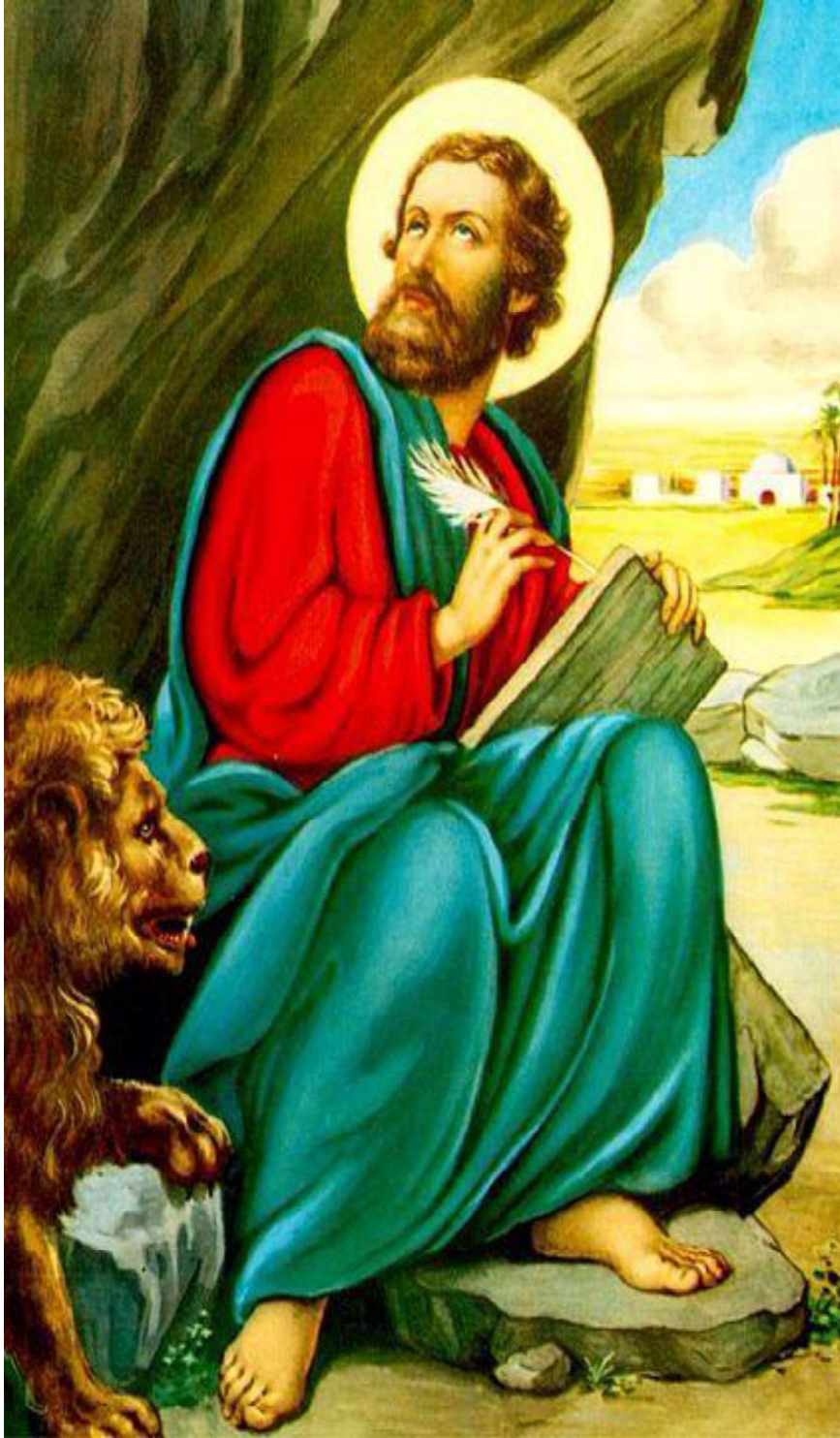


The Gospel According to St. Mark

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".

