

"Who Is This Man?"

The Gospel According to Mark



Basic Inductive Bible Study by Dorothy Catlin 2014

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INTRODUCTION

A whole generation of Americans can pinpoint details of their own lives on the day John F. Kennedy was assassinated, or when the Twin Towers fell. The snapshots and videos which emerge from eyewitnesses after such an event capture details in the moment, glimpses of ordinary people responding to the *extraordinary* as it unfolds before them. Mark's gospel is flavored by that same immediacy and grittiness. With his very first line, Mark identifies "Jesus Christ, the Son of God." Then scene upon scene come tumbling forth to validate his statement.

Most likely written around A.D.60, this account was probably intended for readers outside of the immediate area of Palestine. Very early tradition indicates that John Mark, the son of Mary of Jerusalem (Acts 12:12), and cousin of Barnabas (Col. 4:10), is indeed the writer of this gospel. Writing from the recollections of the Apostle Peter, who refers to him as "my son" (1 Peter 5:13), Mark often includes the names of people involved in specific events, or details of place and time omitted by the other gospel writers. While Mark himself probably did not personally witness most of the events he records, many scholars identify him with the young man following Jesus in garden of Gethsemane, who escaped naked in the confusion of the dark garden arrest (Mark 14:51). He set out with Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey, but turned back early on, which became a source of sharp disagreement between them regarding whether he should be allowed to accompany them on a later trip. (Acts 13:13; 15:37-40). The rift was eventually mended, and Paul mentions him as a "fellow-worker" and helpful companion in his later letters to Timothy and to Philemon. (2 Timothy 4:11, Philemon 24).

The story Mark tells is filled with action and emotion. This man, Jesus, heals with only a touch or a word; the demon-possessed are freed, the deaf hear, the blind see. He commands wind and sea, feeds crowds from mere crumbs, raises a dead girl to life. We are amazed right along with the crowds, astonished by what we witness.

But the man we encounter is not only a worker of miracles. He is a gentle story-teller who gathers children in his arms, then faces down religious and political authorities without a flinch. He speaks of a Kingdom where the first are last, the last are first, and where the King is servant of all. He chooses a flock of mismatched followers, and when He tells them that He will die, we *feel* their fear and bewilderment. We read of their failures, weakness and pettiness, and we are vaguely shocked by their unbelief.

As we study this gospel together, we will use the most basic of Bible study methods. For many of you, this will seem very simple—you've been doing this for years. But for others, it will open up a whole new understanding of how to read the Bible in a way that actually yields meaning. And we will walk with these very ordinary people who encountered the extraordinary Son of God, to find out how they ultimately answered the question, "*Who is this man?*"

What will your answer be?

Before we begin...

This study was prepared for use among women attending Bible studies at Main Street Church in Brigham City, Utah. There are many excellent study guides available, but not so many that teach the learner *how to ask a good question*, or how to begin exploring a passage on their own to understand what God may be saying *to them*. Anyone can follow a series of questions or borrow thoughts from a commentator, but learning to ask a *good* question, one that will lead in a fruitful direction, is another skill entirely. Among women in Utah there is a profound hunger to know the *real* Jesus Christ, but many are just beginning to emerge from Mormonism; because they have been taught that the Bible is untrustworthy, they have never been encouraged to seek Him out through its pages. This study is designed to help individuals to do precisely that. It was not my intention to create an exhaustive study of the gospel of Mark, but rather to use Mark's account as the laboratory for practicing basic study skills in order to bring about a personal encounter with Jesus Christ, the Son of God through the living Word of God.

As a believer in Jesus Christ, I begin from this position:

- 1) The Bible is God's Word to man, written by men who were inspired ('God-breathed') to place the words on the page. (2 Timothy 3:16,17)
- 2) These words have been transmitted accurately through the ages because God has protected their transmission. (1 Peter 1:23-25)
- 3) God wants me to understand His word. (1 John 5:20)
- 4) Through careful reading and study together with prayerful consideration, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit I can discover what God intends for me to understand. (John 16:13-15)

About the basic study methods employed in this guide...

There are many ways to approach Bible study, but in preparing this guide, I have utilized only the methods discussed below. This does not devalue nor preclude reference to scholarly research or commentaries, but as my purpose has been to teach basic Bible study methods, I have not consulted these in the preparation of this study guide. The only exception is in reference to information pertaining to the final verses of Mark's Gospel.

How to read: Most of the time we read too fast. No matter what we are reading, from newspapers to novels to legal documents, we are impatient to get to the "bottom line," so we dash through the words, grasping at whatever is within easy reach. In our hurry we rarely pause long enough to consider the details or subtle connections that yield a deeper understanding. When we read God's Word we must read *slowly*. We must read *repeatedly*. We must read *observantly*. These are the very words of God, so we must handle them carefully. (2 Timothy 2:15)

Learning to Observe: We must learn to look carefully at what the text actually says, and what it does *not* say. Repeated words and phrases indicate important information. Details of location, time of day, and audience are included for a reason; we seek to understand the author's intent in including them.

Understanding Context: A few years ago we went on a study-trip to Israel. At every stop as we traveled the country, our teacher would ask us to make a “skyline check,” taking a careful look at the horizon in every direction in order to understand not only where we were, but how we got there, and how it related to the surrounding area. She continually asked us “What can you see from here that you recognize?” This is exactly what we do when we observe context. We make careful observation of not just the preceding and following sentences, but also the sequence of events surrounding the passage we are studying. We ask “How did we get *here* from *there*?”

Cross References are Bible passages using the same words or phrases, or which speak of the same topic. Most modern Bible translations have these noted in the side columns or as footnotes. The New Testament contains many quotations from the Old Testament, and each will give insight into the other. Cross referencing is essential to understanding how an idea is presented throughout the whole of scripture, helping to guard against misinterpretation. A Concordance of the Bible lists all of the words that occur in a particular translation, and the verses in which they appear. Learning to use a concordance is a basic skill for thorough Bible study. Many editions of the Bible have a limited concordance included; these are good for beginners, but a separate complete volume is needed for more complete study.

Defining terms: It is often helpful to consult a standard English dictionary. A Bible dictionary is even better; it defines terms from a spiritual perspective, and contains factual background information about people, places, customs, geography, and important words or doctrines found in the Bible.

Mapping allows us to place events in a real context; we can observe distances, political boundaries and geographical relationships, all of which help to anchor the account in a factual location. Locating events on a map often yields insight into why the writer includes certain seemingly minor details.

Charting is one way of organizing information to gain a clearer view of what is being said. It allows us to gather all of the various bits into one place to see how they relate to one another, or to highlight similarities and contrasts.

If these lessons leave you *wanting more*, if they raise as many questions as they answer, I hope you will pursue your study of the scriptures using the skills you’ve begun to practice. At the end of this study guide there is a page entitled “Basic Inductive Bible Study.” This is the way *I* study. But all study of the Bible is pointless unless it leads us to encounter the One who is Himself the Living Word of God. I pray that your understanding will be deepened by this exploration of Mark’s gospel, and that you will grow in your devotion to Jesus Christ.

Dorothy Catlin
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I. How It All Began

Mark 1:1-20

How does one begin to tell “the greatest story ever told”? Mark wastes no words! In a single sentence he makes clear that the story is about a man named Jesus, sent by God to do extraordinary things, because He *is* extraordinary: He is the very Son of God. As Mark’s gospel opens, we meet John the Baptist, a prophet who identifies and publicly announces that the Promised One has arrived. Every major theme of the story is introduced as we begin to ask the question, “Who is this man?”

Mark 1:1 Introducing the Man

1. What does ‘gospel’ mean? (Use a standard English dictionary)
2. In what three ways does Mark identify Jesus? (1:1)
What might each identification tell us?
Jesus:
Christ:
Son of God:
3. What is the meaning of the term ‘Christ’? (Use a dictionary or Bible dictionary)
4. Read each of the following verses. Write down what you learn about the ‘Son of God.’

Luke 1:31-35

Luke 22:70

John 1:32-34

John 3:16-18

John 5:25

John 20:30-31

Hebrews 1:1-3

Hebrews 4:14-15

1John 3:8

1 John 4:14-15

1 John 5:10-13

5. Begin the chart on p.63 by entering the titles ‘Christ’ and ‘Son of God’, along with notations regarding reference and context.

Mark 1:2-8 Announcing the Good News

6. The Old Testament prophecies quoted in v.2-3 are from Isaiah 40:3 and Malachi 3:1.
- a) Compare these with the description of the prophet Elijah in 2 Kings 1:7-8.
What do you observe? What similarities are included in Mark's description of John?

