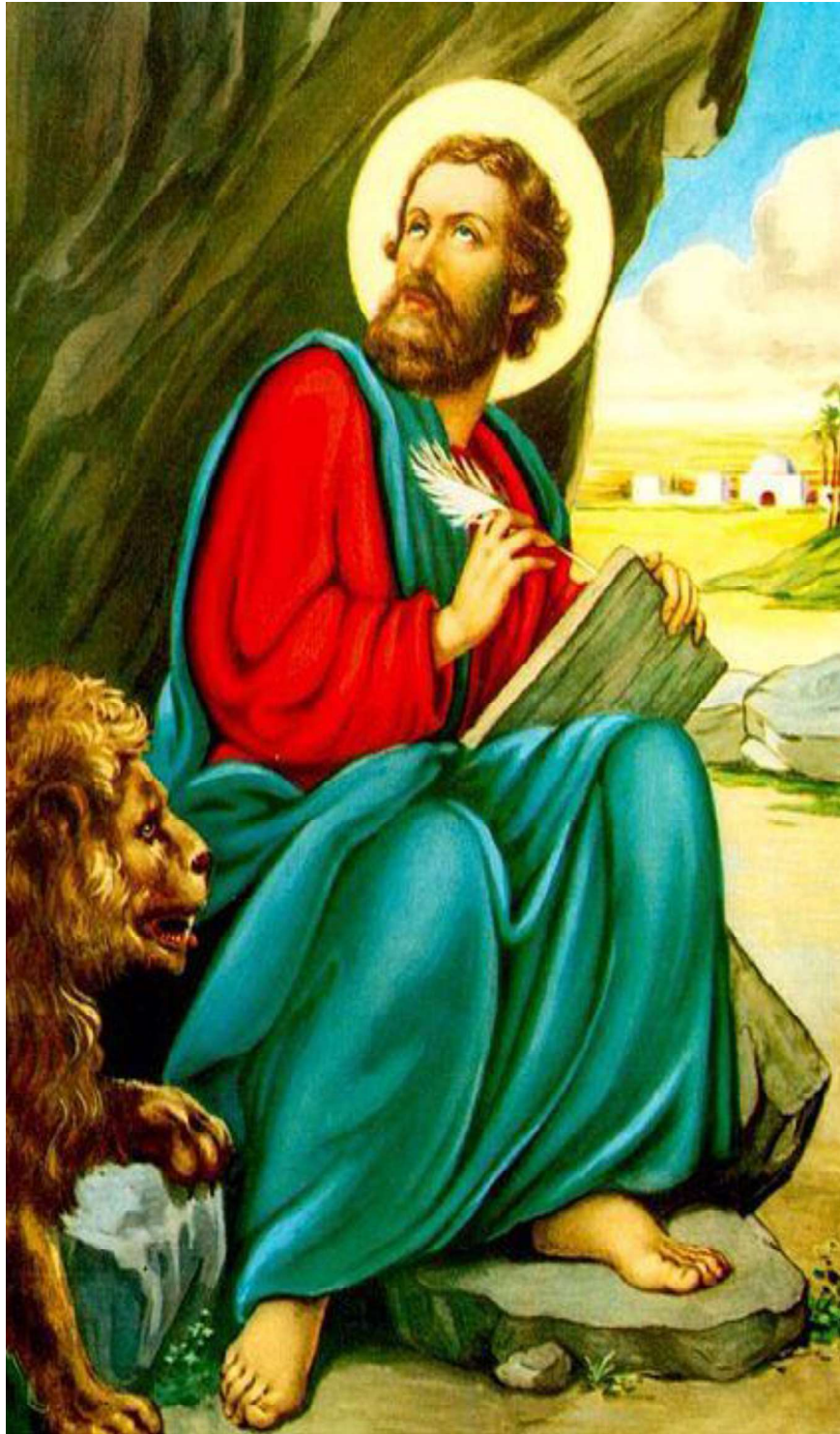


The Gospel According to St. Mark

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".

