

The Gospel According to St. Mark  
Bible Study Curriculum  
High School Ministry







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## I. Introduction

<b>The 4 Gospels comparison</b>				
	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
<b>To whom it was written</b>	Jews	Romans	Greeks	Christians
<b>Subject</b>	The Messiah the king	The Messiah the conqueror of Satan	Christ the lover of mankind	Christ the Incarnate Word
<b>Main message of Jesus</b>	Fulfills the Law	Performs wonders	Saves mankind	Dwells among us
<b>Gospel content</b>	Focuses on prophecies	Focuses on deeds	Focused on history	Focused on theology
<b>Symbol</b>	The human face	The lion	The Ox	The Eagle

<b>Symbols of the Four Gospels</b>			
			
<b>Matthew</b> <i>Winged Man</i>	<b>Mark</b> <i>Winged Lion</i>	<b>Luke</b> <i>Winged Ox</i>	<b>John</b> <i>Eagle</i>

An 8 minutes illustrative video that could be used by servants to prepare or to show kids part at the beginning of each unit. Use only till the minute 8:20, as the last part is not verified.

<https://youtu.be/HGHqu9-DtXk>

### **Servant's preparation:**

*A link for the whole series of 22 sermons covering the whole book of St. Mark's gospel*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ibq9HrbU1b8&list=PLvMAQ886ucetCnNPq4ft5YY0dujWRuADy>

An introduction sermon to Gospel of St. Mark by Abouna Daoud Lamei in English

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ibq9HrbU1b8&list=PLvMAQ886ucetCnNPq4ft5YY0dujWRuADy>

### **A BIOGRAPHY OF SAINT MARK\***

#### **HIS UPBRINGING**

- ❖ St. Mark was born in 'Cyrene,' one of the cities of Pentapolis in Libya, in a town called 'Ebryatolis,' from Jewish parents related to the tribe of Levi. His father's name is 'Aristopolis,' and his mother
- ❖ 'Mary' was a pious woman, of some stature among the early Christians of Jerusalem.
- ❖ Mark had two names (Act 12:12, 25; 15:37): **John**, a Hebrew name which means "the kingdom of God," and **Mark** a Latin name which means "Hammer."

- ❖ St. Mark was a relative of Barnabas, the Apostle. (nephew or Cousin Col. 4:10). His father was also a cousin of St. Peter's wife.
- ❖ He learned and mastered both Greek and Latin.
- ❖ After the barbarians attacked their home, they left Cyrene to Palestine, where he and his mother enjoyed the company of the Lord Jesus Christ. Mark's mother, Mary, was one of the women who ministered to the Lord with their resources. She offered her house to the Lord to eat the Passover with His disciples in the upper room. There, He washed their feet and gave them the Sacrament of the Eucharist. By that, her house became the first church in the world, consecrated by the Lord Himself through His holy presence and His practicing of the Sacrament of the Eucharist. In that same upper room, the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples (Act 2:1-4), and in it the disciples assembled.
- ❖ St. Mark was one of the seventy apostles chosen by the Lord for ministry, as testified by **Origen** and by St. Epiphanius.
- ❖ St. Mark attended the wedding of Cana of Galilee; and he was the man carrying the pitcher of water who met the two disciples sent by Lord Jesus to prepare the Passover (Mk. 14:13,14; Lk. 22:11). He was also the young man who left his linen cloth and fled naked during the incident of the arrest of the Lord (Mk. 14:52)

\*Much of the information above is from Holy Tradition which other denominations do not often acknowledge. We have got to appreciating and valuing the wealth we have in our tradition.

### **Why do we see a lion in his icon?**

- ❖ St. Mark attracted his own father to Christianity when he struck two hungry lions dead by the sign of the cross.
- ❖ He started writing his gospel by describing John the Baptist as a lion roaring in the wilderness and he also portrayed Jesus as the Divine Master serving the power of a lion.

### **HIS MISSIONARY WORK:**

- ❖ He began his preaching with Saint Peter in Jerusalem then joined St. Paul and St. Barnabas on their first missionary journey, but he left them and return to Jerusalem. Later he traveled with St. Barnabas to Cyprus from which he proceeded to Lybia his homeland.
- ❖ In 61 A.D. he went to Egypt and established the church of Alexandria which we all belong to. History tells us the story of how Anianus accepted the Christian Faith, as the first Egyptian to do so. When Mark's footwear needed repair, he approached Anianus the shoemaker, who, as the needle pierced his finger, he uttered the words "O God the One." St. Mark healed him in the name of Lord Christ, and began talking to him of "God, the One." Anianus and his household accepted faith. As Christian faith quickly spread in Alexandria, St. Mark ordained Anianus a bishop, and with him three priests and seven deacons.