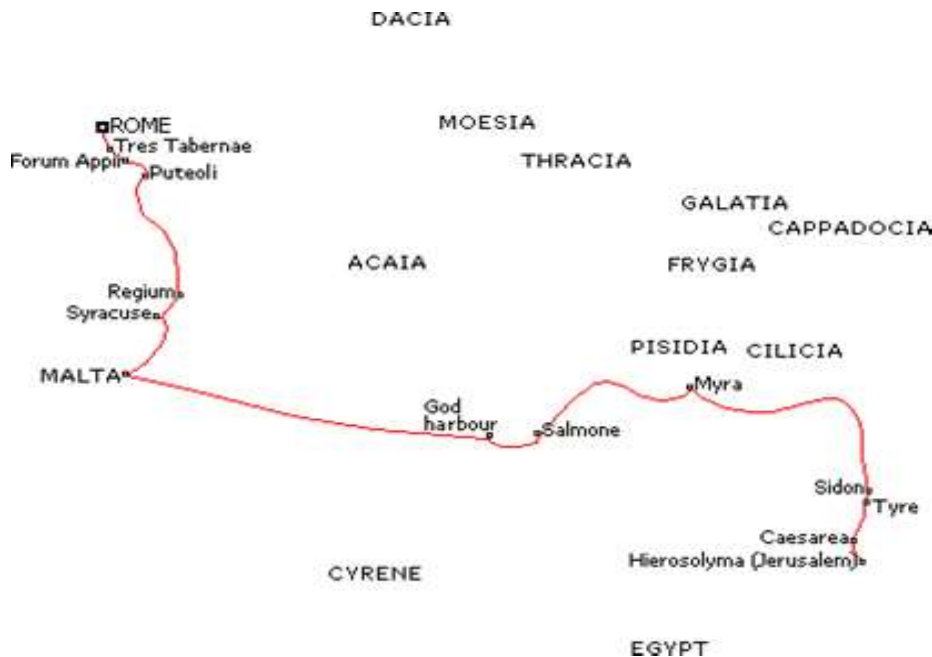
- ❖ He was chosen among the 70 apostles.
- ❖ He was with Jesus at Cana of Galilee wedding, Passover and when Jesus was arrested, he was the young follower who left his garment and ran away.

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 2

Servant's preparation:

A sermon about Chapter 2 explaining the Gospel of St. Mark by Abouna Daoud Lamei in English
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-z_fBdphaBk&list=PLvMAQ886ucetCnNPq4ft5YY0dujWRuADy&index=3

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.

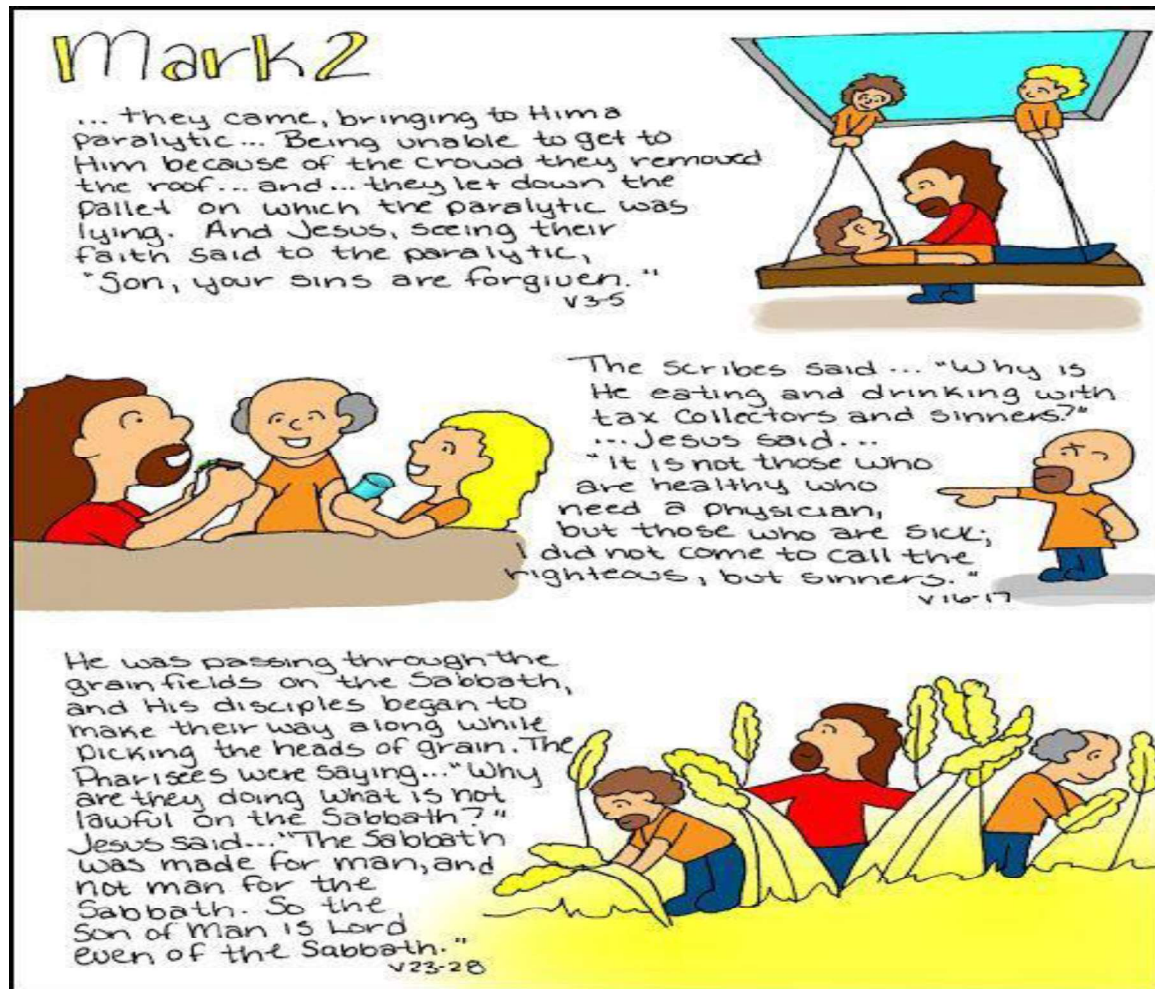
Remember:

