

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







Table of Contents

- I. Introduction I-2
- I. **St Mark Proclamation Maps** I-5
- II. **Unit 1:**..... II-7
 - A. **Chapter 1** II-7
 - B. **Chapter 2** II-13
 - C. **Chapter 3** II-18
 - D. **Chapter 4** II-23
 - E. **Chapter 5** II-27
 - F. **Chapter 6** II-32
- III. **Unit: 2**..... III-36
 - A. **Chapter 7** III-36
 - B. **Chapter 8** III-39
 - C. **Chapter 9** III-44
- IV. **Unit 3:**..... IV-50
 - A. **Chapter 10** IV-50
- V. **4- Unit 4:**..... V-56
 - A. **Chapter 11** V-56
 - B. **Chapter 12** V-60
 - C. **Chapter 13** V-66
 - D. **Chapter 14** V-72
 - E. **Chapter 15** V-78
 - F. **Chapter 16** V-83
- VI. **Summary of main points of the gospel:**..... VI-87

I. Introduction

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

Symbols of the Four Gospels			
			
Matthew Winged Man	Mark Winged Lion	Luke Winged Ox	John Winged Eagle

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.

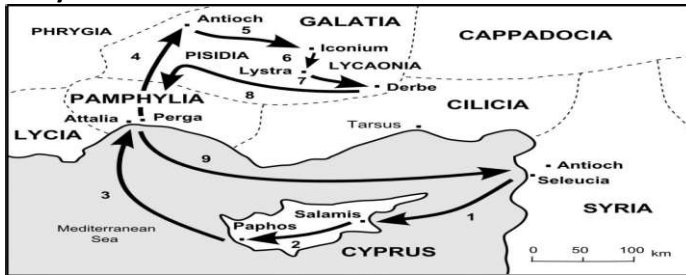
- ❖ The pagan mob rose in anger, which compelled St. Mark to leave Alexandria to Perga (Lybia), and from there he headed to Rome, where he joined St. Peter and St. Paul, to remain with them until their martyrdom in the year 64 A.D.
- ❖ When St. Mark returned to Alexandria in the year 65 A.D. to find 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:

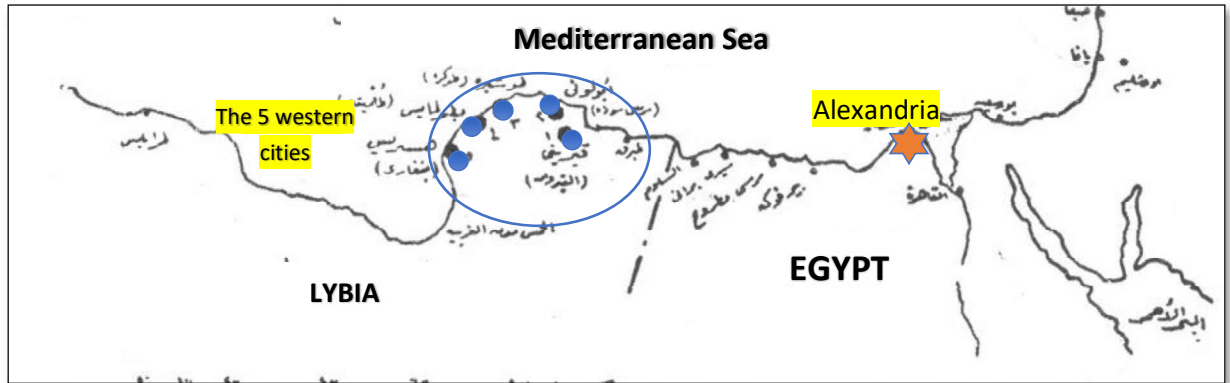
- ❖ It is believed to be the oldest of the four Gospels written between the years 65 to 70 A.D.
- ❖ While in Rome, the people asked him to write a summary of what they had received by word of mouth, so he wrote it to the Romans after the death of St. Peter and St. Paul.
- ❖ Writing his gospel to the 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



F. Chapter 6

Servant's preparation:

A sermon about Chapter 6 explaining the Gospel of St. Mark by Abona Doud Lamei in English

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fcSqRPIW3c&list=PLVMAQ886ucetCnNPq4ft5YY0dujWRuADy&index=6>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o78igbnNk&list=PLVMAQ886ucetCnNPq4ft5YY0dujWRuADy&index=7>

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 1st 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 faith. We saw the great faith of the sick woman who touched Jesus' garment, we also saw the daughter of Jairus who died as Jesus was on the way to heal her then He raised her from the dead because of her father's faith.

Main points in the Chapter:

- 1) Jesus Rejected at Nazareth 1-6
- 2) Sending Out the Twelve 7-13
- 3) John the Baptist Beheaded 14-29
- 4) Feeding the Five Thousand 30-40
- 5) Jesus Walks on the Sea 41-53
- 6) Many Touch Him and Are Made Well 54-56



Lesson overview:

We are still in unit 1 where Jesus is serving in the northern part of Palestine. In this is chapter He was in Nazareth, His hometown preaching and doing miracles, but many did not believe in Him yet. Jesus sent His disciples to many towns nearby to preach. The story of John the baptism is mentioned here when Herod beheaded him on Herod's birthday party. Finally, we will explore how Jesus fed 5000 men with little food.

