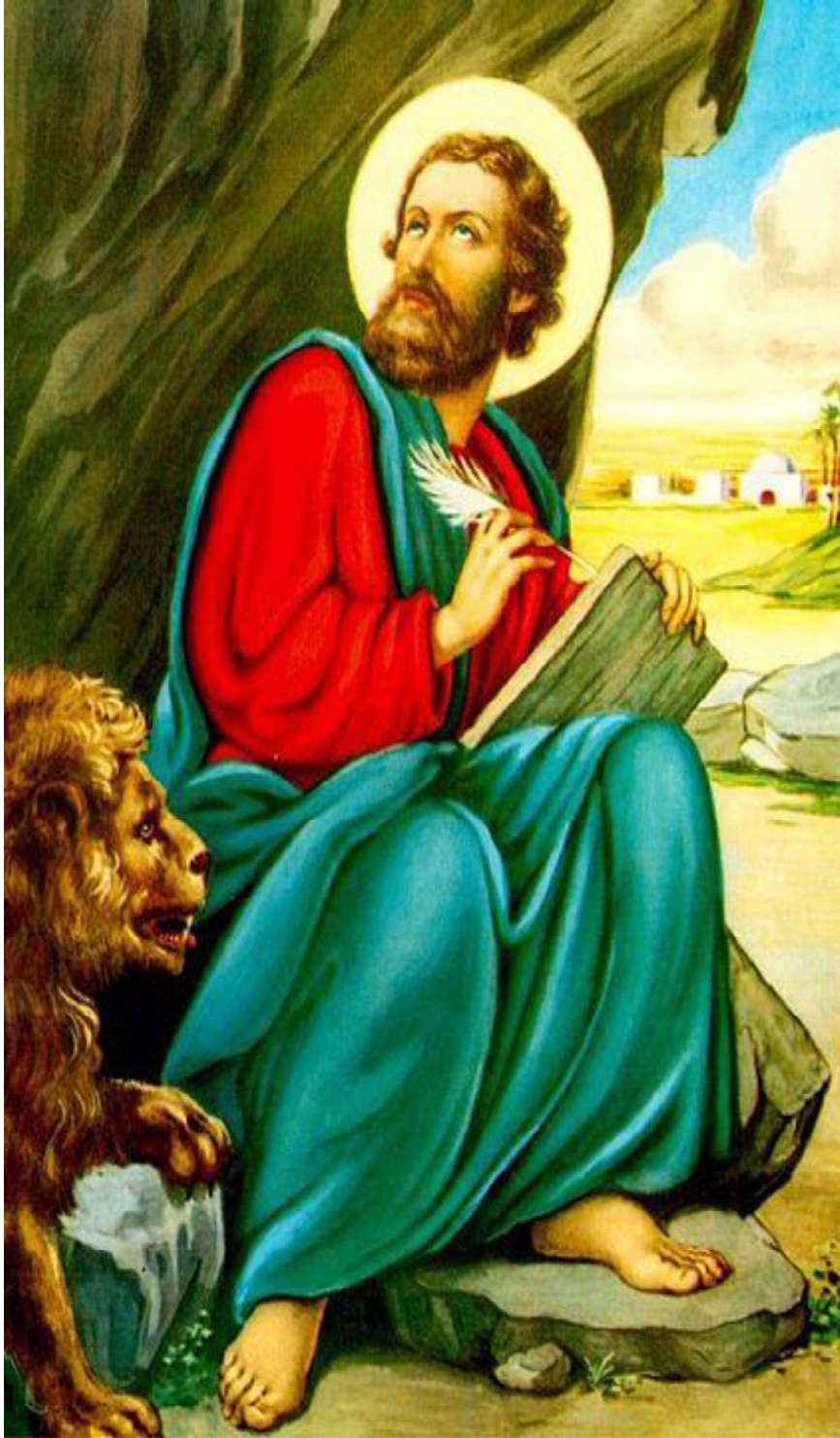


# The Gospel According to St. Mark

## Bible study Curriculum for Elementary Ministry



# Contents

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

## 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.



## 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 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.

### Chapter 11

#### Servant's preparation:

A sermon about Chapter 11 explaining the Gospel of St. Mark by Abouna Daoud Lamei in English  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JV3F33RNpfg&list=PLvMAQ886ucetCnNPq4ft5YY0dujWRuADy&index=13>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sdu2vwOA\\_Oo&list=PLvMAQ886ucetCnNPq4ft5YY0dujWRuADy&index=14](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sdu2vwOA_Oo&list=PLvMAQ886ucetCnNPq4ft5YY0dujWRuADy&index=14)