 - b) Read Luke 1:13-17, John 1:19-34, and Matthew 11:13-14, then summarize what you have learned about John the Baptist.
7. What was John's message, vv.4-8? Put it into your own words.
8. Before going further, look up the following words in a Bible Dictionary.
If you do not have one, use a standard English dictionary.
- Baptize
Repent
Sin
Forgiveness
9. Why do you think the people responded to John's message the way they did?
(see John 1:19-24; Matthew 3:7)
10. How does John the Baptist describe Jesus?
- a) In verses 7-8, what does he say Jesus will do? (See also John 1:29-33)

 - b) How does John contrast the baptism he offers with the one Jesus will bring?

 - c) What would you say is the difference between the two?

Personal Application:

Describe a time when you felt a need for a 'changed life'.

What kind of change were you hoping for?

If you are feeling this need currently in your life, what kind of change are you looking for?

How does the message of John the Baptist give you hope for change?

Mark 1:9-13 This is the Son of God

11. Why did Jesus come to be baptized by John? Mark does not record a reason.
Read Matthew 3:13-15 and John 1:31-34 before answering this question.

12. Record your observations regarding His baptism.

a) What was seen? What was heard?

b) Read Isaiah 42:1 and Psalm 2:7. What connection do you see between these prophecies and what happened at the baptism of Jesus?

Mark 1:14-20 The Kingdom of God is at hand

13. According to v.14, when does Jesus begin His actual ministry? Where does He go?
Locate Galilee on the map on p.62.

See John 3:22-30 and John 1:35-45 for more detail regarding this time of transition, and note the location of the other places which are mentioned.

14. Compare the message of Jesus (1:15) with that of John. (1:2-4)

a) What similarities do you see?

b) What does it mean to 'believe the gospel'? You may want to look up "believe" in a dictionary, and review the meaning of "gospel" from Question 1.

15. What might this mean: 'The Kingdom of God is at hand'? (Each time you encounter this term throughout Mark's gospel, make note of the verse number and its context on the chart entitled "The Kingdom" on p.65.)

16. Mark records how Jesus called His first followers in verses 16-20.

a) Who are the people named in this section?

b) What are their relationships to one another?

c) What might it mean for them to 'follow' Jesus?

d) How do they respond?

Personal Reflection & Application

Do you think of yourself as a 'follower' of anyone or anything?

Describe what this means to you, and the effect it has on your life.

What would it take to cause you to leave one thing and follow another?

If you have questions about what you have read or studied in this lesson, write them here.

2. The News Gets Out

Mark 1:21-2:22

Capernaum was located along an important trade route from Damascus in the North to Egypt in the South; traders and travelers of every sort passed through this region. The early days of Jesus' ministry in here are characterized by growing crowds as word gets out about this man who silences demons, heals by a word or a touch, and claims authority to forgive sin. He eats with "sinners," challenges the religious leaders, and defies their long-established traditions. Their criticism and opposition are in stark contrast to His compassion and power to heal. The people have never seen anyone like Him, and they flock to Him from everywhere.

Mark 1:21-28 Sabbath at the synagogue

Before answering the questions below, look up these terms in a Bible Dictionary: Sabbath, Synagogue, unclean spirit.

1. Describe what happens in the synagogue, who is present, and the varied responses. What is it that the people find so amazing about Jesus?
2. This is a startling intrusion into the predictable order of Sabbath in the synagogue. Why is it significant that this event happens there?
3. Demonic activity is a frequent theme in Mark's gospel. How does the unclean spirit identify Jesus? What do you learn from 1 John 3:8 in this regard?
4. Read the following verses and make note of what you learn about 'The Holy One.'

Proverbs 9:10

Luke 1:35

John 6:68-69

Psalm 16:10

Acts 2: 27-32

Acts 3:14-15

Optional: The title "Holy One" appears in the book of Isaiah more than 30 times. Look in a concordance to find and read as many as you can.

Add this title to the chart on p.63.

Add this miracle to the chart on p.64.

Personal Reflection & Application

How do you respond to this title 'The Holy One' in reference to Jesus?

Write a response to Him here which reflects your new understanding of who He is.

Mark 1:29-39 Later the same day

5. Describe the events of the evening at Simon's house.
 - a) What is the time of day? Who is present? What is happening?

 - b) What most likely caused this crowd to gather?

 - c) What does Jesus do and say?

 - d) What do you learn about Simon and his companions?

 - e) What do you learn about Jesus?

Make note of these healings on the chart, p.64.

Mark 1:40-45 A leper cleansed

6. Look up "leprosy" in a Bible Dictionary, then read the following passages from Leviticus, which contain a portion of the elaborate instructions for priests regarding the identification and treatment of this condition. Leviticus 13:1-17 and 14:1-8, 54-57.
 - a) What do you learn?

 - b) How does this affect your understanding of the healing Mark describes?

7. Describe the response of Jesus to this man.
 - a) Why did Jesus instruct the healed man to show himself to the priests?

 - b) Why not tell anyone?

 - c) Add to the chart, p.64.

Personal Reflection & Application

*In what way can you identify with the leper?
How or when have you felt 'unclean' or unacceptable?*

What do you learn about Jesus from the way he responds to this man?

Mark 2:1-12 The Son of Man forgives sin

8. Look up these terms in a Bible Dictionary: paralytic, scribe, blasphemy.
Describe the situation, and the condition of the man they brought to Jesus.

9. According to Jesus, what is the real issue which must be addressed, and why is this so shocking to the scribes?

10. What reason does Jesus give for this healing?

11. In verse 10, Jesus refers to Himself as 'The Son of Man.'
 - a) Read Daniel 7:13-14. What do you learn from this passage about the 'Son of Man'?

 - b) What is Jesus claiming about himself by using this title? Add this title to the chart.
Note: Jesus will use this term many times throughout Mark's gospel. Each time you encounter it, make note on the chart of the context in which it is used, and the response of the hearers.

 - c) What else do you learn about Jesus from this account?

Personal Reflection & Application

Describe a time when you were powerless, helpless, or totally dependent upon others.

Would you feel hopeful or hopeless coming to Jesus in this condition? Why?

How might receiving forgiveness for sin allow you to move forward into a healed life?

Mark 2:13-22 Defying religious expectations

Before answering the questions, look up these terms in a Bible Dictionary: tax collector or publican, Pharisee, disciple

12. Who is Levi? (see Luke 3:12,13 for additional detail).
 - a) Describe the social situation in v.15-16.
 - b) What might it mean for this man to ‘follow Jesus’?

13. a) What does Jesus say about himself in v.17? (See Matthew 9:9-13 for more detail)
 - b) What might each group expect from this man, Jesus?
 - c) Which group do you identify with? Why?

14. Read the following passages, and record what you learn about fasting in regard to motive, purpose, practice or tradition.

Joel 2:12-14
Isaiah 58:2-8
Matthew 6:16-18
Nehemiah 9:1-3
Luke 2:36-38
Matthew 4:1

15. In response to the question about fasting (v.18), Jesus answers with a series of word pictures, like tiny parables, verses 19-22.
 - a) What is the main point of each one?
 - b) Describe the contrast or comparison in each one.
 - c) How do these answer the question asked in v. 18?

Personal Reflection & Application

Which do you see as better: to patch up the old or to replace it with new? Why?

After studying this lesson, what new thoughts regarding Jesus do you have?

3. Claiming Authority

2:23- 3:35

What is *authority*? Anyone can *claim* to have it, but unless their words are backed up by reality, they are only an impostor. The Pharisees of Jesus' day believed that their strict adherence to the letter of the Law gave them the highest authority in all matters of religious life and conduct. People marveled at Jesus' audacity as He challenged their position, exposing their hypocrisy and hardness of heart. He spoke and acted as though He had *genuine* authority, the undisputed *right* to speak for God. In every conversation He pressed through the surface of ceremonial religious regulations to reveal the true heart of God's Law.

Mark 2:23-3:6 Lord of the Sabbath

1. Mark frequently mentions the Sabbath. Read the following passages, record what you learn, and then summarize your understanding of its importance in Jewish culture.

Genesis 2:1-3

Exodus 16:22-30

Exodus 20:8-11

Exodus 31:12-17

Exodus 35:2-3

Leviticus 23:3

Deuteronomy 5:15

Isaiah 56:2

Isaiah 58:13-14

Jeremiah 17:21-22

Summary:

2. Considering the Old Testament passages you just read, in what ways would you say that the Sabbath 'was made for man'?

3. To understand the background behind Mark 2:23-28, read 1 Samuel 21:1-6 and Leviticus 24:5-9. How do these help you understand Jesus' response to the Pharisees?