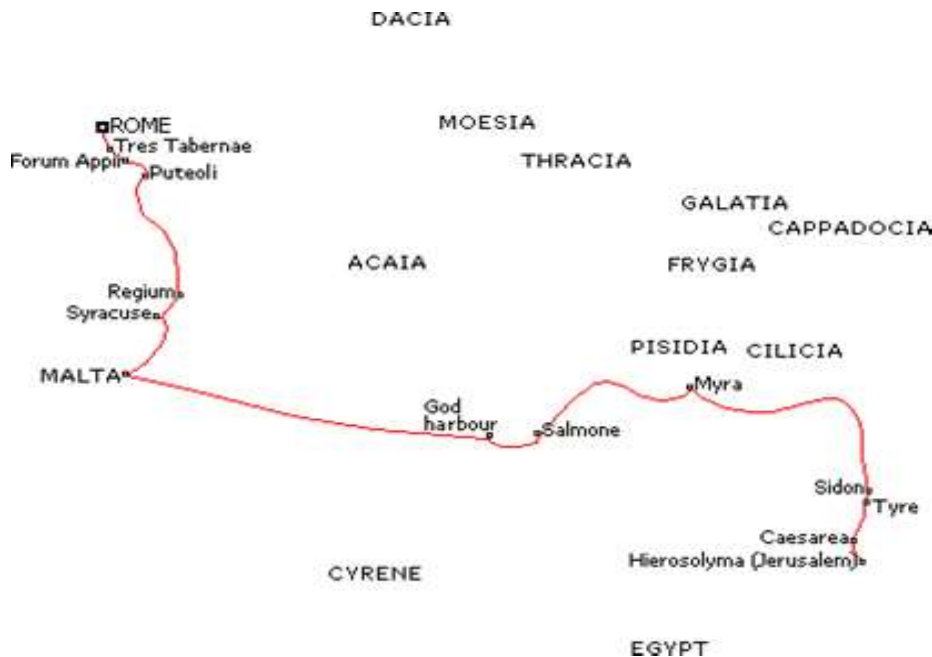
- ❖ He was chosen among the 70 apostles.
- ❖ He was with Jesus at Cana of Galilee wedding, Passover and when Jesus was arrested, he was the young follower who left his garment and ran away.

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 15

Servant's preparation:

A sermon about Chapter 15 explaining the Gospel of St. Mark by Abouna Daoud Lamei in English
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g8dmswjWHcw&list=PLvMAQ886ucetCnNPq4ft5YY0dujWRuADy&index=21>

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 went over 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 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 always pray asking God to strengthen our faith so we can endure trials.

Main points in the Chapter:

1. Jesus Faces Pilate.
2. Taking the Place of Barabbas
3. The Soldiers Mock Jesus
4. The King on a Cross
5. Jesus Dies on the Cross
6. Jesus Buried in Joseph's Tomb





Mark 15

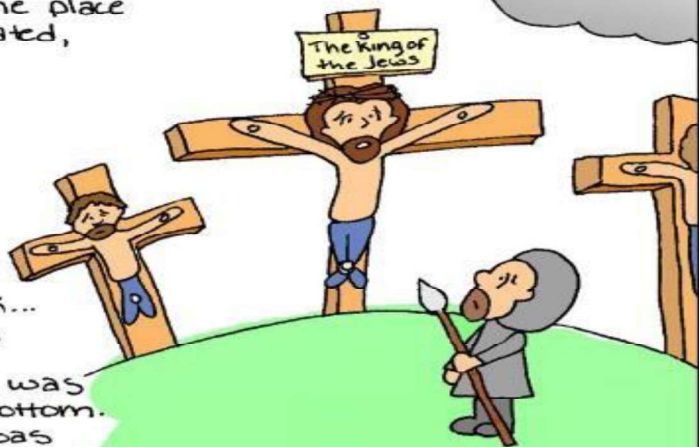
... they brought Him to the place Golgotha, which is translated, Place of a skull... And they crucified Him...

When the sixth hour came, darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour: At the ninth hour Jesus cried out... "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

... Someone... gave Him a drink... And Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed His last...

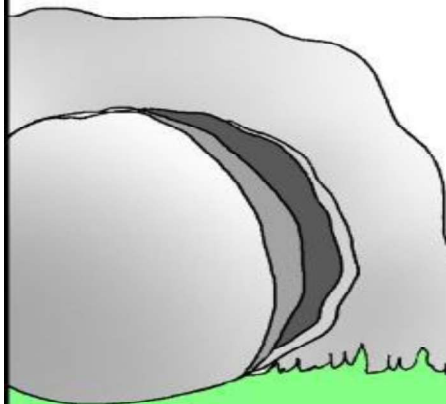
And the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. When the centurion who was standing right in front of Him, saw the way He breathed His last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

v 22-39



When evening had already come... Joseph of Arimathea came, a prominent member of the Council... and he gathered up courage and went in before Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus... Joseph bought a linen cloth, took Him down, wrapped Him in the linen cloth and laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.

v 43-46



Lesson overview:

In this chapter, we see the cost of sin and how Jesus paid it on the cross. After the trial, Jesus was sentenced to die on the cross by Pilate. Pilate offered to release Barabbas, but the Jews hated Jesus and refused to let Him go. Jesus was mocked and humiliated by the soldiers, then carried His cross to Golgotha. As Jesus was dying on the cross, many miracles happened: the sun was darkened, an earthquake occurred, and the veil of the temple was torn. The centurion believed that Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus was buried in the tomb of a rich man.