Last lesson we studied how Jesus started His ministry on earth by getting baptized, fasting for 40 days then being tempted by the devil. Jesus showed His divine power through giving commands and immediately things happened like healing the sick, casting out demons, and calling His disciples. Today we will move to another powerful miracle Jesus did.

Main points in the Chapter:

- 1) Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralytic
- 2) Matthew the Tax Collector
- 3) Jesus Is Questioned About Fasting
- 4) Jesus Is Lord of the Sabbath





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 heals the paralytic man which we will talk about shortly. Then, He saw Matthew the tax collector and how much love he had in his heart. So Jesus chose him to be one of the 12 and ate at his house with other sinners, inviting them to repentance. The scribes and Pharisees always tried to find mistakes in what Jesus did, especially breaking the law of the Sabbath. He explained to them that the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath as He is Lord of the Sabbath.

Goal we learn:

In this chapter, you can focus on the miracle of the paralytic man. He and his friends had a simple request: that Jesus heals him. But Jesus gave far beyond their request; he gave them forgiveness of sins along with the healing. Similarly, we may have many requests in prayers, but always remember that God is planning to give us more than what we ask, even though it might look different but it is far better as He knows what is best in every situation. Let us not feel sad when

He doesn't respond, but tell Him that we know that He is planning for our lives better than what we request for ourselves.

1-Lesson delivery idea

A great PDF attached for lesson ideas.

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:387d8a47-7dba-45ee-bb7d-2cd16f3c12e3>

2- Another resource for delivery and activity

Did you know...

In Bible times, people used the roof of the house for more than keeping out the rain. During the summer, families might sleep on the roof to take advantage of the cool night air. They dried grain and fruit on the roof, stored tools there, and even went up on the roof to pray. In [Deuteronomy 22:8](#), God told his people to make a low wall around the roof so people wouldn't fall off!

1. Crowded Room

Gather everyone around you, and open up the Bible to [Luke 5:17-26](#). Say: **Let's learn more about the men who brought their friend to Jesus for healing.** Motion around you. **Let's pretend that this was the room where Jesus was. This place was packed with people who'd come to hear Jesus teach and to see if He'd perform a miracle or two, maybe heal somebody.**

It was so packed that...well, I'll show you. Everyone stand up. Pause. **Now put your hands down at your sides and scoot toward the middle of the room until you're shoulder to shoulder with someone.** Pause. **Now those of you in the center stand firm and everybody else scoot up until your tummy is almost touching the back of the person in front of you.** Pause. **Now that's crowded! The place was so crowded because everyone wanted to see Jesus. Go ahead and "uncrowd" while I tell you the rest of the story.** Pause.

Well, there were these guys who had a buddy. The buddy was on a sort of stretcher, a mat. That's because he couldn't walk. I don't know what had happened to the guy, but he wasn't getting better. He was paralyzed—that means he couldn't move at all. The man needed friends to help him.

2. Paralyzed Pretzel-Eaters

Prepare a bowl of pretzels. Say: **Here's what that's like. Pass around pretzels until each person has one.** Pause, taking a pretzel yourself. **Okay, now everyone hold on to one pretzel in one hand and stretch out that arm. Pretend that arm's paralyzed. It can't move at all. So you can't bend your elbow, but you really want to eat the pretzel.** Demonstrate how you have to keep your arm stiff and straight because you can't bend the elbow. You can't bring the pretzel to your mouth.