4. What is the difference between these two ideas: 'the Sabbath was made for man' and 'man was made for the Sabbath'? (2:27).

5. In verse 28 Jesus describes Himself as ‘Lord even of the Sabbath’, and connects this to the ‘Son of Man’.

a) As commonly used, what does ‘Lord’ mean? (Use a dictionary)

b) What might He be trying to communicate to His hearers?

6. Compare the following verses, and write a statement that expresses your understanding of the ‘rest’ that Jesus offers.

Matthew 11:28-29

Jeremiah 6:16

Hebrews 4:9-11

Colossians 2:16-23

Personal Reflection & Application

What does it mean to you personally that Jesus is the Lord of Rest?

What kind of rest does He offer you?

7. How does the Sabbath healing in Mark 3:1-6 relate to the previous section, 2:23-28?

a) Describe the emotional responses of the observers.

Why do you think they responded this way?

b) Why were the religious leaders watching Jesus?

c) Who were the Herodians? (Look them up!) Why might Mark include this detail?

Add this new title and healing to the appropriate charts.

Personal Reflection & Application

How do you respond when your 'religious expectations' are disrupted?

What is withered in your life that needs to be restored?

What new thoughts do you have regarding Jesus? What questions do you have?

Mark 3:7-19 Dealing with Crowds

8. Locate the regions described on the map, p. 62.

a) How does Mark describe the scene? What do you observe?

b) How does Jesus respond to the crowds?

9. What do you make of the fact that the demons seem to have no trouble recognizing his authority? (see James 2:19, Isaiah 45:23-24, Philippians 2:10)

10. What three reasons are given for why Jesus chooses the twelve?

11. What details are recorded about these individuals? Why might it be important for Mark's readers to know these things?

Mark 3:20-35 A house divided

12. Look up Beelzebul in a Bible Dictionary.

a) What is the significance of the accusations made against Jesus, v.21-22?

b) What do you learn from the word-pictures he uses in response to each charge?

13. Review the definition of ‘blasphemy’ from Lesson 2. What new information regarding blasphemy does Jesus offer here? (Compare also John 15:22-24; Acts 7:51)

14. Read John 16:8-15, then make a list of all that you discover about the work of the Holy Spirit.

15. From what you have studied, how would you now define ‘blasphemy against the Holy Spirit’?

17. What have you discovered about the relationship between Jesus and His family from Mark 3:31-35? (Compare v.21, 31-33)

18. Considering all that you have studied so far in Mark’s gospel, what do you think Jesus has in mind when He speaks in v.33-35? (Review Mark 1:15)

19. How does a person become “family” to Jesus? What might it mean to be a member of His family? Read the following verses before you write your answer.
John 1:12-13
John 3:3
Galatians 4:4-7
Romans 8:14-17, 28-30
1 Peter 1:3-5

Personal Reflection & Application

Is there any way in which your spiritual house is divided? What will you do about it?

What does it mean to you to ‘do the will of God’ according to this lesson?

If you are not already a member of Jesus’ family, what is keeping you from becoming one?

4. The Voice that Commands Obedience

4:1- 5:20

What kind of listener are you? Six times in this lesson Jesus mentions *ears that hear*, and He tells His followers to take care how they listen. Most people have ears, but ears must be connected to receptive hearts in order for truth to penetrate. Mark adds that Jesus spoke the word in parables to them, “*so far as they were able to hear it.*” The word ‘parable’ is from the Greek *parabole* which means “to place beside, to cast alongside.” In its simplest definition, a parable is a story that places one thing beside another for the purpose of teaching. Parables are puzzling by design, but the images stick in the mind; they both *reveal* and *conceal*, awakening an appetite for spiritual truth in those with ‘ears to hear’. What kind of listener are *you*?

Mark 4:1-25 Listen to this!

1. Observe the elements of the parable carefully, from verses 3-9.
Describe the different types of soil, and what Jesus says about each.
2. What do you think Jesus means by ‘He who has ears to hear, let him hear?’ (v. 9)
3. Jesus quotes Isaiah 6:9-12 as He answers His disciples’ question in v.9-11.
 - a) Why does He speak in parables?
 - b) What effect is intended for his listeners?
(see also Proverbs 25:2 and Deuteronomy 29:29)
4. How does Jesus explain the parable?
What insight do you gain regarding each soil type and its effect on the seed?
5. What do you learn from verses 21-25 about how to listen?

Personal Reflection & Application

How would you describe your spiritual hearing?

Fit yourself into this parable: What kind of soil are you? Do you think soil can change?

Mark 4:26-34 More parables

6. For each parable, identify the main elements, story line and point.

a) Parable of the Seed, v. 26-29

Main elements:

Story line:

Point of the story:

b) Parable of the Mustard Seed, v. 30-32

Main elements:

Story line:

Point of the story:

c) What do these stories have in common? In what ways do they differ?

7. What have you learned about the Kingdom of God? Add these to the chart on p.65

8. Look back over 4:1-34 to find which words, phrases or ideas are repeated.

List what you find. What do you make of this?

9. Verse 34 says that Jesus explained everything privately to his disciples (learners).

a) What does this imply about what you need to do in order to understand his teaching?

b) How might you put this into practice?

Mark 4:35-41 The wind and sea obey

10. Describe the circumstances, noting the all of the detail Mark includes.

11. What is the attitude of the disciples toward Jesus?

a) Compare their fear of v.38 with their fear in v. 41. What is the difference? Why?

b) Why does Jesus ask them about their faith in v. 40?

c) Add this miracle to the appropriate chart.

Personal Reflection & Application

What is your typical response to the storms of life?

What have you learned about Jesus that would help you to respond differently?

Mark 5:1-20 Controlling the uncontrollable

12. Locate this event on the map. Why might this location be significant?

13. What is responsible for this man's condition? Describe his behavior.
Compare the man's condition in v.2-5 with v.15, and describe the difference.

14. How is Jesus identified in v. 7? (See also Acts 16:16-17 and Hebrews 7:1)
Add this title to the chart on p.64.

15. Why do you think the people respond the way they do in verses 16-17?

16. What assignment does Jesus give to the healed man, v.19? Why do you think this is?

Personal Reflection & Application

*This man was utterly controlled by his demons, bent on self-destruction.
In what way(s) might you identify with him?*

What do you learn about Jesus from this lesson?

What questions do you have?

5. The Touch that Heals

5:21- 6:32

People were always trying to touch Jesus as He passed. What kind of touch were they seeking? Some just wanted to get well from their sickness, but for others the need was much more urgent. They were reaching out for a *new life*, because the life they knew was a living death. Three different Greek words for healing occur in this dramatic account, giving us insight into exactly what these people were seeking from Jesus. As you reach out to touch the Healer, are you seeking only relief from suffering, or are you looking for a whole new life?

Mark 5:21-34 In the midst of the crowd

1. Two very different individuals come to Jesus for healing. Imagine how desperate for help each must be. Describe each one below, taking note of emotions and details. Consider their social and spiritual status, their needs, their approach to Jesus, and their expectation. In what ways are they similar? How do they differ?

The woman

Her circumstances and need:

Her emotional condition:

Her social and spiritual status:

(see Leviticus 15:19-33 for the implications of her condition and her actions)

Her approach:

Her expectation:

Note: In v. 28, “get well” is a Greek word which means to *deliver or save*. This word, *sozo*, has a range of meanings. The three most common are these: 1) *material and temporal deliverance from danger or suffering*. 2) *spiritual and eternal salvation granted by God to those who believe in Christ*. 3) *present experience of God’s power to deliver from the bondage of sin*. A different Greek word is used in v. 29, meaning “*to restore to bodily health by physical treatment*.” In v. 34, Jesus says to her, “Your faith has *saved* you (same word as in v.28), but then He adds, “go in peace and be *sound in body (whole)*”

Jairus:

His circumstances and need:

His emotional condition:

His social and spiritual status:

His approach:

His expectation:

Note: In v. 23, Jairus asks for his daughter to be *delivered (sozo)*, as in meaning 1 above.)

Use this space to make note of any other observations you make.

Mark 5:35- 43 In a quiet room

2. There is a dramatic change in circumstance presented in v.35.
 - a) What is now different for Jairus?

 - b) Is anything different for Jesus? What might that be?

