



BEST SUMMER EVER—Travel through the Gospel of Mark
“Road Trip: The Gospel of Mark”
June 22-23, 2019
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INTRODUCTION

An action-packed book of Jesus’ life, the Gospel of Mark is fast-paced, always moving and completely counter-cultural. You will learn about the person and purpose of Jesus, you will love the immediately actionable lessons for every area of your life, and you will be challenged to evaluate your life and purpose along the way.

In simplest terms, the first half of the gospel is all about who Jesus is, and the second half is all about what Jesus came to do: save people from their sins through his sacrificial death on a cross. Mark paints a picture of this Jesus who is extremely powerful, who has been given all authority from God that people are repeatedly amazed by, yet this Messiah--this coming King-- uses all His power and authority to serve others. Jesus provides a day-to-day example of continuously giving of Himself and ultimately giving His own life to provide for our greatest need of being saved from our sins. Over and over, this book pushes us to action. It forces us to examine Jesus and His purpose on earth, evaluate our own relationship with Him and others, and follow his example in our everyday lives.

This week we embark on a quick “road trip” through the Gospel of Mark, helped by a WHO/WHERE/WHAT/WHY/HOW framework, plus personal application questions.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever taken a memorable road trip? Share briefly a couple highlights.
2. **WHO?** If you didn’t hear the weekend sermon, catch up on the backstory of Mark by reading **Acts 12:11-14; 23-24; 13:13; 15:36-40; Colossians 4:10-11; and 1 Timothy 4:9-11**. Basically Mark had a major regret in his life: he left Paul and went home early from their first missionary journey. Yet through Mark’s personal growth--and more importantly, Paul’s powerful forgiveness—Mark and Paul reconciled. And Mark became the earliest gospel writer. The first application point was “Your failures are not final.”
 - When and have you “blown it” in your personal and professional life?
 - How did God show you that was not the end of your story?

3. **WHERE? Read Mark 1:17.** Mark's source was PETER. And Mark's story was all about ACTION. He emphasized Jesus' actions even more than his words/teachings. Note: Jesus SHOWED the disciples how to fish for people and live as disciples...he didn't just tell them. Thus, a life lesson for us from Mark: "Your actions speak louder than your words."
 - Share an example in your life where actions spoke louder than words.
4. **WHAT? Read Mark 3:13-14.** When Jesus appoints the 12 disciples, he shows them exactly what he's calling them to do: "that they might BE WITH HIM, and that he might SEND THEM OUT TO PREACH. That's the rhythm of your life as Christ-follower: be with Him...and go to them."
 - How are you doing with these simple life rhythms? Are you spending time on a regular basis just being with Jesus? Reading His Word? Listening to Him in prayer? Enjoying His presence?
 - And are you "filling your cup" by spending time with him...as a means of giving you the spiritual energy and vitality to "go to them" in your daily life—whether "them" includes your colleagues at work, the members of your family, your classmates at school, or your neighbors.
 - What is one way you can re-set these simple rhythms in your life?
 - What is one positive result you can reasonably expect?
5. **WHY? Read Mark 8:29 & 31.** This is the "pivot point" of the Gospel of Mark. Ch's 1-8 show us who Jesus is, and Ch's 9-16 show us what Jesus came to do. But the whole book pivots in this passage.
 - Who do YOU say Jesus is?
 - Have you committed to following Him with your life?
 - If so, when did you make this commitment, and what has God done in your life since?
 - **Read Mark 10:45.** This is a "theme verse" for the book. What are some of the joys you experience from serving others in your life?
6. **HOW? Read Mark 14:66-72.** HOW can we follow Jesus? This is the story of Peter's ultimate failure, and a classic example of his need for God's GRACE. Grace is unmerited favor from God. Because we all make so many mistakes and fall short of God's glorious standard for our lives, without accepting God's grace (over and over again), we need God's grace! We cannot follow Jesus effectively without accepting God's grace (again and again and again).
 - What has Jesus done to make grace possible in our lives?
 - What is one area of your life today where you need to accept/experience God's grace?
 - How will that experience of grace help shape your future?

CHALLENGE

Read through the Gospel of Mark each week throughout this series. (YES—that means the challenge is to read through the gospel several times in a row! ☺)

COMMIT TO MEMORY

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. **Mark 10:45**

PRAYER

Share prayer requests and pray for one another.