Goal we learn:

In this chapter, let us focus on our savior and His indescribable love for us. Jesus went on the cross for a reason, by His own will and for each one of us.

Lesson delivery idea

To Remember: Christ voluntarily sacrificed himself for our redemption
...for a reason

God wants a close relationship with man, John 3:16

Our sin separates us from God, Isa. 59:2

Justice requires that our sins be paid for, Rom. 6:23

God provided a sacrifice to pay for our sins, 1 John 4:10

...voluntarily

Jesus had the choice, Matt. 26:53, 54

He was sinless, 1 Pet. 2:22

Jesus had the power, John 19:11

Jesus had the will, Matt. 26:39

Pleased not himself, Rom 15:3

He loved us, Eph 5:2

...for you

You have nothing to offer that isn't God's already, Luke 17:10

The Father wants a close relationship, so He paid for your sins, John 3:16

So that you could choose to be close to Him, James 4:8

This relationship is voluntary, Mark 16:16

Discussion point: Illustrative Story: to make this an object lesson, give one student (Tom) a dollar bill. Make a fake restaurant tab.

Say: We all went out to a restaurant to eat. We all eat until we're stuffed but Tom eats nothing. Then the waiter delivers the bill. We're broke. Only "Tom" has any money. Who will pay the bill? Tom's the only one with money. Who should pay the bill? We should. But we can't. If Tom pays, is that fair? No. Is it merciful of him? Yes!

Jesus paid our bill for us. We could never have enough to pay for our sins. Should we be grateful?

Yes! How do we show our gratitude? Jesus said, "If you love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15

Discussion questions:

1. How were Annas and Caiaphas related? Annas was Caiaphas' father-in-law
2. What was Jesus convicted for? Blasphemy and treason
3. What motivated his trial? Envy
4. What caused Peter to deny Christ? Fear
5. What are some feelings Jesus may have felt during His crucifixion? Shame, discouragement, sorrow,...
6. How do you think St. Mary felt? Distressed, sorrowful, helpless, distraught
7. How do you think God felt? Pleased with his Son, sorrowful for Jesus' pain
8. If Jesus asked God to forgive those who killed Him, how should I treat those who hurt me?
9. If Jesus had to die for our sins, how serious is sin?
10. Is there anything I can suffer that Jesus won't understand?
11. What miracles occurred while Jesus died? Earthquake, the temple veil torn in two, darkness for 3 hours, the dead came out of the graves
12. What did the soldiers do instead of breaking Jesus' legs? Pierced His side
13. Why did they place a sign "King of the Jews" on Jesus' cross? To indicate the charge against Him
14. How did the soldiers mock Jesus as a prophet? "Tell us who hit you"
15. What did they offer Jesus when He was thirsty? Vinegar on a sponge

Activity:

All Clear game:

Fill three clear plastic bottles with 8 to 10 ounces of water. Add a small amount of liquid bleach to one of the bottles. (Keep out of the children's reach.) You'll also need red and blue food coloring and a clear pitcher or jar to hold the water from all three bottles.

Drop four drops of blue food coloring into one bottle of plain water. Say: **When Jesus came into our world as a baby, He had to leave his home in heaven. We often think of heaven as being up above the blue skies.**

Drop four drops of red coloring into the second bottle of plain water. Say: **When Jesus grew up, He suffered and died on a cross.**

Ask:

- **What did the soldiers put on Jesus' head?** A crown of thorns
- **What did they put through His hands and feet?** Nails
- **Do you think Jesus bled like you have when you've hurt yourself?**

Say: **Red reminds us of the blood Jesus bled and how much He hurt.** Pour the two bottles at once into the large pitcher or jar.

Washing Our Sins Away

Say: **Purple reminds us that Jesus had to leave heaven, come to our world, and become a person like us so He could shed His blood to take away our sins. When Jesus died on the cross, had He done anything wrong? No. Jesus was perfect. He was clear and clean just like our last bottle.**

Pour the bleach/water solution into the purple water. Say: **Jesus never sinned. Jesus died on the cross because He loves each of us so much. One day, we'll go to heaven to be with Jesus. Our blue water reminds us of that. Let's sing "Jesus Loves Me." As we sing, keep your eyes on our blue water. It'll become clear.**

At the end of the song, say: **Jesus cleanses us from all sin. Jesus loves us so much that He was willing to leave His home in heaven and die on a cross for us. What a wonderful Savior! Let's pray and thank Him.**

Dear Jesus, thank you for leaving your home in heaven to die on a cross so that we could live in heaven with you. We love you, Jesus.

Amen.

Memory Verse

³⁹So when the centurion, who stood opposite Him, saw that He cried out like this and breathed His last, he said, "Truly this Man was the Son of God!"