- ❖ The pagan mob rose in anger, which compelled St. Mark to leave Alexandria to Perga (Lybia), and from there he headed to Rome, where he joined St. Peter and St. Paul, to remain with them until their martyrdom in the year 64 A.D.
- ❖ When St. Mark returned to Alexandria in the year 65 A.D. to find out how the Christian faith had flourished, he decided to visit Pentapolis before getting back to Alexandria to be martyred at the district of 'Bokalia.'

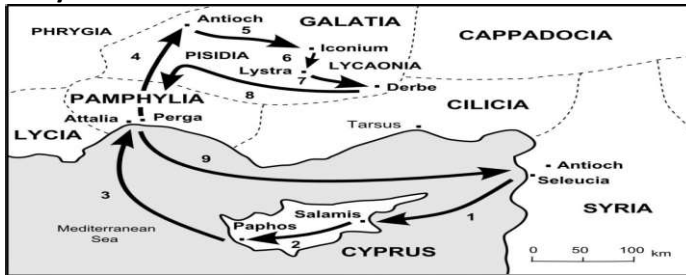
### **The message and features of the Gospel:**

- ❖ It is believed to be the oldest of the four Gospels written between the years 65 to 70 A.D.
- ❖ While in Rome, the people asked him to write a summary of what they had received by word of mouth, so he wrote it to the Romans after the death of St. Peter and St. Paul.
- ❖ Writing his gospel to the Romans, explains why he may have not included many prophecies from the Old Testament like the gospel of Saint Matthew which was addressed to the Jews and why he had to explain many popular Jewish words and traditions.
- ❖ The Romans believed in authority and influence through war and violence, so he offered to them Jesus Christ as the true ruler over devils 1:27, disease 1:42, nature 4:41, plants 11:12-20, and the temple 11:33. Angels minister to him 1:13, He is Lord of the Sabbath 2:28, knows what's in the heart and mind of people 2:8, speaks with authority 1:12, feeds the multitude 6:33, the destroyer of death 5:35. His authority is evident through love, kindness, service, humility, and through pain.
- ❖ The Romans believed in authority through violence, pride, and oppression, but St. Mark the Evangelist proclaimed the authority of the Lord through humility and ministry to others (9:33; 10:35, 45).

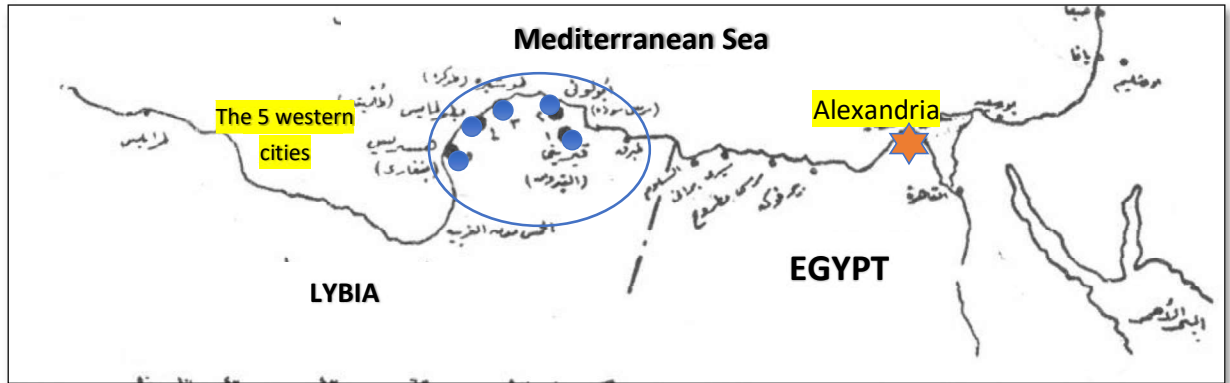


# I. St Mark Proclamation Maps

## First Journey with St Paul



## The Mediterranean Missionary- Egypt and the Five Western Cities



### 1- Unit 1: (Chapter 1-6)

#### Getting to Know Christ: Chapter 1:1-11

#### His Ministry in Galilee: Chapters 1:12-6:30

- 1) In chapter 1, St. Mark begins by describing Christ as a servant to mankind, sacrificing Himself, aiming to deliver us. That is why he does not detail the birth of Christ, but rather focuses on His ministry.
- 2) John the Baptist prepares the road for Christ the servant (Chapter 1)
- 3) Jesus served in Galilee, prayed for us in the desert, healed many on the Sabbath, in the house, by the sea, and wherever He went.
- 4) Jesus called others to preach with Him (the disciples)
- 5) His service is resisted (Chapter 2)
- 6) Jesus continued His preaching (Chapter 3)
- 7) His parables were marveled at by the people despite the resistance by the scribes (Chapter 4).
- 8) He commanded the evil spirits, death, and disease (Chapter 5).
- 9) Strange behavior towards this Servant who is unique in His love and work (Chapter 6)

### 2-Unit 2:

#### His retreat from Galilee (Chapters 7 to 9)

- 1) Jesus left Galilee not to avoid the trouble but to prepare the minds to accept the cross. He fed the multitude, healed whoever touched Him, and comforted even the Gentiles.
- 2) St. Mark recorded many conversations and questions that revealed Jesus's person and mission in chapters 8 to 10.
- 3) Through His transfiguration, He acknowledged His kingdom.