#### Brief introduction:

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

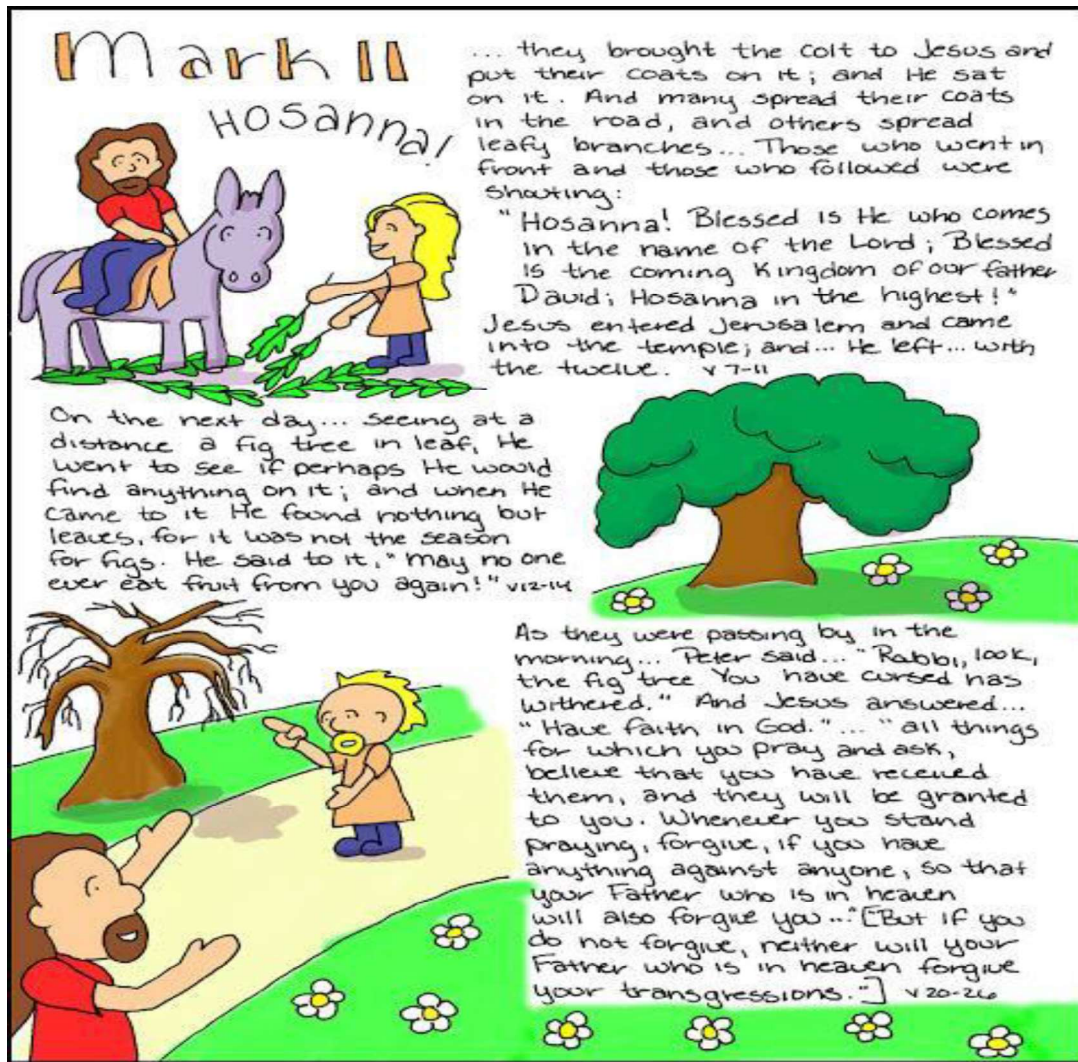
- ✓ Who is St. Mark? He was one of the 70 apostles whose house was the 1<sup>st</sup> church Jesus used and who later preached in many countries including Egypt where our Coptic church originated.
- ✓ Who did he write his gospel to? The Romans
- ✓ What is the main message of the book? To show the great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

#### Remember:

Last lesson, we learned from Jesus how our families should look like and how He loves children. We also saw how impossible things could be possible with God. We can change many wrong things when we ask for God's help. However, if we tried alone, it would seem impossible.

