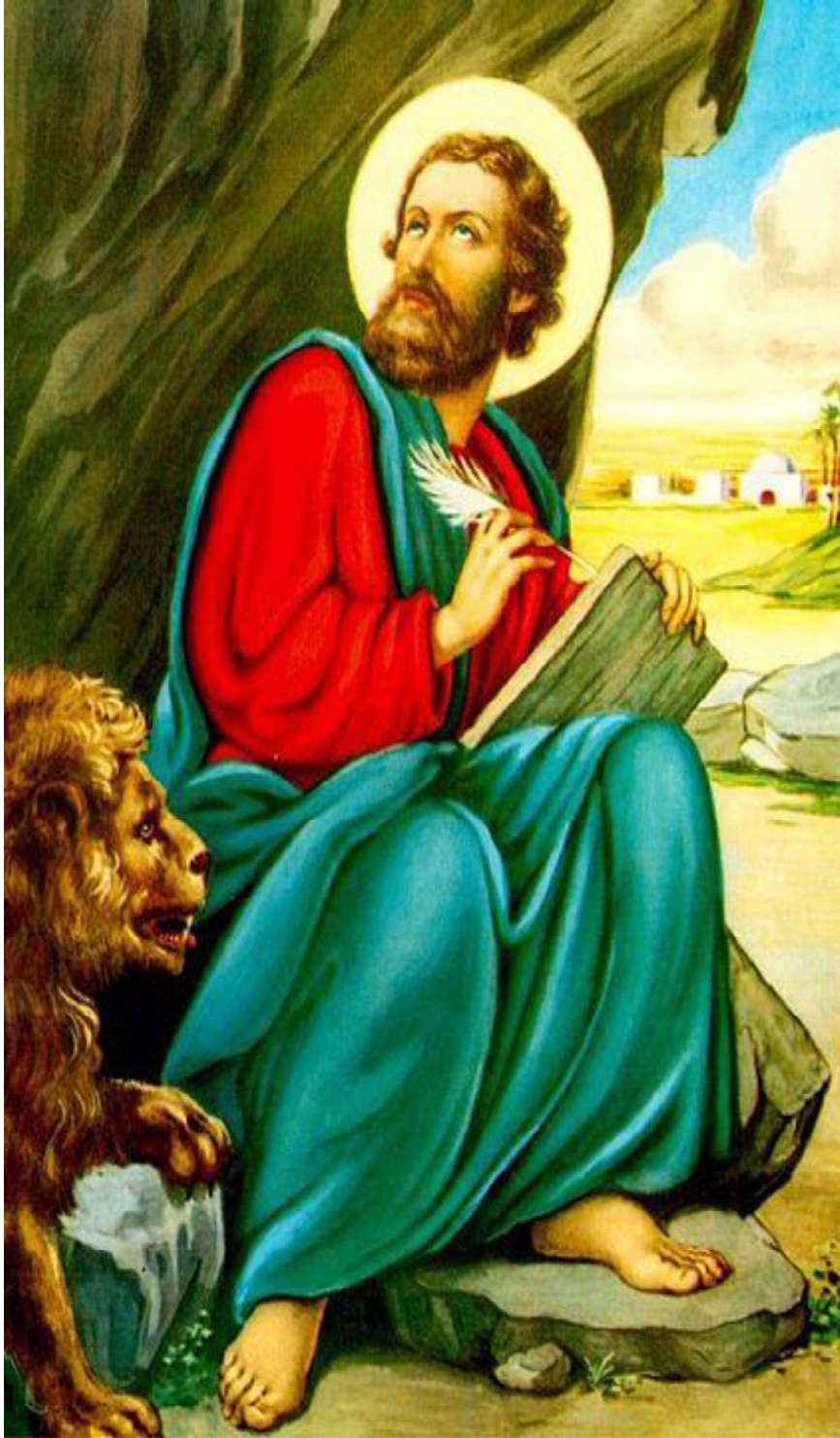


The Gospel According to St. Mark

Bible study Curriculum for Elementary Ministry



Contents

Introduction.....	3
Servant’s preparation:.....	3
1- Unit 1: Getting to Know Christ	7
His Ministry in Galilee.....	7
Chapter 1	7
Chapter 2.....	12
Chapter 3.....	17
Chapter 4.....	22
Chapter 5.....	28
Chapter 6.....	32
2-Unit 2 His Retreat from Galilee	50
Galilee (Chapters 7 to 9)	50
Chapter 7.....	50
Chapter 8.....	53
Chapter 9.....	57
3-Unit 3: His Service in Judea –.....	64
Chapter 10:.....	64
Chapter 10.....	64
4- Unit 4: Crucifixion and Resurrection	80
Chapters 11 to 16	80
Chapter 11.....	80
Chapter 12.....	84
Chapter 13.....	91
Chapter 14.....	97
Chapter 15.....	102
Chapter 16.....	107

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



An 8 minutes illustrative video that could be used by servants to prepare or to show the kids a part at the beginning of each unit. Use only till minute 8:20, as the last part is not verified.
<https://youtu.be/HGHqu9-DtXk>

Servant's preparation:

A link to 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 introductory sermon to the Gospel of St. Mark by Abouna Daoud Lamei in English:

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

Who is St. Mark?

