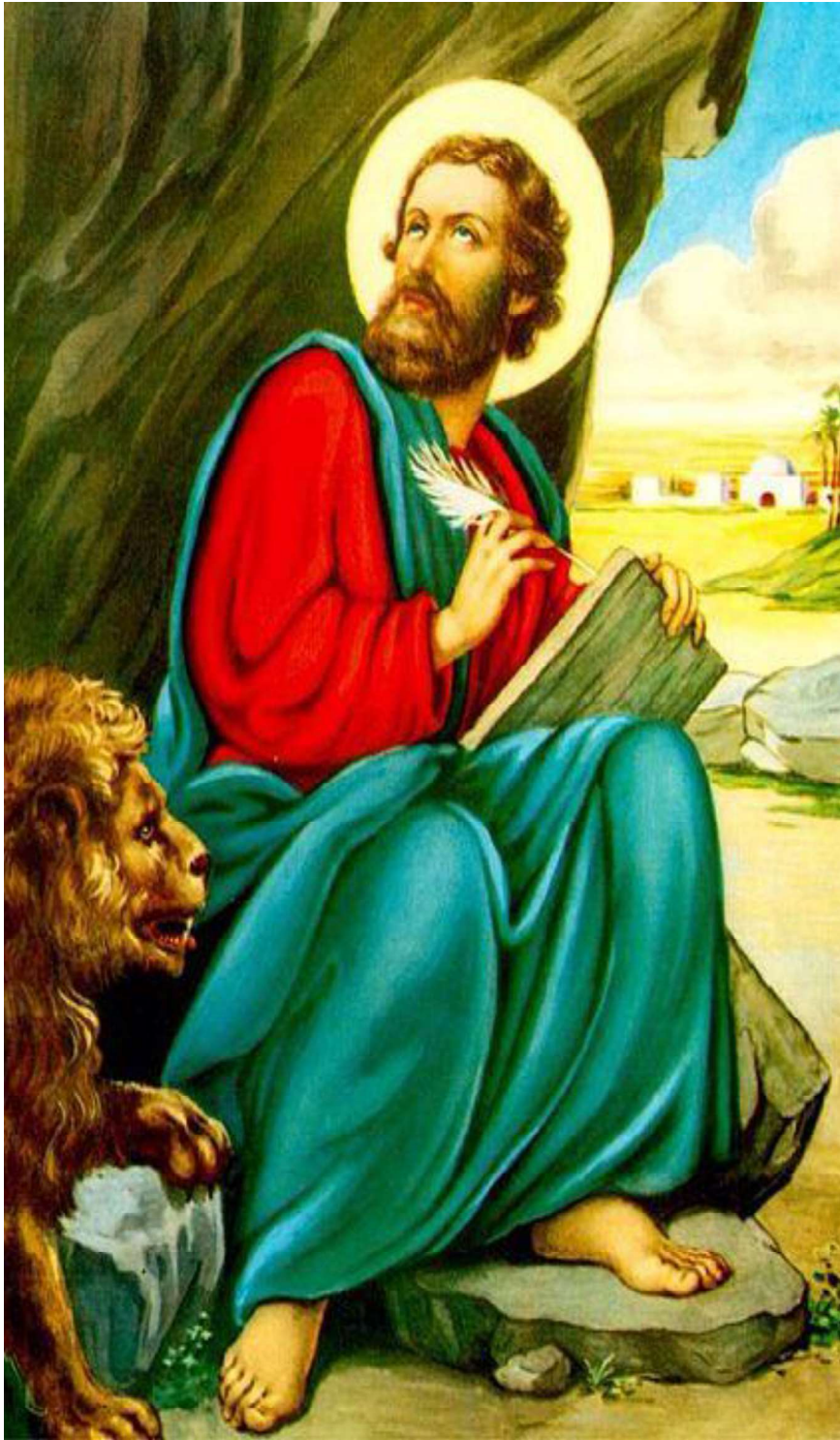


# The Gospel According to St. Mark

## 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 5

### **Servant's preparation:**

A sermon about Chapter 5 explaining the Gospel of St. Mark by Abouna Daoud Lamei in English

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b5lFsgXIDul&list=PLvMAQ886ucetCnNPq4ft5YY0dujWRuADy&index=5>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fcSgRPiW3-](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fcSgRPiW3-c&list=PLvMAQ886ucetCnNPq4ft5YY0dujWRuADy&index=6)

[c&list=PLvMAQ886ucetCnNPq4ft5YY0dujWRuADy&index=6](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fcSgRPiW3-c&list=PLvMAQ886ucetCnNPq4ft5YY0dujWRuADy&index=6)

### **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 talked about the parable of the sower. We studied the differences between the 4 soils and why the seeds couldn't grow in the first three soils, but they produce fruits only in the good soil. The seed is the word of God, our hearts are the different soils, birds (Satan) steal God's word, the sun (tribulation) burns it, thorns (worries and cares) kill it or if we are a good soil we don't allow any of those, so our seed grows into fruits.