Ask:

- **Discuss how you might be able to eat the pretzel when your arm can't bend.**

Allow the kids to try to figure it out. If they don't get it after one minute, say: **Remember, you have your friends to help you!** If they still don't get it, go over to a person and feed your pretzel to him or her. Then it'll catch on that the kids must feed each other the pretzels. Their stiff arms will be able to reach a friend's mouth, and vice versa. Tell the kids they can move their arms normally now.

Say: **Wow! We needed our friends so we could eat the pretzels. The Bible tells us that the paralyzed man needed his friends to bring him to Jesus. They were good friends to take him to Jesus. Jesus is our friend! He does amazing things.**

3. On the Roof

Say: **With so many people trying to see Jesus, there was no way the friends carrying a stretcher could make it through the door. They couldn't even get close. But these guys were going to be sure their buddy saw Jesus—period.**

Here's what they did: They found the stairs up to the roof. And when they got up there they started digging—right through the roof! When the hole was big enough, the friends lowered the mat right down to where Jesus was standing.

Our Great Friends

Boy, those were some friends! They were even willing to get in trouble to make sure their buddy met Jesus. They took him to Jesus, and that's great! Maybe you have some good friends, too. Maybe your friend got a brand new video game, and he loaned it to you even though he hadn't played it yet. Or maybe you have a friend whose family went on vacation, and she could take a buddy with her to Disneyland—and she chose you!

Ask:

- **Tell everyone a great thing some friend has done for you.**
The kids can take turns answering.

Jesus Heals and Forgives

Say: **You've got some great friends! Well, when the men lowered their friend to Jesus (indicate a place on the floor just in front of you), Jesus saw how much faith the friends had. He knelt down (do this as you continue) and said to the paralyzed man, "Friend, your sins are forgiven." That made the teachers of the law—they were in the audience right toward the front in the good seats—sit up and take notice. They said, "Hey, wait a minute. Only God can forgive sins. If Jesus is forgiving sins, then that means He thinks...He's God or something!"**

Jesus knew what they were thinking. Jesus said, "Which do you think is easier for me, to forgive this man's sins or to heal him? Tell you what—I'll do both so you know I am who I say I am."

Jesus looked at the paralyzed man and said, "Get up, take up your mat, and go home."

The paralyzed man lay there and he could...he could wiggle his toes! Have kids wiggle their toes with you. He could wiggle his fingers! Have kids wiggle their fingers. He sat up...his legs were working and his arms were working...and he stood up. Have kids stand up. His body worked perfectly! Have kids do five jumping jacks with you. The friends on the roof were probably celebrating! Do this: Give a high five to everyone around you! Yeah! Jesus healed this guy! Pause as kids give high fives.

Now, the guy with the mat didn't just go home—he went home jumping around and praising God and showing everyone how his feet worked. He was one happy, ex-paralyzed guy, I'll tell you that.

Jesus was his friend BIG time! He forgave his sins and made him walk!

Jesus is Our Friend

Ask:

- **Tell everyone about some of the ways Jesus is a friend to you.**

Kids can take turns answering.

- **How can you be a friend to Jesus?**

Kids can take turns answering

Say: **That was great getting to know more about Jesus because Jesus is our friend. Let's head into a prayer time to thank God that Jesus is our friend.**

4. Prayer Place

Say: **Because Jesus is our friend, we're never alone. We can do all kinds of things like love others and tell others about Jesus. Jesus is always with us, ready to help us. Jesus gives us more than what we ask for. We ask for success, He might give us the best grade, we ask for a friend, He might let you make 5 friends... think of other examples**

5. Bonus Idea: Mat Races

Divide the kids into smaller groups and give each group a large towel.

Say: **The Bible tells us about the men who brought their friend to Jesus for healing. The poor guy couldn't walk, so the men carried him on a mat. Let's celebrate these guys' awesome friendship by having mat races!**

Have each group gather around a towel. Say: **Choose the smallest group member to sit on the mat. When I shout "go," everyone else will pull your group's "mat" to the opposite wall and back.** So groups don't get too "overzealous," have them walk heel-to-toe so the friend doesn't fly off the mat!

Play several rounds, letting other children ride as well as pull.

Change the course: Instead of wall to wall, race around the room.

Memory Verse:

"When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you." Mark 2:5