- ❖ He was born in Libya near Egypt to Jewish parents.
- ❖ He is a relative to St. Barnabas and to St. Peter, the disciple.
- ❖ He moved to Jerusalem with his family while Jesus was preaching.
- ❖ His house was the first church where Jesus instituted the Eucharist with His disciples.
- ❖ His Jewish name is "John" while his Roman name is "Mark".

- ❖ He was chosen among the 70 apostles.
- ❖ He was with Jesus at Cana of Galilee wedding, Passover and when Jesus was arrested, he was the young follower who left his garment and ran away.

Why do we see a lion in his icon?

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

The message of the Gospel:

- ❖ He began his preaching with St. Peter in Jerusalem then joined St. Paul and St. Barnabas on their first missionary journey. But he left them and returned to Jerusalem. Later he traveled with St. Barnabas to Cyprus. Afterwards, St. Paul needed St. Mark with him and they both preached in Colosse (Col 4:10), Rome (Phil 24; 2 Tim 4:11) and perhaps in Venice, from which St. Mark proceeded to Libya his homeland.
- ❖ In 61 A.D. he went to Egypt and established the church of Alexandria which we all belong to. Then he preached in Rome with St. Peter.
- ❖ 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 inspired by his teachings.
- ❖ Since he wrote his gospel to the Romans, he did not include many prophecies from the Old Testament as opposed to the gospel of St. Matthew which was written for the Jews and which therefore included many of those prophecies. St. Mark also explained in his gospel to the Romans many popular Jewish words and traditions.
- ❖ The Romans believed in authority and influence through war and violence, so he presented 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, He knows what's in the heart and mind of people 2:8, He speaks with authority 1:21, He feeds the multitude 6:30-44, and He is the destroyer of death 5:21-43. His authority is evident through love, service, humility, and through pain.



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) Resistance of His service (Chapter 2)
- 6) Jesus continued His preaching (Chapter 3)
- 7) The people marveled at His parables despite resistance from 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 trouble but to prepare his disciples' minds to accept the cross. He fed the multitude, healed whoever touched Him, 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 into Jerusalem (Chapter 11).
- 3) Resisting Him in Jerusalem (Chapter 12).
- 4) The cross and the signs of the end (Chapter 13).
- 5) The preparation for 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.



1- Unit 1: Getting to Know Christ His Ministry in Galilee

This unit includes 6 chapters over 6 classes.

Chapter 1

Servant's preparation:

A sermon about Chapter 1 explaining the Gospel of St. Mark by Abouna Daoud Lamei in English

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NNmgydQK_KM&list=PLvMAQ886ucetCnNPq4ft5YY0dujWRuADy&index=2

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 demonstrated His Divine power.

Main points in the Chapter:

- 1) John the Baptist Prepares the Way
- 2) John Baptizes Jesus
- 3) Satan Tempts Jesus
- 4) Jesus Begins His Galilean Ministry
- 5) Four Fishermen Called as Disciples
- 6) Jesus Casts Out an Unclean Spirit
- 7) Peter's Mother-in-Law Healed
- 8) Many Healed After Sabbath Sunset
- 9) Preaching in Galilee
- 10) Jesus Cleanses a Leper





Lesson overview:

In a few minutes, briefly explain the main events of the chapter with a picture for each event, reading parts of the chapter.

The gospel of St. Mark starts when Jesus was 30 years old and He was preparing for His ministry on earth which would last about 3 years ending with our salvation. The first sacrament for a newborn is Baptism to be born of the Holy Spirit. Jesus started His service by getting baptized by John, being tempted by Satan then calling His disciples to follow Him. Jesus did many miracles including casting out demons, healing the sick and cleansing a leper. Many miracles were performed on the Sabbath day to prove that He is Lord of the Sabbath.

Goal we learn:

In this chapter, you can either focus on the power of Jesus as He started His ministry on earth or focus on the idea that the disciples when called, dropped everything and followed Jesus. If you have enough time, you can address both goals.

