oppressed, and those who were social outcasts. Jesus is concerned with our physical condition, but He came first and foremost to change our hearts. Mark shows us that God cares for our problems and He knows we are broken sinners who get hurt by others and also cause hurt to others. God has remedied our helpless condition by sending Jesus as The High and Humble King.

QUESTIONS



1. When Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law, He did not use any spells or rituals. What does this say about His power and authority?



2. Over what areas of life do vs. 29-34 show His authority? What do we learn about the Kingdom of God here?



3. In what way is physical healing temporary? In what way is it eternal? How can we as a community help in the "already, not yet" promises and struggles of healing?



4. What kind of Messiah were the Jews hoping for? What would have been the implications if they had become convinced Jesus was such a Messiah? How would that effect our mission?

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MARK

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WEEK 6 - MARCH 13

READ MARK 1:35-45

DEVOTIONAL

The plan Jesus had was not to minister in only one place, but to travel all over, preaching to and healing as many people as He could and yet the plans of Jesus didn't often fit into their agenda. Jesus advanced the Kingdom through prayer, preaching and cleansing. We not only get the benefits of His ministry, we get to proclaim His work for the blessing and benefit of others.

QUESTIONS



1. In vs. 35-39, what about Jesus' reaction to his new popularity seems surprising? What do we learn about Jesus' personal priorities?



2. What in your life, if it were different, do you think would cause you to love Jesus more? Is this true? What does this reveal about our misunderstanding of Jesus?



3. Why is it so important that we not love Jesus only because He can do miraculous works? How can miraculous works be a distraction from the Gospel?



4. What secondary things get in the way of your primary call to proclaim and advance the Gospel? How can we encourage one another here?

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WEEK 7 - MARCH 20

READ MARK 2:1-12

DEVOTIONAL

Many would gather to hear Jesus speak whenever he was preaching or healing. Jesus arrives home, only to be surrounded by people who desire for Him to heal. Jesus instead begins to preach the word to them. During His teaching, some men bring a friend who was a paralytic. This man had no way to get to Jesus, unless he had friends willing to get him to Jesus. Jesus showed great compassion on the paralyzed man and because of their faith, the man left with His sins forgiven and physical healing. Jesus looked beyond his external needs and met his deepest need.

QUESTIONS



1. In vs. 1-5, how is Jesus' treatment of the paralytic surprising? What is Jesus teaching us?



2. Why is it so easy to point at someone and make statements about their spiritual state? What does this reveal about our hearts?



3. We see friends doing everything they can to help another friend in this passage. Do you have friends like this and are you that kind of friend to others?



4. What does Jesus' title "Son of Man" say about His purpose in His first and second coming? How should that shape our mission?

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MARK

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WEEK 8 - MARCH 27

READ MARK 2:13-17

DEVOTIONAL

Friend of sinners is a term that was used to describe Jesus by the religious leaders of Jesus' day. This was a scornful way of describing Him. They described Jesus this way because Jesus was so welcoming to the people who were known as sinners. Jesus was comfortable around these sinners. Not only does Jesus welcome these sinners, Jesus also invites them to "follow him." How could Jesus associate with such sinners? These "sinners" are the very people that Jesus came to search out and save.

QUESTIONS



1. Describe and discuss the gospel story as it can be seen in the calling of Levi.



2. In what ways do you identify with Levi? What do you appreciate about the grace of God shown here?



3. How can our community grow at showing mercy to those who are "outcasts" and "sinners" in our city?



4. What kind of "sinners" do you struggle to make friends with? What kind of fears keep you from showing the love of Jesus to them? How does the Gospel speak to these fears?

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MARK

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WEEK 9 - APRIL 3

READ MARK 2:18-22

DEVOTIONAL

Jesus changes everything. Jesus didn't come so that we would simply be better versions of ourselves, Jesus came to make us new. Jesus not only makes us individually new, but Jesus makes all things new and this includes religious systems. Jesus is making it clear that God's new covenant that He made through Jesus is incompatible with the old (Hebrews 8:13). We no longer approach God through the feasts and sacrifices of the Old Testament. Now we approach God through Jesus. No amount of self-effort will bring the change we need to satisfy the wrath of God. We must become new, by putting our faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior (2 Cor. 5:17).

QUESTIONS



- How is it that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is more than "sewing" an "old garment?" Why is this significant?



- How does rejoicing in our life with Jesus fit in with fasting and praying for the return of Jesus?



- How can our community make fasting a higher priority? What is a good plan to see this plan through?



- How can fasting and praying be used in the advancement of the Gospel?

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MARK

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WEEK 10 - APRIL 10

READ MARK 2:23-3:6

DEVOTIONAL

All of life is full of laws and rules. We have laws about property, laws for traffic and driving, laws for taxes and laws about marriage family. There are laws to cover most every other topic needed. There are also rules and codes of conduct at schools, and corporations and businesses have policies and procedures. When God created us, He gave us laws and commandments for us to learn, love and obey. God gave us laws for our benefit. The laws God gives us are not given to make us miserable or to take away our joy. The Pharisees used the Sabbath and the Laws from God in ways that harmed others instead of helping them. This was not the way of the Kingdom and this was not the way of Christ, our Lord of the Sabbath.

QUESTIONS



1. What is Jesus saying about Himself when he says, "I am Lord of the Sabbath"? How does Jesus show that they are missing the "point" of the Sabbath?



2. Was the Sabbath law meant to be punishment or celebratory? Was it meant to be a restriction or benefit? How should that affect the Christian view of Sabbath?



3. How is Sabbath important to the growth of our community? How can we be faithful in this as individuals and as a community?



4. How do we present the laws of God to those who do not yet love God? How do we present the Sabbath specifically to those who need to hear the Gospel?

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WEEK 11 - APRIL 17

READ MARK 3:7-35

DEVOTIONAL

God is an extraordinary God, who uses very ordinary people, like you and me, to accomplish His work. Jesus was constantly drawing crowds. He had “rock star” status like no other and yet sometimes Jesus would withdraw, but even then the crowds would follow. Crowds of people from various ethnic backgrounds came to see and hear him. Jesus felt the pressures of the leaders of His day and He felt the pressures of a people who either didn’t know what to think of Him or who were mesmerized by him, yet Jesus never lost sight of the cross. The pressures didn’t deter Him from the mission before Him.

QUESTIONS



1. Why do you think this passage (3:7-35) follows Mark 3:6? How does vs. 7-12, in particular, contrast with 3:6? What is Mark teaching us?



2. Which is more demanding, trying to please people or trying to please God? Which is more tiring? More rewarding?



3. Who does Jesus say is His real family? What does this say about Jesus’ relationship with his natural family? How does this effect the way we relate to family and our church community?



4. How does having a right understanding of spiritual warfare effect how we think about advancing the Gospel? If Satan is bound, how does that effect our mission?

NOTES

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