3. Compare the statement Jesus makes to the woman in v. 34 with what he says to Jairus in v.36. How do these relate to one another?

4. Observe how many voices are offering information in verses 35-41. List them below, along with each one's basic message. Which voice truly defines the situation?

5. Look back over verses 21-43, then answer the following questions.
 - a) How are these healings similar to one another? In what ways do they differ?

 - b) What do you learn about Jesus from the way he responds to these peoples' needs?

 - c) What do you learn about Jesus from the manner in which he heals each one?

 - d) Add these miracles to the chart on p.64.

Personal Reflection & Application

When circumstances seem hopeless, which voices tend to ring loudest in your ears?

How do you know which voice speaks truth?

Are there needs in your life which call for the healing touch of Jesus?

What is stopping you from bringing them to Him?

What do you want Him to do? How might you reach out for His healing touch?

Mark 6:1-6 Hometown Unbelievers

6. Locate Nazareth on the map, p.62.

Why do you think people in his hometown respond to Jesus as they do?

7. What do you learn about Jesus and His family?

8. What relationship do you see between miracles and belief /unbelief?

Mark 6:7-13 Sending out the Twelve

9. a) Why do you think Jesus sends them out at this point? (Consider the locale)

b) What does he expect them to do?

c) What instruction does he give them?

d) Describe their message and activities.

Mark 6:14-32 Herod hears and fears

10. Who is Herod? (Use a Bible Dictionary)

Note: This is Herod Antipas, a son of Herod the Great.

a) What do you learn from this passage about his character?

b) Why is the question of Jesus' identity important to him?

11. Verses 7-13 and verses 30-32 seem to serve as bookends to this account regarding Herod. Why do you think Mark includes this episode at this point in his story?

12. Why is it important for the twelve to get away and rest at this time?

Personal Reflection & Application

Why might it be important for you to get away and rest?

Make a time this week to get away with the LORD of REST. (2:27-28)

6. Bread and Tradition: Breaking Both

6:33-7:37

Jesus often behaved or spoke in such an unexpected manner that His followers weren't sure they'd heard Him correctly. He often spoke of 'ears that *hear*,' indicating that it's possible to register the sound of words without truly grasping their meaning. Children sometimes play a game where a message is passed from one to the next by whispering in a neighbor's ear. The point is to see if the message can be transmitted accurately by the time it has passed through several sets of ears and lips. As each one repeats what they believe they heard, it's easy to see that defective hearing results in defective speech! After His death and resurrection, Jesus would be entrusting His message to His followers to communicate to the world, so He took great pains to make sure they truly understood what they heard. How is *your* spiritual hearing?

Mark 6:33-44 Bread for a crowd

1. What does Mark tell us about Jesus' attitude toward the crowds?
2. Why might Jesus expect His disciples to "give them something to eat"?
(review 6:7-8, 12-13, 30)
3. What is their response, and why?
4. From verses 38-44, describe this event in detail, noting especially the numbers.
What do you find most astonishing about this?
5. What do you learn about Jesus from this event?

Personal Reflection & Application

When faced with a seemingly impossible situation, which are you more likely to do: 'work the problem' or bring it to Jesus? Give reasons for your response.

Mark 6:45-56 The wind and sea revisited

6. Locate Bethsaida on the map. What other details does Mark supply?

7. Read the other gospel accounts (Matthew 14:22-33; John 6:15-21) before answering the questions below.
 - a) What additional information do Matthew and John provide about this event?

 - b) How is this event different from the one in Mark 4:35-41?

 - c) How is it similar?

8. Why do you think they had ‘not gained any insight from the incident of the loaves’?

9. In verse 56, Mark describes how the crowd presses in as soon as they arrive at the other side of the lake.
 - a) What are the people seeking to do?

 - b) Read the following passages. What do you learn about why they would want to touch the fringe or “tassel” of His garment?
 - Numbers 15:37-40
 - Malachi 4:2 (the word translated *wings* also means the “flap of a garment”)
 - Job 26:12-14
 - Matthew 9:20

 - c) Add these miracles to the chart on p.64.

Personal Reflection & Application

When you reach out for Jesus, what do you expect Him to do?

Look back over these miracles and think carefully about a time when Jesus met your crucial need for provision or rescue. What is the condition of your heart, as you consider his power to rescue and provide?

Write a prayer of thanksgiving or repentance, or both!

Mark 7:1-13 Breaking Tradition

10. What do you learn about Jewish traditions from verses 1-5?

11. Why does Jesus quote Isaiah's prophecy in describing them? (see Isaiah 29:13)

a) What does He say is the effect of their tradition? (v.13)

b) Can you think of any modern-day equivalents?

Personal Reflection & Application

Think about your own spiritual traditions. Are there any ways in which you have elevated them over the truth of God's Word? Write about it here.

Consider writing a prayer based upon what you have learned about yourself and about Jesus from your study of this passage. Include it here.

Mark 7:14-23 True Defilement

12. What is *defilement*? (Consult a dictionary or a Bible Dictionary)

a) According to Jesus, what truly defiles a person?

b) How does this differ from the traditional understanding of his listeners?

c) Is there any way in which it differs from your own understanding? Describe it.

13. How do the following passages relate to what Jesus says in verses 18-23?

Jeremiah 17:9

John 2:25

Galatians 5:19-21

Colossians 2:20-23

Romans 14:17

Mark 7:24-30 Among the Gentiles

14. Locate this region on the map.

Read Matthew's account of this event (Matthew 15:21-28), then answer the questions.

- a) What is this woman's background and race?
- b) Why is this important for Mark's readers to know?
- c) How does she approach Jesus?
- d) How do the disciples respond to her?
- e) How does Jesus respond?
- f) How does the woman's answer demonstrate her faith in Jesus?
- g) What do you make of this puzzling conversation?

Mark 7:31-37 Opening Deaf Ears

15. Locate this region on the map.

- a) What happened the last time Jesus visited this area? (see 5:1-20)
- b) What is distinctive about this miracle? Add it to the chart.

Personal Reflection & Application

Look back at Lesson 4 to see how you answered the question "How is your spiritual hearing?" Has there been any change in your hearing or listening since then? If so, describe what is different.

7. Deeper Understanding

8:1-9:1

Have you ever experienced a day in your life when suddenly everything changed? Maybe you witnessed an event which forced you to reconsider what is real, or you might have encountered a person who caused you to reevaluate your life. Perhaps a sudden “ah ha!” moment caused a radical shift in your perspective. Chapter 8 of Mark’s gospel is this sort of turning point for the followers of Jesus. They have arrived at a true understanding of His identity, but now they will begin to learn the true nature of His mission. He begins to speak pointedly of His death, and tells them, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him *deny himself*, and *take up his cross*, and *follow Me*.”

Mark 8:1-10 Food for all

1. Compare this event with the one in 6:34-44 to answer the following questions.
 - a) Where does this event take place? (see 7:31)
 - b) What might this indicate about the crowd?
 - c) How is this event different from the one in chapter 6? What is the same?
2. Look back over what has occurred between these two events, 6:45-7:37. How does this add to your understanding?

Mark 8:11-26 ‘Do you not yet understand?’

3. What were the Pharisees seeking, and why?
 - a) Why does Jesus respond to them as He does?

Personal Reflection & Application

*Have you ever demanded that Jesus ‘prove himself’ to you on your terms?
What was the result?*

4. While crossing in the boat, why does Jesus warn them about ‘leaven’?
Look up “leaven” in a Bible Dictionary. What do you think He means?
(Compare Matthew 16:11, 12)

5. Have you noticed how often ‘seeing’ and ‘hearing’ are mentioned in our study? In v.18 Jesus quotes from Jeremiah and Ezekiel. Read these two passages, then write how they relate to both the Pharisees and to the disciples.
Jeremiah 5:20-23
Ezekiel 12:2
6. By now, given all that the disciples had experienced, what should they have understood about Jesus?

Personal Reflection & Application

What are you struggling to understand from our study so far? Write your questions here.

7. Observe carefully the two-stage miracle that is related in vv.22-25. Mark appears to highlight this healing in order to emphasize a theme. Look back over the verses below to help you identify what it is, then write a short sentence describing this theme.

Mark 4:9, 12, 15, 16, 18, 20, 23, 33

Mark 7:16, 37

Mark 4:3, 24

Mark 5:27

Mark 6:11, 20

Mark 7:14, 25

Mark 8:18

Still ahead:

Mark 9:7

Mark 11:14

Mark 12:29, 37

Mark 13:7

Mark 16:11

A major theme in Mark’s gospel is:

Mark 8:27-33 'Who do you say I am?'

