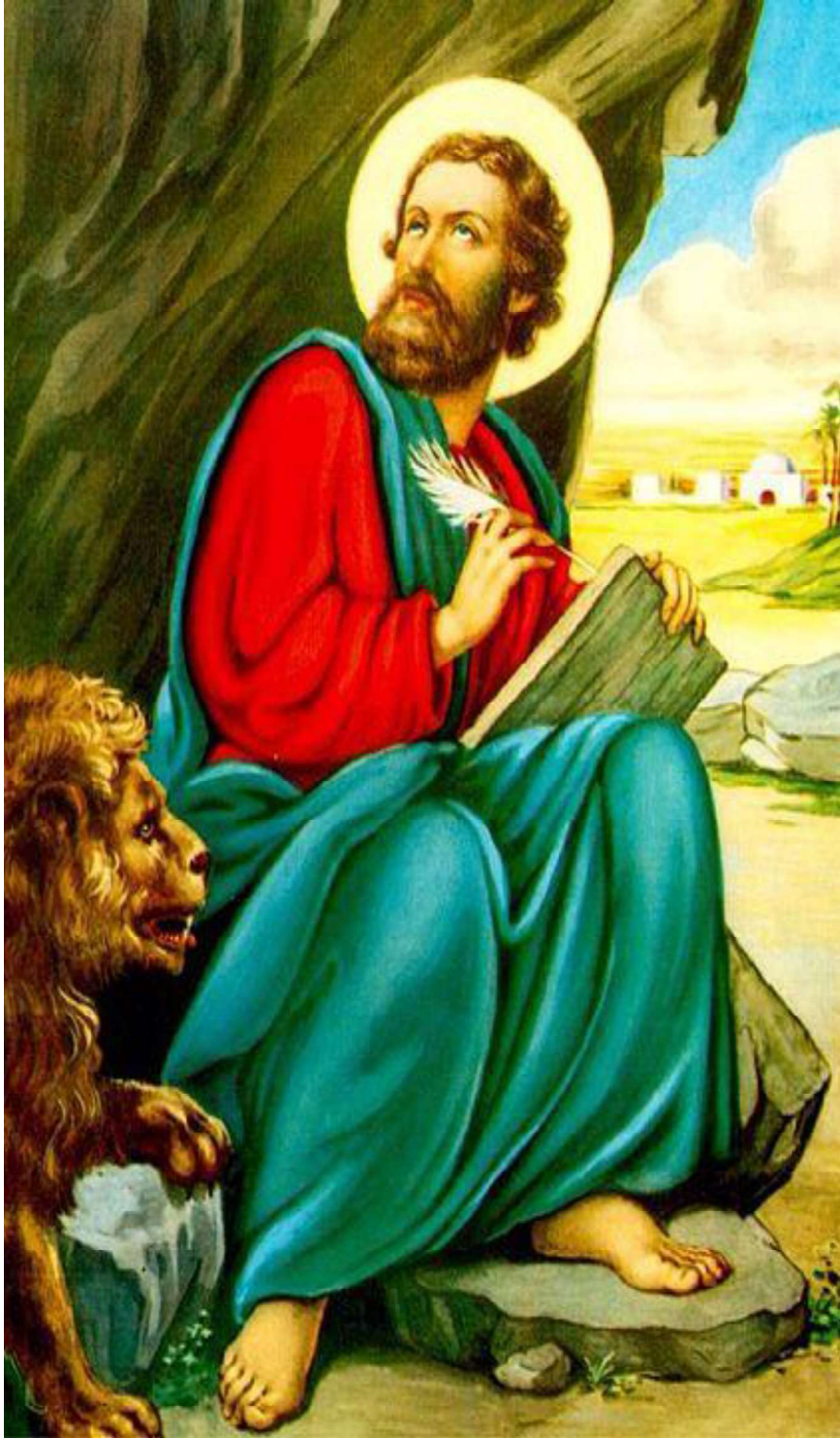


# The Gospel According to St. Mark

## 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.



## 2-Unit 2 His Retreat from Galilee Galilee (Chapters 7 to 9)

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ St. Mark recorded many conversations and questions that revealed Jesus's person and mission in chapters 8 to 10.
- ✓ Through His transfiguration, He acknowledged His kingdom.

