

## Mark's Story of Jesus

The four Gospels are generally separated between the synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) and the Gospel of John. The term “synoptic” means “with the same eye.” The synoptic gospels are similar. Most scholars believe Mark's Gospel was written first, and Matthew and Luke subsequently borrowed from it. (See Luke 1:1-4).

There is an old tradition that says the four Gospels are represented by the four beasts in the book of Revelation. According to the tradition the Gospel of Mark is the lion. This accounts for the lion on the cover of this booklet. That text reads,

*In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle (Rev. 4:6-7).*

The church historian Eusebius says that Mark's story is based on preaching by the apostle Peter. In one of his letters Peter mentions Mark (1 Pet. 5:13). We also hear about Mark in Acts (Acts 12:12) and in Paul's letters (Col. 4:10; 2 Tim. 4:11; Phm. 1:24). In the book of Acts, we learn that Mark originally accompanied Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey but abandoned them. Barnabas and Paul fell into a dispute about taking him on their second journey, and they went separate ways (Acts 12:25; 15:37-39).

Mark's Gospel was probably written to Gentile Christians. Unlike Matthew's Gospel, Mark makes no mention of Jesus fulfilling the Law. In addition, Mark explains Aramaic statements that would probably not need to be explained to a Jewish audience (3:17; 5:41; 7:11; 15:22, 34), but he does not feel the need to do so with Latin words or phrases (5:9; 6:37; 12:15; 15:39). Mark also explains Jewish traditions (7:3).

Mark's Gospel is a fast-moving narrative generally lacking in long sermons or dialogue. Mark uses the word “immediately” twelve times in sixteen chapters creating a frenetic quality to the story, but the plot slows down significantly when we get to chapter 11. In that chapter Jesus enters Jerusalem, and the remainder of the book is spent on this last week in his life. As a result, about 1/3 of the Gospel takes place during this one week.

The book ends on a rather abrupt note. An angel appears to the women at the empty tomb, and they run away full of fear and amazement (16:8). Of course, most of us will recognize that the Gospel story continues, but the longer ending of Mark was developed later than the original writing. The longer ending is based on late manuscripts and is therefore not considered to be a part of the original text.

We will explore Mark as if it were a diamond, turning it this way and that to see the beauty. You will have seven days to read through the text four times asking a different question each time. The purpose in doing this is to listen carefully to Mark's story. This should help to make the sermon on Sunday morning that much more meaningful. Those in a Home Group will then be able to discuss their own reading, as well as, the sermon afterwards. I hope this will help us all to hear what it was that Mark was trying to tell us about our Lord and savior.

According to John, the world could not contain all of the books if all of the activities of Jesus's life were written down (Jn. 21:25). None of the Gospel writers try and tell everything Jesus did and said. Each of the four Gospel writers selected stories to fit their purpose. In this study you will be asked to select one of the stories each week to share with a friend.

We have been thinking of that one person in our lives who we would like to come to know the Lord and be disciples of Jesus. The last question each week asks you to imagine that one person. Which story would you share with them? Why? If you do not already have a "One," prayerfully consider who your "One" could be. A family member? A friend? A co-worker? We recall that God cares even about that one lost lamb (Lk. 15:3-7).

ALBHG

Curtis

**August 31-September 6**  
Chapter 1

Day 1 - What common theme(s) do you see in these three stories?

Day 2 - Other than Jesus, what character(s) do you identify with in this chapter?

Day 3 - What do we learn about Jesus from the stories in this chapter?

Day 4 - Which story from this week's reading would you share with your 1? Why?

**September 7-13**  
Chapter 2

Day 1 - What common theme(s) do you see in these three stories?

Day 2 - Other than Jesus, what character(s) do you identify with in this chapter?

Day 3 - What do we learn about Jesus from the stories in this chapter?

Day 4 - Which story from this week's reading would you share with your 1? Why?

**September 14-20**  
Chapter 3

Day 1 - What common theme(s) do you see in these three stories?