8. Locate Caesarea Philippi on the map.

Look it up in an encyclopedia. What is this region known for?

9. What various answers are given to Jesus' question in v.27-28? (Compare 6:14-15)

a) How do these compare with some of the ways people answer this question today?

b) Why are these answers unsatisfactory?

10. This conversation marks a turning point in the story.

Why might Jesus ask this piercing question (v.29) at this point in his ministry?

a) What is the meaning of Peter's answer?

b) Why do you think Jesus now begins to teach of His suffering, rejection and death?

11. Why does he rebuke Peter so strongly in v.33?

a) What does it mean to set your mind on man's interests instead of God's?

b) How can we tell if we are doing this?

c) What additional insight do you gain from Matthew 4:8-10 and Romans 8:5-8.

Personal Reflection & Application

Who do you say Jesus is? What reasons do you have for your answer?

Mark 8:34-38 What it means to follow

12. Why might Jesus address both the multitude as well as His disciples at this point?
13. In verses 34-37 Jesus uses several pairs of contrasting words and phrases to describe following Him.
- a) List them.

 - b) What might each of these mean to his listeners?
 - ‘deny himself’:
 - ‘take up his cross’ :
 - ‘follow’ :

 - c) What do these indicate to you about the nature of what He is asking?

 - d) How do these ideas differ from what the disciples may have had in mind?
14. What else does Jesus say about those who follow him, and about the Son of Man?
15. Write down any new thoughts or discoveries about following Jesus.

Personal Reflection & Application

What do these terms suggest to you personally?

Do you think of yourself as a ‘follower of Jesus’? Why or why not?

8. A Different Kind of King

Mark 9:2-50

Jesus has been proclaiming the Kingdom of God since He first stepped into public ministry. His disciples now recognize Him as King, but they are still learning exactly what *kind* of a King He is. In any kingdom, the character and conduct of the king determine how life works for the citizens of that kingdom. Earthly rulers hand out favors to those in their inner circle; they are surrounded by status-seekers, flatterers, and the power-hungry. This is the attitude of Jesus' followers too, so they are understandably confused and fearful when He begins to talk about suffering and death. No king in their experience has ever *died* for his subjects! What kind of King *is* He?

Mark 9:2-13 This is My beloved Son!

1. Using a Bible Dictionary, look up *transfigure*, and *tabernacles or booths*.

2. Review Mark 8:34-9:1. Keeping this in mind, describe this event:
 - a) Who is there?

 - b) What are they doing? (See Luke 9:28-36 to discover what they were discussing.)

 - c) What happens?

3. Using a Bible Dictionary, look up Elijah and Moses. Why do you think these two are present with Jesus here? What might they represent?

4. Read about the Feast of Booths in Leviticus 23:34-44 and Nehemiah 8:14-17, then read Isaiah 4:4-6. How does this help you understand why Peter talks of 'tabernacles' or 'booths'?

5. What is the significance of the voice that speaks in v. 7?
 - a) When have you heard this proclamation before?

 - b) See 2 Peter 1:16-18 for Peter's own reference to this event.

6. Read the following passages and record what you discover about the cloud.

Exodus 13:21,22
Exodus 19:9
Exodus 24:15-18
Exodus 33:7-11
Exodus 40:36-38
Numbers 9:15-22
1 Kings 8:10-12
Isaiah 4:5,6
Daniel 7:13

7. As they descend the mountain, questions arise. While Jesus makes no direct quotation in v.12, it is likely that the passage He has in mind is Isaiah 52:13-53:12, and perhaps Psalm 22. Peter weaves this language into his own statement in 1 Peter 2:21-25. Read these passages, then write out your response to the suffering of the Son of Man.

Mark 9:14-29 A King Who Can

8. Describe the situation that had developed while Jesus was on the mountain.

- a) What were this father's expectations?
- b) Why was he disappointed?

9. What is the heart of the issue, according to Jesus, and how does the man deal with his unbelief? (v.19, 22-24)

10. Why couldn't the disciples cast out this demon? Add to the chart, p.64.

Personal Reflection & Application

What do you think it means to 'believe'?

How is your belief like or unlike this man's?

Mark 9:30-32 A King who will die

11. Again Jesus emphasizes what lies ahead, v.31. What does Mark tell us about the disciples? Why do you think they were afraid to ask?

Personal Reflection & Application

If you were among them, how would you be feeling?

Are you ever afraid to ask the Lord about something you don't understand? Why is this?

Mark 9:33-50 Status in the Kingdom

12. Why do you think they had been discussing which one of them was the greatest?

13. What does it mean to 'receive'? (v.37)

14. Read the following verses, and then answer the questions below.

Matthew 10:40; Luke 10:16; John 13:20

a) How do these relate to the point Jesus is teaching?

b) Why is it important to *receive* the One who sent Him?

15. Why do you think Jesus uses a child to illustrate His point?

a) Why is this concept so important for the 12 to grasp?

16. What did the disciples find so upsetting in v.38, and why?

a) How does this relate to their attitude in v.34?

b) Compare verses 33 and 34 with the end of verse 50. What connection do you see?

17. Read Matthew 25:31-40. How does it relate to this passage?

18. What kind of 'following' does Jesus describe in v.39-48? How does it strike you?

Personal Reflection & Application

How would you describe your style of 'following'?

How does it compare to the undivided exclusivity that Jesus calls for?

9. A Very Different Kingdom

10:1-45

In earthly kingdoms, rewards are given on the basis of seniority, rank, personal merit, favoritism, or even bribery. It is not so in the Kingdom of God. Jesus is a very different kind of king, and His kingdom is *received*, not achieved or earned. There is no negotiating for position or power, no under-the-table bargaining; favors can't be bought or sold, and every citizen is expected to *serve* all of the others. In fact, in this Kingdom, *the King is the greatest servant of all*, who gives His own life as a ransom for many. Citizens in His Kingdom are called to follow His example.

Mark 10:1-12 A Kingdom of undivided loyalty

1. What seems to be behind the Pharisees' question about divorce?

Read Deuteronomy 24:1-5 for background.

2. What issue does Jesus identify as the source of the problem?

a) How do the following verses help you to understand what Jesus says here about marriage and divorce?

Isaiah 62:3-5

Isaiah 54:4-8

Jeremiah 3:1

Malachi 2:13-16

Matthew 5:27-32

Matthew 19:3-12

b) How do these passages connect this conversation with the single-minded devotion described in Mark 9:43-50? Consider 8:33 in your answer.

Mark 10:13-16 A Kingdom of Receivers

3. Compare Mark 9:33-37 with 10:13-16

a) What connection do you see? How do these two ideas fit together?

b) What might it mean that 'the kingdom of God belongs to such as these'?

c) What does this indicate about social status or position in the Kingdom?

d) Enter your observations of the Kingdom onto the chart.

Personal Reflection & Application

How might you 'receive the kingdom of God as a child'?

Mark 10:17-31 “You can’t take it with you”

4. a) What is this man’s primary concern?
 - b) Why is he so upset by the answer he receives from Jesus? (vv.21-22)
 - c) In your view, what is the difference between *keeping the Law* and *following Jesus*?

5. What word-picture does Jesus use to describe entry into the kingdom of God? (v.25)
 - a) Why is this idea so astonishing to his listeners?

 - b) Why might Jesus call them ‘children’ in v. 24? (Review 9:33-37 and 10:13-16)

6. What assurance does He give to His hearers in vv.27 and 29-31?
Enter your observations of the Kingdom onto the chart.

7. Compare 10:27 and 31 with 9:35. What does this say to you about the difference between human perspective and heavenly values?

Mark 10:32-45 A Kingdom of Servants

8. This is now the fourth time Jesus has warned His followers about what lies ahead, vv.33-34. Look back at each occurrence, and compare the circumstances and the disciples’ response. (8:27-33; 9:9-11; 9:30-32; 10:32-34)
 - a) What do you observe?

 - b) Why do you think they were they amazed and fearful as they followed Him?

9. What do you think prompts the brothers to request special positions in the coming Kingdom? What response does it provoke among the others?

10. How does Jesus correct their understanding in each of the verses listed below?
(See also Matthew 10:24-25)

Mark 10:38

Mark 10:39-40

Mark 10:42-44

Mark 10:45

11. What is the purpose of a ransom? Why does Jesus describe himself this way?

Personal Reflection & Application

How have you experienced this sort of status-seeking among followers of Jesus?