Meditation:

1) Jesus Rejected at Nazareth 1-6

And now, as the end of His ministry in Galilee drew near, His own people started to deny Him. Indeed, the people of Nazareth could not deny His mighty works and wisdom; yet, despite their amazement, they stumbled: How could they believe in someone they know of His origin and His family who are living in their midst, when all Jews were expecting the Messiah to come on the clouds from heaven! They were questioning, but not for reaching the truth, but rather for the sake of resisting Him. Another reason for their stumbling was His profession as a carpenter

2) Sending Out the Twelve 7-13

He sent them two by two, according to the words of Scripture: "Two are better than one" (Eccles 4:9). Probably, sending them that way, is to let one of them get occupied with preaching the word, while the other prays for him; so that, the word would go hand in hand with the prayer, giving more fruit

Shaking the dust, means that the preacher has suffered the trouble of the long way, whose dust is a testimony against those who rejected the word. It could also mean, that they do not look forward for any material benefit.

3) John the Baptist Beheaded 14-29

On the occasion of celebrating his birthday, instead of releasing the wrongly imprisoned man of God, Herod covered his birthday party with the blood of the innocent, as a reward to Salome, the daughter of Herodea, who pleased him with her dance

4) Feeding the Five Thousand 30-40

- ❖ The five loaves refer to the Person of the Lord Christ as He is the "Living Bread" that came down from heaven (Jn. 6:41).
- ❖ The multitude counted 5000 men: number 1000 referring to the Spirit, or to the spiritual life, to heaven, or to heavenly thought; while number 5, is referring to the Church, congregating around Christ, likened by the Lord, to the 5 wise virgins (Mt. 25).
- ❖ The two fish, refer to the Old and New Testaments, presented to us by the living Word of God, for the satisfaction of our souls.
- ❖ As to sitting down in groups, in ranks, in hundreds and fifties (verses 39, 40), that refers to the one Church, which, even if it is congregated, on a local level, in ranks and groups, yet it still enjoys one Christ and one food, through the one apostolic thought.

5) Jesus Walks on the Sea 41-53

- ❖ By the miracle of feeding the multitude, He revealed Himself to them, as the Creator who cares for His flock (Ezek. 34). And at the same time, as the Heavenly Living Bread, that fulfills

the souls of His children. As for His walking on the sea, He is proclaiming His incessant loving endeavor, for His people's sake, to set forth with them, even to the middle of the sea, carrying them to protect them from drowning.

- ❖ The Master has forsaken them till the fourth watch of the night - that is to say, up till about 3 o'clock at dawn. He did that, not out of neglect, but in order to confirm their faith in Him; to let them recognize Him, as the walker on the sea, "who has His path in the great waters;" and to give them the chance to practice perseverance and long-suffering, especially in praying.

6) Many Touch Him and Are Made Well 54-56

Application:

In this chapter, you focus on how Jesus carries about our bodily needs as well as our spiritual needs. "34 And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd". Jesus taught them lessons but also felt their hunger and did not want them to go home hungry. Jesus worries about every single detail in our lives not only our spiritual life but our growth, food, learning, families, friends, and relationships.

NEVER RUNS OUT

The power of the Holy Spirit is an everlasting gift that never runs out.



WHAT YOU WILL DO:

You will display a box of chocolates and allow the class to pretend that the box never runs out. You will compare this pretend box of chocolate to Spiritual Gifts, or to the Gospel of Christ in that the power of the Holy Spirit never ends, and we are called to share these gifts with others.

Spiritual Gifts Application:

Spiritual Gifts are like this pretend box of chocolates. The Holy Spirit gives them to us freely, and as often as we use them. He gives them to us so we can share them with others. Like the famous Forrest Gump once said about a box of chocolates, "You never know what you're gonna get." Spiritual Gifts are sort of the same way. There are many gifts, and God gives them to us freely as He chooses. He may give you one Gift for one particular situation, and a completely different Gift for another. All we need to do is use what He gives. When we do, the power of the Holy Spirit is carried to others, and His power never runs out.

When Jesus is involved in our lives even a little can go a long way. We should be careful not to waste that which the Lord has given us. In our reading today, we learned that no one that sought the Lord was sent away empty handed, all who came to Jesus were filled both spiritually and physically. Even today, there is no end to the abundance Jesus provides for those who sincerely seek Him.

Well, unfortunately all boxes of chocolate eventually run out. On second thought, for those of you who like chocolate a little too much, that may be a good thing. But it's good to know that the Power of the Holy Spirit is an everlasting gift, to all who share it with others. *(Share the chocolates with your students.)*

DRIVE IT HOME

What are needs? What are the things that we need every day? We need food. We need water. We need a place to sleep with a roof over our heads, and we need clothes. But that's not all we need. We also need love, friendship, and family. We need a listening ear when we have questions. We need wisdom when we have tough choices to make. We need comfort when our hearts are broken, and we don't know where to turn. Most of all, we need forgiveness for our sins, the things we have done to hurt God and other people.

Jesus came to die for our sins. Someone to bridge the gap between us and God is the biggest need any of us have, and the first need that Jesus fills when we accept him as our Savior. But Jesus doesn't stop there. Jesus can be a friend to the friendless. He can be a comfort to the broken hearted. He can give wisdom to those who seek it.

Jesus can also help us to figure out who we are and what our purpose is. Jesus can give us direction for our lives, and a special calling to serve him. Jesus has given all of us gifts to use for him. Just like that little boy with the lunch, we can give our gifts to Jesus, and Jesus can multiply them like the soda explosion we saw.

What needs have you brought with you this morning? Do you need a friend? Do you need love? Could you use some wisdom or comfort? Or do you just need a Savior?

Jesus can meet all those needs. He knows them before you even ask, and he delights to answer our prayers.

Memory Verse:

"Who does great things, and unsearchable, Marvelous things without number" Job 5:9