### **3-Unit 3:**

#### **His service in Judea chapter 10:**

In this chapter, he provides us with life examples for the path of the cross.

- A. The difficult commandment (no divorce)
- B. Accepting children with love
- C. Wealth
- D. Leaving all to take up the cross
- E. Discarding the love of higher positions.

### **4- Unit 4:**

#### **Crucifixion and resurrection chapters 11 to 16**

- 1) The events of the passion week,
- 2) His entry to Jerusalem (Chapter 11).
- 3) Resisting Him in Jerusalem (Chapter 12).
- 4) The cross and the signs of the end (Chapter 13).
- 5) The preparation of the cross (Chapter 14).
- 6) The events of the crucifixion (Chapter 15).
- 7) His resurrection declared the glory of this unique Servant, who is capable of rising from the dead.
- 8) The One who rose from the dead is still serving us, as He sent His disciples to preach and He is still serving His church.
- 9) He ascended to heaven so that our hearts may ascend with Him also



## E. Chapter 5

### **Servant's preparation:**

A sermon about Chapter 5 explaining the Gospel of St. Mark by Abona Doud Lamei in English

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b5lFsgXIDuI&list=PLvMAQ886ucetCnNPq4ft5YY0dujWRuADy&index=5>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fcSqRPiW3-c&list=PLvMAQ886ucetCnNPq4ft5YY0dujWRuADy&index=6>

### **Brief introduction:**

At the beginning of each lesson, please review book overview questions.

- ✓ Who is St. Mark? He was one of the 70 apostles whose house was the 1<sup>st</sup> church Jesus used and who later preached in many countries including Egypt where our Coptic church originated.
- ✓ Who did he write his gospel to? The Romans
- ✓ What is the main message of the book? To show the great power of Jesus Christ who through His amazing actions, He demonstrated His Divine power.

### **Remember:**

Last lesson, we talked about the parable of the sower, we studied the differences between the 4 soils and why the poor seeds couldn't grow in the first three soils but only on the good soil, they produced fruits.

The seed is the word of God, our hearts are the different soils, birds steal the word, sun burn it, thorns kill it or if we are a good soil, we don't allow any of those, so our seed grows into fruit.

### **Main points in the Chapter:**

- 1) A Demon-Possessed Man Healed 1-20
- 2) Jairus's daughter restored to Life 21-24 & 35-43
- 3) The Woman with the flow of blood is Healed 25-34





## Lesson overview:

In this chapter, we see 3 healing miracles of faith, a demon possessed person recovered, a woman touching Jesus' clothes with faith and is cured and Jairus who was humbly asking Jesus to heal his daughter then Jesus gave him more than his request, He raised her from the dead. All three had faith in Jesus that He can heal them, so the miracles were granted.

## Meditation:

### **1) A Demon-Possessed Man Healed 1-20**

- What happened to that poor individual is portraying man, when he becomes the victim of a particular sin, or of a particular devil. One sin would deliver him to another, and one devil to another, until he becomes enslaved to a legion
- The demons begged him to send them to the swine, as they were sure that He would not allow them to enter into another man, having come to honor humanity through His incarnation. They also did not ask to enter into clean animals that could be used as animal sacrifices in the temple of the Lord but sought permission to enter into unclean swine. The Lord allowed them to do that, to proclaim to those around Him, the value of the human soul, that is worth more than two thousand swine!
- The tenders of swine represent the society that preferred the idle lifeless life, to preaching the gospel. Jesus, the Lord of glory, left them and got into the boat. He left the Jewish nation, lost, to dwell in the Church of the New Covenant. As to that man, He sent him to preach, to pave the way for the gospel work among the Gentiles

### **2) Jairus's daughter restored to Life 21-24 & 35-43**

### **3) The Woman with the flow of blood is Healed 25-34**

- The woman thought to herself, "If I could just get close enough to touch his robe, I would be healed." So, she pushed through the crowd and reached out and touched Jesus' clothes. Her bleeding stopped immediately, and her suffering was ended.
- The Bible tells us that as soon as the woman touched him, Jesus felt the power go out of him. He turned to the woman and said, "Your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be free from your suffering."
- Jesus could have kept it as a secret and no one would know about the lady touching Him, but He wished to announce her great faith to let others learn from her. He asked: "who touched me?". She had to confess she did, and Jesus praised her so much to make her feel honored and not guilty for touching Him secretly. God likes it when we approach Him in prayers with faith, asking Him to fix what needs to be fixed. We can touch Him when go take communion.
- As the woman admitted to the Lord "the whole truth," she heard Him say to her, "Daughter!" and as St. John Chrysostom says: [He called her "daughter," for she was saved through faith, as our faith in Christ makes of us children to Him.]