What does this attitude indicate?

According to Jesus, what should your attitude be?

What questions do you have regarding the Kingdom of God? Write them here.

10. The 'Son of David' 10:46-12:12

The Man from Nazareth was not the Messiah that the Jewish religious leaders were expecting; He did not behave the way they thought he should. But He did do exactly as their prophets had predicted, opening the eyes of the blind and the ears of the deaf, healing the lame and cleansing lepers, preaching good news to the poor and the socially outcast, and even raising dead people to life. Jesus was so obviously the Promised One that even a *blind* man could see it, but those who *presumed to see* rejected Him. This had been foretold by the psalmist, “*The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.*” (Psalm 118:22-23)

Mark 10:46-52 Seeing the Son of David

1. Locate Jericho on the map. Write down the blind man’s name, and any other details.
2. a) When the blind man calls out to Jesus what title does he use? What does he ask for?
b) What does this tell you about his view of Jesus?
c) What does he expect to see?
3. Read the following verses and record what you learn about the “Son of David.”
2 Samuel 7: 12-16
Isaiah 9:6-7
Psalm 89:3, 35-36
Isaiah 16:5
Jeremiah 23:5-6
Zechariah 13:1
Matthew 1:1

Add this title and healing to the appropriate charts.

Personal Reflection & Application

This man was healed so that he could witness what he most wanted to see, the coming of the Son of David. Why do you want to be healed? What do you most want to see?

Mark 11:1-11 The King comes in

4. Find on the map the places named in v.1.
Read Psalm 118:19-26, and Zechariah 9:9-10.
What do you learn from this about what the people are expecting?

6. In verse 9, Mark emphasizes two groups, *'those who went in front and those who followed after.'* Both groups are singing the same words, but perhaps with a different expectation. Why might some be out in front? Who might be following behind?

Personal Reflection & Application

Which group would you rather be with? Why?

7. Given their earlier expectations, how do you think the twelve might have felt when they left the Temple that evening without fanfare? (v.11)

Mark 11:12-26 The King cleans house

8. Using a Bible Dictionary, look up *fig tree*. Record what you learn about this tree.

9. From the following verses, what insight do you gain about the symbolism of the fig tree? (This is a very small sample.) Summarize what you learn.

1 Kings 4:25

Song of Solomon 2:10-13

Isaiah 34:4

Jeremiah 8:12-13

Micah 7:1-2

Habakkuk 3:17-19

Proverbs 27:18

Optional: For further study, use a concordance to find many more references to the fig tree. As you read them, the picture will become clearer. Make any additional notes below:

10. Mark has bracketed the cleansing of the Temple, vv.15-17, by his account of the fig tree, vv.13, 20. He comments in v.18 on the response of the religious leaders. Consider this context carefully in light of the scriptures you have read above. Read the passages listed below, then answer this question:

What might Jesus be illustrating by what he did to the fig tree?

Luke 13:6-9

Matthew 3:7-10

Matthew 7:15-23

Matthew 12:33,34

Matthew 21:43

11. From verses 15-17, what reason does Jesus give for his shocking actions?

a) See Isaiah 56:6- and Jeremiah 7:1-11 for the passages which He quotes.

b) Read Isaiah 1:10-17. How do these verses relate to the activities of the religious authorities in relation to the people's worship as they came to offer sacrifice?

12. What connection do you see between Mark 11:17 and 11:24-25?

13. From verses 22-25, what connection do you see between faith, prayer and forgiveness? (The following passages will add further insight.)

Matthew 6:8-15

Matthew 7:7-11

John 14:13-14

John 15:7-8.

Personal Reflection & Application

From all that you have studied so far, what would you say is God's business?

Whose business are you pursuing, God's or your own? Explain your answer.

Mark 11:27-33 The King's authority

14. Why is the question of authority so important to the religious leaders?
15. Why does Jesus bring up the subject of John's baptism? (vv.29-30)
Before answering, review John's message. (Mark 1:4-8. See also Matthew 3:7-12)
16. Looking back over all that you have studied, describe the many ways Jesus has demonstrated his authority. The charts on miracles and titles may be of help to you.
- Authority in the spiritual realm:
 - Authority over the natural world:
 - Authority over material substances:
 - Authority over tradition:
 - Authority over disease and death:

Personal Reflection & Application

How does the authority of Jesus apply in your life?

*Is there any area of your life where you have not yet trusted His authority?
Why or why not?*

Mark 12:1-12 The King's Vineyard

17. Compare this parable with Isaiah 5:1-7.
- a) How are they similar? How do they differ?

 - c) What is the main point of the story as Jesus tells it?
18. In verse 10 Jesus quotes from Psalm 118:22.
- a) How does this relate to the parable?

 - b) What is the response of the religious leaders?

 - c) In what way is this parable 'against them'?

Personal Reflection & Application

What authority is at work in your life?

Whose vineyard are you?

II. Trick Questions

12:13-44

A “trick question” is often used as a weapon to ignite an argument, or to expose and humiliate an opponent. Have you ever been trapped in this way? Those who opposed Jesus were often in conflict with one another as well, but these groups joined forces in their efforts to discredit Him by posing what they saw as unanswerable questions to demonstrate that He could not possibly be Messiah. Even today, many people utilize the same tactics to avoid facing up to the truth in regard to Jesus Christ. They hide behind trivial or irrelevant arguments rather than deal with the deeper questions of the heart.

Mark 12:13-17 Taxes

1. Using a Bible Dictionary, look up Herodians. Review what you know about Pharisees.
 - a) What has caused these two political parties to unite in this effort?
 - b) What do you observe about their approach?
 - c) Why is their question a trap?
2. How does Jesus expose their hypocrisy? (See Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 5:1-2)
3. What do you think it means to be ‘made in the image and likeness of God’?

Personal Reflection & Application

Do you think of yourself as made in the likeness of God? What does this mean to you?

In the context of the passage above, what might it mean for you to ‘render to God what is God’s’?

How might your life be different if you were to follow this instruction of Jesus?

Mark 12:18-27 Resurrection

4. Using a Bible Dictionary, look up the Sadducees.
How are they different from the Pharisees and the Herodians?

5. Why did the Sadducees regard this question as a trick?

6. According to Jesus, what two things were at the heart of their error?
 - a) Read Deuteronomy 25:5-10, then explain how the Sadducees were missing the point.
 - b) Read Exodus 3:6, and 13-15. How were they mistaken about the nature of God?
 - c) How do these two things relate to one another?
 - d) How did the Sadducees' preoccupation with trivia prevent them from seeing truth?

Personal Reflection & Application

How does your understanding of who God is influence your attitude toward scripture?

How does your understanding of scripture relate to your view of the power of God?

Do you ever find yourself so preoccupied with trivia that you miss God's point?

Mark 12:28-34 The heart of the Law

7. Using a Bible Dictionary, look up Scribes.
What position did they hold in the religious community?

8. Read Deuteronomy 6:4-5 and Leviticus 19:18.
How do these two commandments relate to one another?

9. As a Scribe, this man would have been very familiar with the following passages. What does Jesus observe about him in v.34? Read the verses below, then comment on why Jesus told him he was 'not far from the kingdom of God'.

1 Samuel 15:22-23

Psalm 51:15-17

Psalm 40:6-8

Hosea 6:6

Micah 6:6-8

Personal Reflection & Application

What does it mean for you to 'love the Lord your God' ...

With all your heart:

With all your mind:

With all your soul:

With all your strength:

Mark 12:35-37 The Christ, the Son of David

10. Review what you learned about the Son of David in Lesson 10.

11. Mark records that Jesus quoted only the first verse of Psalm 110, but it is possible that He commented on the whole Psalm. Read Psalm 110:1-7.

a) Why do you think Jesus quotes this Psalm?

b) Why do you think the people responded as they did?

Mark 12:38-44 Appearances can be deceiving

12. Early in his ministry, Jesus had taught about a right view of giving.

Read Matthew 6:1-6.

a) How does this Matthew passage connect to what Jesus observes in Mark 12:41?

b) What connection do you see between v. 40 and His observations regarding the woman's offering?

c) Compare the religious leaders with the widow and describe the difference.

Personal Reflection & Application

How do these attitudes and actions show up in the current day?

In what ways might you be calling attention to your giving or prayers?

13. What have you learned from this lesson about the Kingdom of God?
Reviewing your chart may help you write your answer.

Personal Reflection & Application

*Are there any ways in which your understanding of the Kingdom has changed?
Describe these differences.*

What questions are still unanswered?