### Chapter 7

#### Servant's preparation:

A sermon about Chapter 7 explaining the Gospel of St. Mark by Abouna Daoud Lamei in English

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o78igbnNKk&list=PLvMAQ886ucetCnNPq4ft5YY0dujWRuADy&index=7>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NREX4VaQwHI&list=PLvMAQ886ucetCnNPq4ft5YY0dujWRuADy&index=8>

#### 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:

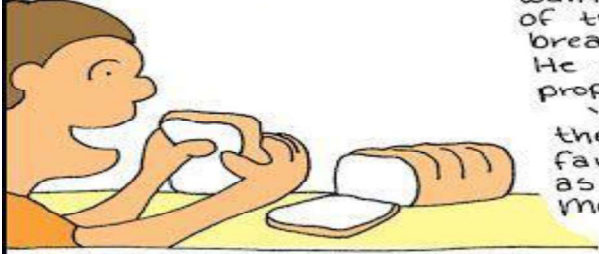
Last lesson, we experienced how God cares about our physical needs too, not only our spiritual needs. He gives us in abundance like when He fed the 5000. We experienced that through the example of the never-ending chocolate and the soda experiment. Jesus came to cover all our needs.

#### Main points in the Chapter:

1. Defilement Comes from Within
2. A Gentile Shows Her Great Faith
3. Jesus Heals a Deaf-Mute





# Mark 7



The Pharisees and the scribes asked (Jesus), "Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders but eat their bread with impure hands?" And He said ... "Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites... 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me... Teaching as doctrines the precepts of Men.'" vs-7

"... whatever goes into the man from outside cannot defile him, because it does not go into his heart, but into his stomach, and is eliminated..." (Thus He declared all foods clean.) "That which proceeds out of the man... defiles the man. For from within, out of the heart ... proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness." v 18-22

They brought to Him one who was deaf and spoke with difficulty... Jesus took him aside from the crowd... and put His fingers in his ears ... touched his tongue... and looking up to heaven... He said to him, "Ephphatha!" that is, "Be opened!" And his ears were opened... and he began speaking plainly... They were utterly astonished saying, "He has done all things well, He makes even the deaf to hear and the mute to speak." v 32-37

**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 explained how things that go into the body cannot make it unclean but things that go out of the mouth, coming from the heart could make us unclean. This is the opposite of what the Jewish leaders taught. According to the elders' tradition, no one is allowed to eat unless they wash their hands. Jesus is not against eating with clean hands, but He wanted to point out that what comes out of the mouth is more important for eternal life. The Jews used to explain the commandment of honoring your parents in a wrong way. Instead of treating your parents with love and care, they taught the people that they can just give gifts to the temple instead of honoring their parents. Those gifts go to the priests. Jesus told them that their teachings are misleading and not according to God's intent.

Jesus also declared the great faith of the Canaanite woman who begged Him to heal her daughter and He did the miracle because of her strong faith. He told her, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs" to test her faith, but she acknowledged that she is willing to eat the crumbs off the table. This shows how humble she is.



## Goal we learn:

In this chapter, we will focus on the effect of the tongue. Our words can hurt others, can cause us to sin as the tongue shows what is in the heart. We should put a filter on our tongue and think before we talk. (If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all!).

## Lesson delivery idea

<https://ministry-to-children.com/tame-that-tongue-lesson/>

## Activity:

Take a tube of toothpaste. Invite a student to squirt out some of it (into a cup or napkin). Ask another student to place the toothpaste back into the tube. This is rather impossible, isn't it? The same is true of our words. Once we speak something, we can't just take it back. We must think BEFORE we speak, asking ourselves if what we are about to say is holy, truthful, positive, uplifting... (consider Philippians 4:8).

**Lesson Opening:** "What's the tongue got to do with it?" This is an old classic saying that seems to always serve as crowd pleaser, but it is not true. The tongue does a lot.

Have small bags or cups prepared, some with salt and some with sugar. Invite students to pick which one they'd like to sample, not telling them (or marking in any way) which is which. Challenge kids to take a pinch of the one they chose and see how it tastes. Note the obvious differences between salty and sweet. What would kids rather have? Also, consider how just a little bit of salt can completely change the dynamic of a recipe or a dish.

The things we say can have a huge rippling impact on those around us. Have you ever played "telephone"? Well, the way information mutates can cause rampant gossip and ill feelings to run wild around us.

Would you cook in a toilet? Um, eew, no! Or could you get apples from an orange tree, or sweet tea from a Coke machine? What we are saying here is that we can't be acting like we love and worship God and turn around and badmouth our peers. We need to make sure our mouths are clean, meaning good things come out of them. We don't eat dog's poop (hopefully). So, let's not let it come out of our mouths, either.



## PowerPoint with pictures about taming the tongue

C:\Users\Marina\Desktop\Visual Aids\Retreat 6-2018(GPS)\Tame the Tongue.pptx

### **Memory Verse:**

***15 There is nothing that enters a man from outside which can defile him; but the things which come out of him, those are the things that defile a man.***