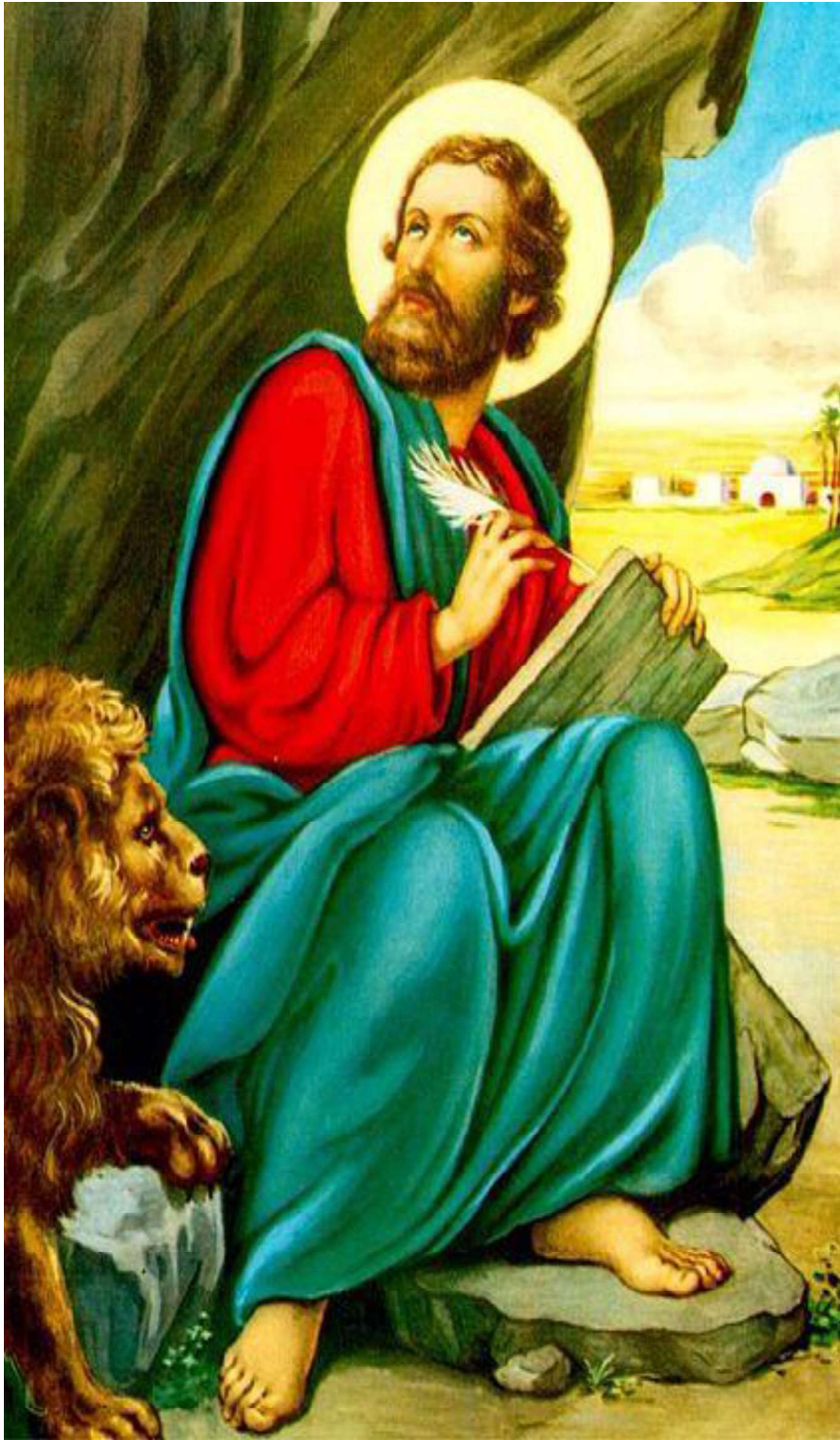


The Gospel According to St. Mark

Bible study Curriculum for Elementary Ministry



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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".

