

Eight weeks through Mark's Gospel

Week 1 (Mark 1:1-15)

- How does Mark show us that Jesus is worthy of attention?
- What 'witnesses' does Mark call upon to introduce Jesus, and why?
- What is the message of Jesus, and how does it draw your attention to him?
- According to the passage, what has Jesus come to do?
- What is your own reaction to Jesus after reading this passage?

Week 2 (Mark 2:1-12)

- What do you think is the most surprising thing Jesus does in this encounter?
- If someone in a crowd of people said to you, “Your sins are forgiven”, what would you and everyone else think of that person?
- How does Jesus demonstrate his claim to be able to forgive sins?
- What difference do you think his authority should have in your own life?

Week 3 (Mark 3:7-35)

- How do people react to Jesus today?
- What responses to Jesus do you see in this passage?
- Why was Jesus' authoritative teaching a threat to the teachers of the law?
- Jesus says, "He first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house" (v. 27). What is the point of this statement?
- What house is Jesus claiming to be overthrowing, and what could this mean for you?
- According to this passage, how do you become a part of Jesus' family?

ONE-TO-ONE BIBLE READING

Week 4 (Mark 8:22-38)

- What event takes place just before Peter's confession? Why do you think these two stories are placed next to each other?
- How would you describe the healing of the blind man?
- How good is a partial understanding of Jesus?
- According to Jesus, why does a follower of Christ have to "deny himself" and "lose his life"?

Week 5 (Mark 10:17-45)

- Looking at verses 17-22, what would Jesus say is the basic character of people in the world?
- Based upon this passage, do you think you can earn your salvation by being a good person?
- In verses 32-34, Jesus says that he is going to die. According to verse 45, what is the purpose of his death?
- Read Isaiah 53:5, 10-12. How do these verses help us understand what a ransom is?
- What would Jesus tell you to do if you desired to enter into a relationship with God?

Week 6 (Mark 14:53-15:15)

- When we read of great tragedies in history, we tend to think that we would have acted differently if we had been there. Can you see yourself in this passage? What would you be doing?
- How are some of the characters in this passage similar to each other? How are they different?
- What evidence is Mark presenting in his attempt to prove that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God?
- How does Jesus' silence actually communicate his identity? (See Isaiah 53:7-9.)
- How has this passage affected your view of Jesus?

Week 7 (Mark 15:16-39)

- How many times does the phrase “King of the Jews” appear in chapter 15 (including verses 1-15)? What is ironic about this? What is Mark trying to say about the events at the cross?
- Read Psalm 22. How does this help you understand the words of Jesus from the cross in verse 34?
- How does Psalm 22 end? What is Jesus ultimately claiming for himself?
- Why do you think the events at the cross were necessary?
- What final description of Jesus’ identity does Mark provide? Where have you seen this title before?
- What do the events at the cross teach us about what it means to follow Jesus?

ONE-TO-ONE BIBLE READING

Week 8 (Mark 15:42-16:8)

- Of what fact does Mark want his readers to be sure in verses 42-47?

- What does Mark say happened to Jesus' body?

- What is surprising about these accounts of Jesus' resurrection?

- Why is it significant that Jesus rose from the dead?

- What questions do you still have? Are you ready to follow Jesus?

EIGHT WEEKS THROUGH MARK'S GOSPEL