12. The King Will Return

13:1-37

A few years ago a billboard appeared alongside a local freeway proclaiming “Judgment Day” for a specific date a few weeks into the future, along with a phone number to call for more information. How would you respond to such a proclamation? Don’t be deceived! Even Jesus Himself declined to give a specific date for His return, but He did give some very specific information in regard to the attitudes He desires from those who look for His second coming. What preparations does He expect us to make? How shall we live as we wait? Jesus indicated that these questions are more important than knowing the exact day or hour.

Mark 13:1-2 A false sense of security

1. Jesus predicts that the Temple will be completely torn down. His disciples are shocked by His words, but it *has* happened before in the history of the nation of Israel. Read the following verses to discover when and why God had brought this about in the past, both to the tabernacle at Shiloh and to Solomon’s Temple in Jerusalem. What do you learn?

Psalm 78:56-61

Jeremiah 7:12-14

Jeremiah 26:4-6

2 Kings 25:8-17

Jeremiah 52:12-23

Isaiah 66:1,2

2. For more insight, read the following verses. How do these add to your understanding?

Luke 19:41-44

Matthew 12:6-7

John 2:19-22

Hebrews 9:2-14

Mark 13:3-13 Don’t be misled, Don’t worry

3. Describe the conditions that Jesus predicts. What should His followers expect?

Political conditions:

Religious conditions:

Social conditions:

4. According to Jesus, how should His followers respond to these things?

a) In what ways might they be misled?

b) What might they be worried about?

c) What would you say is the main point of this section?

Mark 13:14-27 The Son of Man will come

4. Read Daniel 11:31-33 and 12:10-13 regarding the “Abomination of Desolation.”

a) What do you learn?

b) Describe any encouragement you find in these passages.

5. The imagery Jesus uses in verses 24 - 25 occurs in several Old Testament prophecies.

Read the passages below and record what you learn.

What insights do they add to your reading of Mark 13?

Isaiah 13:9-13

Ezekiel 32:7

Joel 2:10-14, 31-32

Joel 3:14-17

Revelation 6:12-17, 8:12

6. In the midst of describing these frightening conditions to come...

a) What does Jesus specifically warn about?

b) What does He tell His followers about God?

c) How should this encourage them?

7. How do Jesus’ words in v.26 and 27 add to your understanding of the ‘Son of Man’?

8. What would you say is the main point of this section?

Mark 13:28-37 No one knows when

9. In v. 28, Jesus says “Now *learn* the parable *from* the fig tree.” What do you learn?

10. What does it mean to “be alert?”

- a) How many times does Jesus mention it in this passage?
- b) What does this tell you about its importance?
- c) What happens when one is *not* alert to danger?
- d) Read the parable in Luke 12:36-40. What connection do you see?

11. What does Jesus say about His words in v.31?

How do the following passages relate to what He says?

Isaiah 40:8

John 1:1-3

Psalm 33:6

Psalm 148:8

John 1:14

Hebrews 11:3

2 Peter 3:3-7

12. What would you say is the main point of this section?

Personal Reflection & Application

Looking back over the whole section, vv.2-36,

What specific statements of comfort and encouragement do you find?

What does it mean to you that His word “will not pass away” (v.30)?

How does Jesus expect his followers to live as these events unfold?

How does this affect your perspective on world events?

What effect should it have on your perspective regarding personal troubles?

13. The King Is Betrayed

14:1-52

It is no coincidence that the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus took place at the Passover. This should have been a time of joyful remembrance, but we find the disciples confused and clueless, apparently completely unaware of Judas' intended treachery. Opposition has reached fever-pitch, and they are fearful. Mark's account poses vivid contrasts: we see Jesus tenderly acknowledge a woman's devotion in the face of the disciples' insensitivity; in the garden their gut reactions are in stark relief to His purposeful determination; Judas *betrays*, and Peter *denies*, while the rest run away in fear. And yet at the very center of these swirling events is the quiet observance of the Passover Seder, as Jesus unfolds the mystery of the *new covenant*-- the new arrangement for living in relationship with God, which He will soon inaugurate through His death on the cross.

Mark 14:1-11 The incident of the perfume

1. Where does this incident take place? Note names and other details.
 - a) Read John 12:1-8 for even more detail.
 - b) Describe the various responses to this woman's act of devotion.
Other observers:
Jesus:
Judas
 - c) What does Jesus say about the woman? What does this tell you about her?
2. Why might this event have been "the last straw" for Judas?

Personal Reflection & Application

Who do you identify with more, the woman or her critics? Why?

Personally, are you more inclined to believe the words of Jesus, or to give way before criticism? Why might this be?

Mark 14:12-21 The Passover

1. What details of time and place does Mark record in verses 12-16? Compare Luke 22:8. What is the significance of these?
2. In v.18, how does Jesus prepare his followers for the betrayal ahead?
 - a) What can you conclude from their response in v.19?
 - b) What do you learn about the Son of Man in v.21?

8. Breaking the unleavened bread is a traditional part of the Passover meal.

Read Mark 14:22 carefully, and then answer the questions below.

- a) What words are used in the first part of v.22 to describe what Jesus does?
- b) Read Mark 6:41 and 8:6. See also Luke 24:30-31. What connection do you see?
- c) How might Mark 8:18-20 relate to this?

Optional: See Luke 24:13-35 for a post-resurrection example, especially verses 30,31,35.

9. Read the following passages and describe the connections you find.

Deuteronomy 8:3

John 6:32-35

John 6:47-58

10. Considering all of the above, what do you think Jesus means by “This is My body”?

Optional: Use a concordance to find more places where Jesus spoke about bread.

How do they relate to those you have already read?

11. In verse 24 Jesus clearly identifies Himself with the blood of the covenant. (See also Luke 22:20 and 1 Corinthians 11:25) Earlier you read about the blood of the lamb placed on the doorposts at the first Passover, and the blood which was sprinkled on the people when they agreed to the covenant. What do you learn from the verses below?

John 1:29

Mark 10:45

John 6:53-58

2 Corinthians 5:21

1 Peter 1:18,19

12. Considering all of the above, what do you think Jesus meant by “This is My blood of the covenant”?

Personal Reflection & Application

From your study of the above, what new understanding have you gained?

What does it mean to you that Jesus is the 'Bread of Life'?

What does it mean to you that the blood of Jesus was poured out for your ransom?

How do you respond to His offer to exchange His life for your own?

Mark 14:27-42 Failures ahead

13. This is now the fifth time Jesus has told them he 'will be raised.' (v.28).

a) What else does he predict in verses 27-30?

b) Read Jeremiah 17:9-10. How does this passage relate to Peter's response?

Personal Reflection & Application

When have you been misled by your heart? Describe what happened as a result.

Which do you trust more: your heart or the words of Jesus? Why?

Which has proven to be more trustworthy?

14. Describe Jesus' emotions in the garden. (Compare Luke 22:41-46, Matthew 26:37-39)

a) What does he ask of his friends? Why might He ask this?

b) What does he pray for?

15. Consider the following passages, then answer the question below.

John 4:34

John 6:38

Hebrews 5:7-8

Romans 5:19

Philippians 2:5-8

What does it mean to you that Jesus surrendered his own will to the Father's?

16. From verses 38-41, what might have been different if Peter had stayed awake and prayed as he was instructed?

Mark 14:43-52 Betrayal Accomplished

17. Describe the events in the garden. Observe the various responses of those with Jesus.

Imagine yourself among them.

Optional: Compare the other gospel accounts for more detail.

(Matthew 26:47-56, Luke 22:47-53, John 18:2-11)

Personal Reflection & Application

If you had been there, what might you have done?

14. Obedient to Death

14:53-15:47

How important is the cross? It is clearly documented by first century historians that a man named Jesus from the town of Nazareth was crucified by the Romans. But the *meaning* of this event has been debated and denied throughout the centuries by those who reject the claims of Jesus Christ. The cross of Christ is at the very center of the gospel. It is where the substitutionary death that was required by Old Testament law took place; at the cross the life-blood of the Lamb of God was poured out as the Son of God was lifted up, His death a public display. As we read in 2 Corinthians 5:21, “He became sin who knew no sin, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” The sacrificial death of Jesus Christ is the only means by which we can be saved from our sin. Without the cross, there is no “Christianity;” there is no good news.

Mark 14:53-65 Religious Trial

1. Review Mark 10:33-34, then describe the scene before the religious authorities.
 - a) Who are the people involved? (List them and any details that are given about them)
 - b) What is their intention?