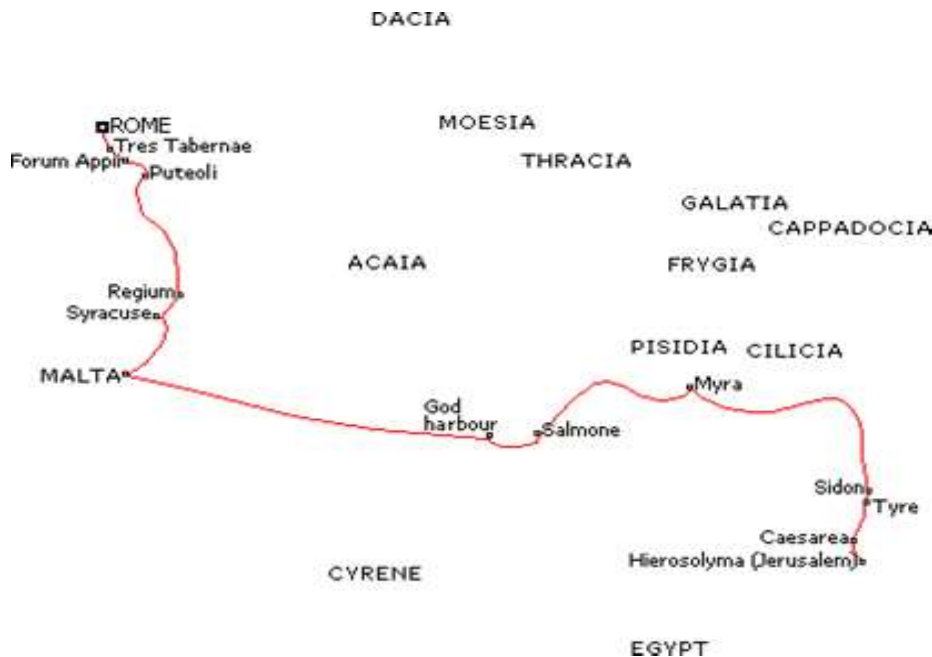
- ❖ He was chosen among the 70 apostles.
- ❖ He was with Jesus at Cana of Galilee wedding, Passover and when Jesus was arrested, he was the young follower who left his garment and ran away.

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.



Chapter 14

Servant's preparation:

A sermon about Chapter 14 explaining the Gospel of St. Mark by Abouna Daoud Lamei in English

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aK5RBQder4c&list=PLvMAQ886ucetCnNPq4ft5YY0dujWRuADy&index=19>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T4Z4ZsNEars&list=PLvMAQ886ucetCnNPq4ft5YY0dujWRuADy&index=20>

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.

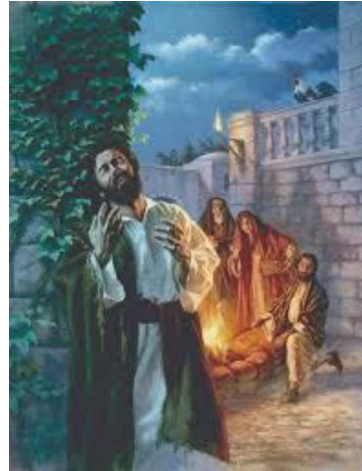
Remember:

Last lesson, we talked about the signs of the end of the world. Jesus mentioned many things to come but He emphasized that no one knows the time. That is why we should always be ready for that day and never get distracted by trying to figure out when and what events will happen. God wants us to focus on heaven and on how we could get there and bring others with us.

Main points in the Chapter:

1. The Plot to Kill Jesus
2. The Anointing at Bethany [The woman who poured perfume on Jesus's feet]
3. Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus
4. Jesus Celebrates the Passover with His Disciples
5. Jesus Institutes the Eucharist [the Lord's Supper]
6. Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial
7. The Prayer in the Garden
8. Betrayal and Arrest in Gethsemane
9. A Young Man Flees Naked [St. Mark]
10. Jesus Faces the Sanhedrin
11. Peter Denies Jesus, and Weeps





Mark 14

Jesus said... "You will all fall away, because it is written, 'I will strike down the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered.' But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." But Peter said... "Even though all may fall away... I will not." And Jesus said... "this very night before a rooster crows twice, you yourself will deny me three times." v 27-30

They came to... Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, "My soul is deeply grieved to the point of death; remain here and keep watch." ... He... fell to the ground and began to pray... "Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from me; yet not what I will, but what You will." And He came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? Keep watching and praying that you may not come into temptation; the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak." v 32-38

"You also were with Jesus..."
 "This is one of them!"
 "Surely you are one of them."
 "I do not know this man you are talking about!"

Cock-A-doodle-doo!

Immediately a rooster crows a second time... And He began to weep.

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, we have many events that happened on Covenant Thursday. Jesus washed the disciples' feet to teach them to serve each other and to be humble. He instituted the sacrament of

Eucharist. Judas betrayed Him while the sinful woman poured perfume on His feet. As a full human, Jesus was so stressed while praying in the garden asking God to help Him pass through this tough mission. He teaches us to pray when we are stressed as He can feel our painful feelings. Finally, Peter who thought he was strong, denied Jesus when he got scared. That teaches us to pray always, asking God to strengthen our faith so we can endure trials.

Goal we learn:

In this chapter, you can focus on the repentance of the sinful woman and how she expressed her love to Jesus, while Judas who followed Him for 3 years fell and betrayed Him and Peter denied Him. We can also focus on learning how to be humble and serve others like Jesus taught His disciples.