#### Main points in the Chapter:

1. The Triumphal Entry "Palm Sunday"
2. The Fig Tree Withered & The Lesson of the Withered Fig Tree
3. Jesus Cleanses the Temple
4. Jesus' Authority Questioned



**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.

In this chapter, Jesus enters Jerusalem in a great celebration. After thousands of people hear of the miracle of raising Lazarus, they all think of Jesus as the king who would save them from the Romans. Jesus curses the fig tree that only had leaves with no fruits to remind us that God does not like people who appear to be good but their hearts are not with Him, and they are not producing any fruits but just showing leaves. Jesus also reminds us to forgive each other as we are forgiven by our heavenly Father.

**Goal we learn:**

In this chapter, you can focus on how to be fruitful trees, not hypocrites who appear to be good but are not. Jesus warns us against pretending we are something we are not. If we are indeed going to call ourselves 'Christians', followers of Christ, then we should live our lives as such. Jesus was teaching His disciples that through faith, they can accomplish what appears to be impossible.



## Lesson delivery idea

### Observe the actions and attitudes of Jesus:

After entering Jerusalem in a great celebration, what did Jesus do? What did He say?

The Bible tells us that Jesus was hungry and saw a fig tree with leaves. When He reached for figs, he found that there were none. St. Mark tells us it was not the season for figs.

**Ask: *If it was not fig season, why do you think Jesus cursed the tree?***

### Understand the culture:

“St. Mark informs his readers that it was not the season for figs. Passover always comes in March or April, and fig season is not until May or June. However, fig trees generally produce several buds in March, leaves in April, and ripe fruit later on. Jesus was looking for the edible buds, the lack of which indicated that the tree would be fruitless that year.”

Consider now how in Scripture, the fig tree is often symbolic for the nation of Israel. Jesus never wasted an opportunity to teach something spiritually while acting physically. If this fig tree represents the nation of Israel, what spiritual lesson can we draw from it?

The nation of Israel had the leaves of ‘profession’; they had the pretention of being fruitful when in fact they were not producing any real spiritual fruit. In other words, they were doing and saying the ‘religious’ things, but in their heart, they did not believe in Jesus. They refused to accept that Jesus was the Savior.

### Observe the response of the Disciples:

Peter sounded almost surprised when he said: “*Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!*”

What was Jesus’ response to Peter?

“Have faith in God,” Jesus answered.” This was a lesson for the disciples in the importance of faith. Remember, Jesus knew His time on earth was coming to an end and that He only had a few more days with His disciples. The point Jesus was trying to get across was that dependent trust in God can accomplish humanly impossible things through prayer. It means that their faith should grow through prayer so they can do all the things that seem impossible.

### Dig deeper:

Read Verses 23-25. Discuss what Jesus might have meant in these verses.

God is the source of all change. Moving a mountain is sometimes symbolic of doing something humanly impossible. Jesus was teaching His disciples that with faith, they can accomplish what appears to be impossible (see [Philippians 4:13](#)). Does this mean if we ask for **anything**, God will give it to us? What do you think? Ask yourself: “Is what I am praying for part of God’s will for my life?” If so, then you can be confident that God will answer your prayers. God does not desire to withhold from us, quite the contrary. Yet He knows what is best for us. Thus when He withholds anything from us, it is always for our own good. We can trust Him in that!

### Your Response:

What can we learn from today’s passage?

1. Jesus wants us to have faith in God. He wants us to trust Him for all our needs and to believe He has our best interests at heart. He wants us to boldly ask for what we need in prayer knowing that God will answer us and meet our needs.
2. Jesus also warns us against pretending we are something we are not. If we are indeed going to call ourselves ‘Christians’, followers of Christ, then we should live our lives as such.

### Think:

1. Is there something in your life that you are not trusting God with? Confess your lack of faith to God and ask Him to grow your faith. Then turn your needs over to God and watch for Him as He works out His will in your life.
2. Are you calling yourself a Christian? Are you living like one? Calling yourself a Christian and not living like one brings disgrace to Jesus. Surely you do not desire to defame the name of Christ. If you struggle with behavior that might not be honoring to God, find help. Ask God for the strength and courage to live your life in a way that honors Him.
  - Thank God for the gift of His word (the Bible) from which we can learn more about Him and about His expectations for us.
  - Ask God to help you as you seek to grow your faith in Him.

**Activity:**

Bring a fake tree and a few plastic fruits, give one to each kid and have them hang them on the tree. Remember not to be like the fig tree with leaves only and no fruits. Explain that the fruits are our good traits and deeds.

***Memory Verse:***

***<sup>24</sup> Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."***

***Or <sup>25</sup> "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses."***