### **Main points in the Chapter:**

- 1) A demon-possessed man healed
- 2) Jairus's daughter restored to Life
- 3) The woman with the flow of blood is Healed



## Mark 5

One of the synagogue officials named Jairus came up, and... fell at His feet... saying, "My little daughter is at the point of death... lay Your hands on her, so that she will get well and live" And He went off with him... v22-24



... they came from the house of the synagogue official, saying, "Your daughter has died; why trouble the Teacher anymore? But Jesus... said..." Do not be afraid... Only believe." v35-36

do not be  
**afraid**  
ONLY  
**believe**



They came to the house ... and He saw ... people loudly weeping and wailing ... He said to them, "why... weep? The child has not died, but is asleep." v38-39



(Jesus) took along the child's father and mother and His own companions, and entered the room... Taking the child by the hand, He said to her, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!" Immediately the girl got up and began to walk... And... they were completely astounded. v40-42



### 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 see 3 healing miracles of faith: a demon-possessed person being healed, a woman touching Jesus' clothes with faith and being cured, and Jairus humbly asking Jesus to heal his daughter, then Jesus giving him more than his request by raising her from the dead. The woman and Jairus had faith in Jesus that He can heal them, so the miracles were granted.

### Goal we learn:

In this chapter, you can focus on FAITH, do we have enough faith that God can do everything? He can change our bad habits with a simple touch [communion]. He can heal our spiritual diseases or sins with one word, "Little girl, I say to you, arise."

Jesus cannot work miracles without our faith. We must trust in Him to get Him to change what needs to be changed in our lives.

### Lesson delivery idea

**Sermon Title:** ["There Is Power in a Touch"](#) Mark 5:25-34

**WHO TOUCHED ME? GAME:** Have the children sit in a circle. One child will sit in the middle and will be blindfolded. The children will take turns as the teacher quietly points to someone to go to the child in the middle and TOUCH that child and quietly return to the circle. Remove the blindfold and let the child try to guess who TOUCHED him/her. If he guesses correctly, then that child goes to the middle to be blindfolded.

**OR TEACHER TOUCHES:** Blindfold the teacher and let the children take turns touching the teacher and the teacher will have to guess what part of the child's body touched the teacher's back - such as a finger, a nose, an elbow, a toe, an ear, etc!

**OR TOUCH RELAY:** Divide the children into teams. The teacher or leader will tell the first person on each team to run to a paper bag, and with their eyes closed, find something smooth. The children will quickly find a SMOOTH item and run back to the team. Then the teacher will tell the next team member to find something soft, or bumpy, or hard, or liquid. Continue to play the relay as time allows.

As you know, we have five senses. We use these five senses to give us information about the world around us. For example, if I were to hold up a ball and ask you what it was, you would identify it by using your sense of sight. If I were to ring a bell and ask you what it was, you would identify it by using your sense of hearing. If I put a flower under your nose and ask you to tell me what it was, you would know what it was by its smell. If I gave you a sip of lemonade, you would know right away what it was because of its taste.

There is one of the five senses that I have not mentioned. Do you know what it is? It is the sense of touch.

The sense of touch is very important, isn't it? We can often tell what an object is by its size, shape, and texture -- all of which can be learned by using our sense of touch. Today, I want to tell you about a woman who experienced the power of Jesus -- just by touching Him.

One day Jesus was walking through a large crowd of people. The people were crowding around so that He could hardly move. There was a woman in the crowd who had a bad sore that had been bleeding for twelve years. She had been to many doctors, but none had been able to help her. She had heard about Jesus and she believed that He could heal her, but there were so many people crowded around Him that it seemed hopeless.

The woman thought to herself, "If I could just get close enough to touch His robe, I would be healed." So, she pushed through the crowd and reached out and touched Jesus' clothes. Her bleeding stopped immediately, and her suffering was ended.

The Bible tells us that as soon as the woman touched Him, Jesus felt power go out of Him. He turned to the woman and said, "Your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be free from your suffering."

Jesus could have kept it a secret and no one would have known about the lady touching Him, but He wished to announce her great faith to let others learn from her. He asked: "Who touched me?" She had to confess that she did, and Jesus praised her so much to make her feel honored and not guilty for touching Him secretly. God likes it when we approach Him in prayers with faith, asking Him to fix what needs to be fixed. We can touch Him when go take communion.

Dear Jesus, we long to reach out and touch You and to feel Your power in our life. Amen.

### **Another delivery method or game:**

Kids can act the 3 miracles using silhouette. Bring a lamp and a big white linen sheet. Keeping the lamp behind it, let the kids act the stories so the audience only see their shadows behind the sheet.

### **Game:**

#### **STEP BY STEP WITH JESUS**

Preparation:

1. Prepare a set of direction cards with words like these on them: one giant step, two baby steps, three scissor steps, two slides, one hop, one skip, etc.
2. Write review questions covering the lesson on another set of cards.
3. Draw a line on the floor.

How to play:

1. The children stand way behind the line on the floor.
2. The teacher takes a card from each set and reads the question.
3. If the child answers correctly, he/she may take the number of steps indicated on the card.
4. The first child who reaches the finish line wins the game.

***Memory Verse: 28 "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well." Or 34 "And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace and be healed of your affliction."***