2. Read Deuteronomy 17:2-7 and Deuteronomy 19:15-19.

What are the legal requirements in regard to witnesses according to the Law of Moses?

 - a) For each of these passages identify the legal offense and the required penalty.
 - b) Why was it so difficult to obtain testimony against Jesus?

- Note: Under Roman authority the Jews were forbidden to practice capital punishment, so the religious leaders were required to bring civil charges against Jesus.*

3. Read Leviticus 24:16, then review the definition of blasphemy from Lesson 2.

Why does his reference to the ‘Son of Man’ so enrage the religious leaders?

 - a) What irony do you see in their charge of blasphemy?
 - b) How do they express their contempt?

Mark 14:66-72 In the courtyard

4. Jesus had said in Mark 8:34 that anyone who wished to come after Him must ‘deny himself, and take up his cross and follow.’

Observe the progressive details of Peter’s denial.

a) Precisely what does he deny, and how?

b) How does this compare with Jesus’ prediction in 14:30?

c) Read the following verses and think about what it mean to ‘deny’ someone.

Matthew 10:32-33; 2 Timothy 2:11-13; Titus 1:16

5. What is the difference between Peter’s *denial* and Judas’ *betrayal* of Jesus?

Personal Reflection & Application

Can you think of a time when you have acted in a similar way to Peter?

Why did you do this?

What might you have done if you’d been standing there with Peter?

Mark 15:1-21 The Civil Trial

6. Read Luke 23:1-3 and John 19:12 for the civil charges against Jesus.

Pilate’s response is recorded in John 18:33-38. What do you observe?

7. Read the two groups of verses below, then answer this question:

Why do the religious authorities react so violently to the title ‘King of the Jews’?

Isaiah 33:22

Isaiah 43:15

Isaiah 44:6

Isaiah 9:6,7

Jeremiah 23:5,6

Psalms 89:35,36

8. Consider the responses of the crowd in verses 11-14. How are they influenced?

Personal Reflection & Application

Describe a time when you were influenced by the crowd. What was the result?

Whose voice influences you the most? Why might this be?

Mark 15:22-39 The King dies

9. Describe the events of the crucifixion.

a) Note who was there, and how each individual or group responded to what they saw.

b) Add the title 'King of the Jews' to the chart on p.64.

Take note of the frequency and context of this title from 15:1 -31.

b) What supernatural events are recorded for us? (v.33, 38)

c) How do the following verses give insight into each one?

Exodus 26:31-34

Hebrews 10:19-20

Hebrews 6:19

Exodus 10:21,22, 11:4-6, 12:29-32

Psalm 107:10-14

Isaiah 60:2

10. In verse 34, Jesus cries out with the first verse of Psalm 22. Read the whole psalm and make note of all that relates to the death of the Lord Jesus.

11. How do you respond to the Centurion's statement, v.39? What might he have observed about the way Jesus died that caused him to say this?

Mark 15:40-47 Burying the King

12. Notice the women Mark mentions in verses 40 and 41. What do you learn about them?

13. Using a Bible Dictionary, look up Joseph of Arimathea. What do you learn?

a) How does Mark describe him?

b) How did he handle the body of Jesus after His death?

c) What evidence is there that Jesus was really dead?

14. Read what the other gospel writers say about Joseph of Arimathea, Matthew 27:57-60, Luke 23:50-51, John 19:38-42. Compare these with Mark's description of the women, Mark 15: 40-41. What differences do you see?

Personal Reflection & Application

Do you follow and serve Jesus openly or secretly? Why might this be?

What would cause you to change the way you follow?

How has this lesson influenced your understanding of Jesus?

15. He Lives!

16:1-20

Is this the end of the story it's beginning? Mark's gospel ends abruptly after verse 8 of chapter 16; the closing comments were added later by others. Did he do it by design? Did he die before finishing? Was the ending damaged or lost before copies were made? These questions are still debated among scholars, but the point of Mark's gospel remains clear: This is the good news about Jesus, who is the Christ, the Son of God. Will you believe or will you refuse to believe? We sometimes think we would have responded differently than the disciples to the news of the resurrection, but they had the advantage of being with Jesus for three years, and still they were unbelieving! The final good news is that the resurrected Jesus met them even in their unbelief, and confirmed His word to them.

Mark 16:1-8 Astonishment at the tomb

1. Who were the first to discover the empty tomb? Why did they go there?
Describe their emotions and responses.

2. Observe how the angel identifies the one they are looking for in verse 6.
Why is this significant?

Personal Reflection & Application

In your view, is He simply 'the man from Nazareth who died', or the Son of God?

What difference does this make in your understanding of the empty tomb?

Mark 16:9-14 Disbelief Among the disciples

Note: The earliest texts of Mark's gospel end at 16:8, but the majority of existing texts include verses 9-20. A number of texts include a shorter ending after verse 8. The authorship of these verses is strongly debated among scholars, but it seems clear from both internal and external evidence that Mark did not write them himself. Most modern English translations notate these textual variations with asterisks or column notes. We can only speculate as to why the earliest copies of Mark's gospel end at verse 8, but material included from verses 9-20 is consistent with the other gospels and the book of Acts; it is considered to be historically authentic, and a part of the New Testament canon. Mark's theme of belief and unbelief is continued in this section, even if he did not personally pen these words.

3. How many times had Jesus told His disciples that He would suffer, die, and rise again? Look back over your notes to find them all. Given all that they had seen and experienced with Him, why do you think they would 'refuse to believe' when the women brought them the news?

4. Do you see a difference between *unbelief* and *disbelief*?
Support- your answer from what you have studied.

Personal Reflection & Application

How would you have responded?

Mark 16:15-20 The end of unbelief

5. How does the end of Mark's gospel compare with the other gospels?
See Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:1-9.

6. What does Jesus command His followers to do, now that they know He is alive?
Write a summary statement using your own words.

Personal Reflection & Application

Do you think these words of Jesus apply to us today? In what ways?

How will you obey?

Who Is This Man?

Use this page to summarize what you have learned from your study of the Gospel of Mark, and how you will respond to this new understanding.

What have you learned about Jesus Christ, the Son of God? (Mark 1:1)

How do you now respond to his question, 'Who do you say I am?' (Mark 8:29)

Based on what you have learned from this study, how will you follow Him?

PALESTINE IN THE TIME OF JESUS

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Titles Given to Jesus in the Gospel of Mark

Title	Reference (note each time)	Context & Details

What do you learn about Jesus from the various titles given to him?

How does this affect your understanding of his identity?

BASIC INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY

Inductive: *Persuasive; inducing; using or produced by logical induction.*

Induction: *the act or process of arriving at a general conclusion from observation of particular facts. (Webster's Collegiate Dictionary)*

In Inductive Bible Study we carefully ***observe the text***, consider the ***facts of the text***, investigate the ***meaning of the text***, examine the ***context***, compare other scripture to help ***interpret the text***, then we ***apply the text***. We interact with God's Word personally, discovering truth for ourselves. Our goal is to *know God*, allowing Him to transform us through applying His truth to our lives.

THREE ASPECTS TO THE PROCESS

WHAT DOES IT SAY? *Observation*

WHAT DOES THE TEXT ACTUALLY SAY?

What are the *facts*? The main idea? The people, places, events?

Ask: *Who, What, Where, When, Why, How?*

Who wrote it? To whom? Under what circumstances?

Does the author use contrasts, comparisons, illustrations, or questions?

NOTICE repeated words, phrases or ideas. How do they relate to the whole section?

CONSIDER LITERARY FORM: narrative, letter, poetry, parable, etc.

WHAT IS THE CONTEXT? What comes before & after?

Consider how this section fits into the larger picture.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN? *Interpretation*

DEFINE KEY WORDS: consult a regular dictionary, and a Bible dictionary.

'Key words' are words which are central to the meaning of the text.

CONSULT maps or encyclopedias for geographic & cultural understanding.

LET SCRIPTURE INTERPRET SCRIPTURE:

Avoid commentaries until you have completed your own study of the text.

Compare cross-references: other passages which deal with the same topic, or use the same words or phrases.

Compare other versions, including both translations and paraphrases.

What did the author intend to communicate?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ME? *Application*

PRAYER IS ESSENTIAL TO APPLYING THE SCRIPTURES TO LIFE.

ASK the Lord: How does this truth apply to me? How might it work out in my life?

ALLOW God to direct your attention to specifics.

ASK Him to empower you to live according to what He has revealed to you.

WATCH for opportunities to act on what you've discovered.