Day 2 - Other than Jesus, what character(s) do you identify with in this chapter?

Day 3 - What do we learn about Jesus from the stories in this chapter?

Day 4 - Which story from this week's reading would you share with your 1? Why?

**September 21-27**  
Chapter 4

Day 1 - What common theme(s) do you see in these three stories?

Day 2 - Other than Jesus, what character(s) do you identify with in this chapter?

Day 3 - What do we learn about Jesus from the stories in this chapter?

Day 4 - Which story from this week's reading would you share with your 1? Why?

**September 28-October 4**  
Chapter 5

Day 1 - What common theme(s) do you see in these three stories?

Day 2 - Other than Jesus, what character(s) do you identify with in this chapter?

Day 3 - What do we learn about Jesus from the stories in this chapter?

Day 4 - Which story from this week's reading would you share with your 1? Why?

**October 5-11**  
Chapter 6

Day 1 - What common theme(s) do you see in these three stories?

Day 2 - Other than Jesus, what character(s) do you identify with in this chapter?

Day 3 - What do we learn about Jesus from the stories in this chapter?

Day 4 - Which story from this week's reading would you share with your 1? Why?



**October 12-18**  
Chapter 7

Day 1 - What common theme(s) do you see in these three stories?

Day 2 - Other than Jesus, what character(s) do you identify with in this chapter?

Day 3 - What do we learn about Jesus from the stories in this chapter?

Day 4 - Which story from this week's reading would you share with your 1? Why?

**October 19-25**  
Chapter 8

Day 1 - What common theme(s) do you see in these three stories?

Day 2 - Other than Jesus, what character(s) do you identify with in this chapter?

Day 3 - What do we learn about Jesus from the stories in this chapter?

Day 4 - Which story from this week's reading would you share with your 1? Why?

**October 26-November 1**  
Chapter 9

Day 1 - What common theme(s) do you see in these three stories?

Day 2 - Other than Jesus, what character(s) do you identify with in this chapter?

Day 3 - What do we learn about Jesus from the stories in this chapter?

Day 4 - Which story from this week's reading would you share with your 1? Why?

**November 2-8**  
Chapter 10

Day 1 - What common theme(s) do you see in these three stories?

Day 2 - Other than Jesus, what character(s) do you identify with in this chapter?

Day 3 - What do we learn about Jesus from the stories in this chapter?

Day 4 - Which story from this week's reading would you share with your 1? Why?

**November 9-15**  
Chapter 11

Day 1 - What common theme(s) do you see in these three stories?

Day 2 - Other than Jesus, what character(s) do you identify with in this chapter?

Day 3 - What do we learn about Jesus from the stories in this chapter?

Day 4 - Which story from this week's reading would you share with your 1? Why?

**November 16-22**  
Chapter 12

Day 1 - What common theme(s) do you see in these three stories?

Day 2 - Other than Jesus, what character(s) do you identify with in this chapter?

Day 3 - What do we learn about Jesus from the stories in this chapter?

Day 4 - Which story from this week's reading would you share with your 1? Why?

**November 23-29**  
Chapter 13

Day 1 - What common theme(s) do you see in these three stories?

Day 2 - Other than Jesus, what character(s) do you identify with in this chapter?

Day 3 - What do we learn about Jesus from the stories in this chapter?

Day 4 - Which story from this week's reading would you share with your 1? Why?

**November 30-December 6**  
Chapter 14

Day 1 - What common theme(s) do you see in these three stories?

Day 2 - Other than Jesus, what character(s) do you identify with in this chapter?

Day 3 - What do we learn about Jesus from the stories in this chapter?

Day 4 - Which story from this week's reading would you share with your 1? Why?



**December 7-13**  
Chapter 15:1-16:8

Day 1 - What common theme(s) do you see in these three stories?

Day 2 - Other than Jesus, what character(s) do you identify with in this chapter?

Day 3 - What do we learn about Jesus from the stories in this chapter?

Day 4 - Which story from this week's reading would you share with your 1? Why?