1- Lesson delivery idea for goal 1 "The Power of Jesus"

As we can notice, St. Mark in his gospel was trying to show the Romans who care so much about power that Jesus the true God who came to earth was so powerful. His power shows in this chapter in the following points:

- Jesus does not need to be baptized as He is God. But to show us how to be perfect, He started His ministry with getting baptized at the hands of John the Baptist.
- Before starting His ministry, Jesus fasted for 40 days then He conquered Satan who was not sure if this is the Son of God. Satan tempted Him with food/body satisfaction, pride, and wealth. Jesus defeated him through the scriptures.
- Jesus did many things by giving one brief command. Examples:
 - i. “Follow me” [calling His disciples]
 - ii. “Come out” [casting the demon]
 - iii. “So He touched her hand, and the fever left her” [healing Simon’s mother-in-law]
 - iv. “Be cleansed” [healing the leper]

Activity:

Plan a skit with name signs for Jesus, the disciples, the demon possessed, Peter’s mother-in-law and the leper. Have Jesus tell the correct command to each of them from a piece of paper prepared by the servant ahead of time. Each of them will immediately respond to Jesus’s command, showing His great power over everything and His personality that encourages others to obey His command and love to be with Him.

2- Lesson delivery idea for goal 2 “ Drop everything” from Mark 1:14-20

“Most Important” Matching Game [Optional introductory game]

Supplies – index cards, writing materials

Give each child 4 index cards and something to write with. On each card, have them write one item/pet/person they would bring with them if they had to flee their home, and write their name. Collect all of the cards, mix them together, and lay them out face down on the table. Play a matching game to see what everyone thought was important, and what the most popular items are. A match consists of choosing two cards with the same item or choosing two cards written by the same person. (Keep in mind that you may end up with unmatchable cards near the end. Once you reach that point, just turn over each additional card to see what is written.)

Lesson – Drop Everything [You can make it fun by asking the kids to put their hands on their heads every time you mention the word “everything”]

It’s interesting to see what everyone thought was important, isn’t it?

And I thought it was hard choosing just 4 items. I mean, 4 items! Am I the only one, or did you want to pick more too?

What about all my family? And pictures to remember all our adventures? What about my wallet with all my money? Would I need to bring food? Clean clothes? My phone? A blanket? A flashlight...

It’s so hard to think of leaving so many things behind. Part of me feels sad because I would miss everything. And another part of me feels scared. What if I needed something that I left? What if it got really cold and I didn’t have anything to keep me warm?

Thankfully, we don't have to make those choices right now, but in today's Bible story there are some people who left EVERYTHING behind to follow Jesus. I mean EVERYTHING. And speaking of EVERYTHING – every time you hear that word, I need you to make a surprised or shocked face. Let's see if you can listen well enough to catch them all. Ready? Right after Jesus was baptized, He began his ministry, and He chose some men to come with Him as He traveled and preached. There were 12 of them, and we know those men as the 12 disciples.

You might think these guys were special somehow; like maybe they had EVERYTHING in the Bible memorized, or they spent more time praying than sleeping, but the truth is, they were just regular guys just like us. They sinned just like we do, they weren't perfect, and they didn't do anything to deserve traveling with Jesus and becoming one of His disciples. But they did do one thing that made them kind of special; they dropped EVERYTHING.

The first two men Jesus called were actually brothers, Simon and Andrew. Simon and Andrew were fishermen, so they spent their days out on the Sea of Galilee together casting nets and catching fish. Fishing was especially important in two ways. 1. It provided them with food to eat. I'm sure they sometimes wished they could eat something else for dinner, but at least they wouldn't starve. 2. It provided them with money. Any fish they didn't eat they could sell at a market. Then they would have money to buy food, clothes, fishing supplies, and EVERYTHING else that might pop up.

So for Simon and Andrew fishing was EVERYTHING. It took up all their time and provided them with EVERYTHING they needed to survive. But remember what I said, they dropped EVERYTHING.

Jesus saw them casting their nets and called out to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." (Mark 1:17)

And they did. They left their nets, their fish, their home, their friends, their money. Simon and Andrew dropped EVERYTHING to follow Jesus.

But that's not all. Just a little while later Jesus saw another group of fishermen out in a boat. There were brothers named James and John fishing with their father. Jesus called out to the brothers, and immediately they left, leaving EVERYTHING behind, including their father. James and John dropped EVERYTHING to follow after Jesus.

I can't imagine what it must have felt like for them, leaving EVERYTHING and everyone they ever knew, including their dad, to follow a stranger.

Application:

We are blessed that we don't have to drop EVERYTHING in order to follow Jesus. We still have homes, toys, money, and refrigerators filled with food.

Instead of dropping EVERYTHING, God asks us to drop somethings. Can you think of anything God might want us to get rid of? Maybe disobeying your parents or saying ugly things about someone. And if you are super busy, God might want you to drop something so you can spend more time reading your Bible, or praying, or going to church.

This week I want you to try doing one special thing for God. Maybe you could learn a Bible verse instead of watching TV, or maybe pleasing God by being a helper to your parents or teacher. It might not seem like it's big or important, but to God it's EVERYTHING.

Closing Prayer – Drop Everything

Ask for a volunteer to pray for the class before leaving. Encourage the kids to thank God that even though we aren't perfect, we can still please Him, and to follow Jesus by dropping at least one bad thing.

Memory Verse:

¹⁷ Then Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." ¹⁸ They immediately left their nets and followed Him.