- She believed in Him, who is able to grant salvation; and put her faith in practice by getting into the midst of the crowd and touch the tassel of His cloak. She proclaimed her living faith, to enjoy the work of Christ in her.
- Dear Jesus, we long to reach out and touch you and to feel your power in our life. Amen

### **Application:**

1-In this chapter, you can focus on FAITH, do we have enough faith that God can do everything? He can change our bad habits with a simple touch [communion], He can heal our spiritual diseases or sins with one word, "Little girl, I say to you, arise."

Jesus cannot work miracles without our faith, we must trust in Him to get Him to change what needs change in our lives.

2- We can also meditate on the miracle of the demon possessed man

### **GROUP BUILDING**

Ask for a volunteer. Tell the volunteer that he or she will be asked to leave the room for just a minute. Upon his or her return, he or she will stand just inside the doorway and will have several minutes to try to select one voice to follow.

With the volunteer out of the room, instruct the other students to move to end of the room furthest away from the door. Tell those in the room that when the volunteer re-enters the classroom, they are to begin shouting different instructions at the volunteer. Instruct two people to do the following things upon your signal.

1. Have one person in the group instruct the person who continually says, "Shake the teacher's hand" while everyone else loudly shouts other instructions. There are so many voices in the room that the volunteer will not be able to discern any clear instructions.
2. On your signal, your two assistants will be able to move within ten feet of the volunteer, but no closer. One person will continually say, "Shake the teacher's hand" while the other person continually says something to lead the volunteer away from the teacher. The others in the room will continue to stand at a distance and shout misleading instructions.
3. On your signal, the person that is continually saying, "Shake the teacher's hand" will be allowed to move next to the volunteer. The others in the room will continue to stand at a distance and shout instructions. The volunteer will likely hear and obey the voice closest to him or her, which in this case will be the person saying, "Shake the teacher's hand."

### **General Discussion:**

- Why is it difficult to hear the instructions clearly when there are so many other voices or distractions?
- Why is it harder to do the right thing when you're being pulled in different directions?
- Which voice do we hear the clearest? (*The one that is the closest to us.*)

There are a lot of voices in our lives. There are also a lot of voices in the lives of people who don't know Jesus yet. Today, we're going to talk about dramatic change—about the least likely people coming to salvation. Let's get going!

**Read Mark 5:1-5 Discussion Questions:**

1. What is the setting of this story? (*Gerasenes, which was part of the Decapolis, a ten-city area that was east of the Sea of Galilee*)
2. What type of behavior do you suppose this demon-possessed man displays? (*Anti-social, unlovable, hopelessly out of control, and quite scary.*)
3. Where was this man living? (*In the tombs, among the dead.*)
4. How do you think the disciples feel at this moment both emotionally and physically?

In this story, we have a “good vs. evil” situation. So far, we have seen the “evil” side. Notice the demon’s main purpose is destruction. If Satan cannot deceive your mind, then he will attempt to destroy your body (See Matthew 17:14-18).

**Read Mark 5:6-8 Discussion Questions:**

1. What does Jesus command the spirit to do? (*Leave the man.*)
2. What does the demon call Jesus? (*“Son of the Most High God”*)
3. Could Jesus have done this if He were just a man? Why/why not? (*No. Humans have no authority over demons.*)
4. What does this miracle teach us about the Lord? (*That Jesus is powerful and that He uses His power to help and heal, not to destroy or torment.*)

**Read Mark 5:9-20 Discussion Questions:**

1. Why do you think the demons wanted to go into the pigs? (*The demons wanted to remain in the area.*)
2. What happened when the demons entered the pigs? (*The pigs ran off a cliff.*)
3. What does this say about the power of demons? (*They are real; they are bent on destroying, not healing.*)
4. What was the people's reaction in verse 15-17? (*They are scared.*)
5. Why do you think the people were scared by Jesus' power? (*Displays of this type of supernatural power were uncommon and people tend to fear that which they do not understand.*)

God's power is so great that it can pierce any wall that we think keeps Him out. Sometimes, people seem like they are a hopeless case and God cannot reach them. In those times, we underestimate the power of God.

- What is the most dramatic change you have ever seen in someone's behavior?
- Can you think of any Biblical people who were far from God but then followed Him? (*Paul, Jonah, even some of the disciples*)
- Can you think of any famous people who were far from God but then followed Him? What about relatives or people you know who have been changed?

**Memory Verse:**

***28 "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well." Or 34 "And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace and be healed of your affliction."***