Lesson delivery idea

1- A sinful woman poured perfume on Jesus' feet:

Judas betrayed Him while the sinful woman poured perfume on His feet. We can compare both acts and see how a sinner could be saved while a disciple betrays God.

2-Jesus washes the disciples' feet:

In order to fulfill the mission of spreading the gospel, the disciples would need to learn to serve. Pride and arrogance would ruin the disciples' relationship with God, with each other, and with the people they're trying to serve. Humility and service to others is the evidence of love. It's an important lesson for us as well. People line up to do the tasks that are considered important, glamorous, or respected. But Jesus showed humility by doing the task that no one wanted to do. He washed the disciples' feet -- a dirty job usually performed by the lowest ranking person in the room. Was Jesus the lowest ranking person? No. He was Lord and Teacher. He knew He would soon be at the Father's side in heaven. Did He think it was too lowly a task for Him to do? No. Are there tasks that we won't do because they are lowly? Because they are dirty? Because they are unpleasant or hard? But aren't those the jobs that most need to be done? And won't God reward those who do His work? We need to be willing to do whatever is needed. Jesus was not only willing, He prepared himself to do this service. Have we made plans to serve others?

3- The last supper

- Judas' betrayal
 - Judas planned the betrayal ahead of time.
 - Judas' greed was stronger than his loyalty to Jesus
 - Greed this destructive starts out small, but when fed, overtakes all we are.
 - Jesus knew he was to be betrayed, warned his disciples about it, and gave Judas every chance not to do it.
 - Judas looked Jesus in the eye and said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?"
- Passover feast
 - Jesus obeyed the Jewish law and celebrated the Passover feast.
 - Jesus provided His own memorial from the elements of the Passover feast - a feast that commemorated an event which was designed to foreshadow Christ's own death.
- Comparing the 10th plague to Jesus's sacrifice

| Tenth Plague [Passover] | Christ's Sacrifice |
|--|---|
| Firstborn of all men and animals killed | Firstborn of God killed |
| Only the blood of the lamb saved the Israelites | Only the blood of Christ saves us |
| This plague freed the Israelites from slavery to Egypt | This sacrifice frees us from sin |
| Commemorated by all Israelites in a feast | Commemorated by Christians in the Eucharist |

4-Jesus at Gethsemane:

- Jesus asked His friends for help, but His friends failed Him by falling asleep
- Judas kissed Jesus as the sign of betrayal
- The leaders brought soldiers and armed men to arrest Jesus
- Jesus did not hide from them
- The disciples fled in fear
- Peter attempted to stop the arrest physically
- Jesus rebuked Peter and healed Malchus

5- Peter denies:

- 1) How did Peter feel as he denied Christ? Fear
- 2) How did Peter feel as the rooster crowed? Guilt, shame
- 3) How did Jesus probably feel as the rooster crowed? Sad, betrayed

True or False

1. In this chapter, Jesus wanted to teach the disciples how powerful He was. F
2. Jesus taught the disciples out of love. T
3. Jesus said that if we serve others, we'll be miserable. F
4. Leaders in the church are servants. T
5. As long as we do good things, it doesn't matter what our motivation is. F
6. Jesus disregarded the Jewish laws. F
7. Judas betrayed Jesus accidentally. F
8. Jesus was being rebellious by asking God to "let this cup pass." F
9. Jesus was overpowered by the armed mob. F
10. Peter killed one of the soldiers. F
11. Judas pretended to be a friend of Jesus. T
12. Jesus knew He was going to die. T
13. Judas was offered 40 pieces of silver for betraying Jesus. F
14. The disciples kept falling asleep because they didn't understand the seriousness of the situation. T
15. Jesus resisted being arrested by the soldiers as His time didn't come yet. F

Activity:

“Repentance Run” [could be done at the beginning of the lesson or at the end]

Do this gospel presentation outside, in a gym, or in the largest room in your church. Have kids line up at one end of the room while you stand at the other end. Say: **On “go,” walk toward me. When I yell “repent,” turn around and walk the other way. Again, when I yell “repent,” turn around and walk the other way. Ready? Go!**

Play for up to five minutes or until children are wearing down. Then gather everyone together and ask:

- **What did you have to do when I yelled “repent”?**

Say: **To repent means to turn around and go the other way.**

Read aloud [Mark 1:15](#). “The time is fulfilled; the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the gospel.”

Ask:

- **What does Jesus want us to do? Remember the sinful lady who repented?**
- **Which kinds of things do people need to turn away from?**
- **What does Jesus say we need to do after we repent?**
- **According to these verses, what happens when we repent and return to God?**

Allow children time to respond; then pray for and with each child.

Memory Verse:

³⁸ Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”