

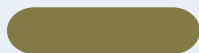
LIFE GROUP

Leader Guide

Go Love!

THE GOSPEL OF

MARK



NAME _____

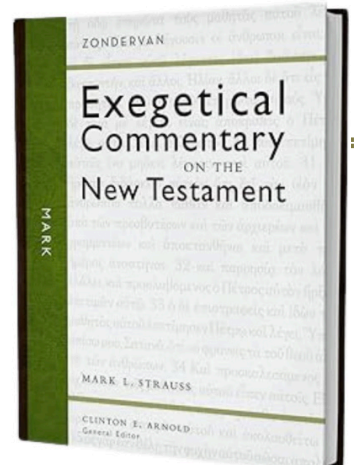


wentzville
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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COMMENTARY FOR THIS MARK STUDY



LETTER FROM KEITH

We are already a third of the way through the Gospel of Mark and it feels like we just got started! That's how quickly this Gospel account moves. I hope you have been able to read the Gospel and would encourage you to continue to read and study with us. If you didn't get a chance to read through the first 5 chapters, take time to do so! Then, over the next five weeks read chapters 6-10. Looking to read only a chapter a week should give us time to really dig into the text and I can't think of a better way to understand Jesus and his way of loving others!

One way to read through scripture is the S.O.A.P. Method. It stands for:

Scripture / Observations / Applications / Prayer

I'll give you a quick example:

Scripture: Mark 6:45-56 - When Jesus walks on the Water

Observations: Jesus did something that was outside the physical laws of nature by walking on the water and it freaked the disciples out. But Jesus had already done so many miracles that were the same, and they failed to understand (like the loaves and fish with the crowd). It says the disciple's hearts were hardened, even after seeing Jesus do so much. When they landed, Jesus was back at it, no rest for the weary. He healed and helped so many people, even by just allowing the people to touch his clothing!

Applications: Do I believe and trust Jesus to do the impossible, or is my heart hard? Do I see the need around me and immediately look to help, or do I look for an escape? I need to be more like Jesus when I see those in need.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, you are the almighty and can do the impossible! What is unfathomable for man is possible for You! Father, I pray for this [impossible thing] and that You would have Your hand on this situation. I also pray for my heart to soften to the needs of others, that I would have opportunities to love those in need. Amen!

That's it! Use a journal, use a notebook, use a note-taking app or whatever and use SOAP to work through Mark's Gospel and you will be amazed how much you grow.

Blessings & Go Love!

Keith Comp

Senior Minister

CONNECT QUESTIONS

1. Rejection is something we experience throughout our lives in various ways. Look at the age ranges below and discuss how each group might experience different forms of rejection.
 - a. A baby
 - b. 2-5 Years
 - c. 5-12 Years
 - d. 13-18 Years
 - e. Young Adult
 - f. Adult
 - g. SeniorCitizen
2. Share a time when you felt rejected.

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. **Before diving into Mark 6, let me read this quote from a famous “Christian” author. “When you think positive, excellent thoughts, you will be propelled toward greatness, inevitably bound for increase, promotion, and God’s supernatural blessings.” How is the author describing the Christian experience? How does this picture relate to rejection?**
 - a. Leader Note: This view on the Christian experience is wrong. If you feel your group moving toward affirmation of this quote, gently encourage them to wait on their conclusions until Mark 6 is read.
2. **Mark 6 is going to paint a different picture. Today, we are going to look at three stories of rejection. Three moments of hardship for followers of God. Have a few people read Mark 6:17-29 and encourage everyone in the group to read along in their copy of the Scriptures. Who is getting rejected within this story and why were they rejected?**
 - a. John disagreed with Herod’s marriage because Herod was married to his brother’s wife. This was forbidden in the Old Testament (Lev 18:6; 20:21). Marriage to a husband’s brother was allowed only in the case of levirate marriage, when the brother had died without offspring (Deut 25:5–10). This led to him getting rejected and then beheaded!
3. **When we stand on biblical principles and then point people to those biblical principles, it can create a variety of responses. Reread Mark 6:17-20. What were the different responses to the truth that John was preaching?**
 - a. Herod was puzzled but curious about John’s teaching; he feared John and his presence. Herodias, Herod’s wife, was enraged at John’s principles, holding a grudge.

4. **We see the same variety of responses when Jesus sends His disciples out to carry the Good News. Have a few people read Mark 6:7-13 and encourage everyone in the group to read along in their copy of the Scriptures. What different responses should the disciples expect when proclaiming the Good News?**
 - a. Commentary From Commentaries: What does Jesus mean when He says, “Shake the dust off your feet?” The gesture is clearly one of disassociation, leaving that place to suffer the consequences of its rejection. Paul and Barnabas do this on their first missionary journey when they are driven out of Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:51).
5. **It’s not just followers of Jesus experiencing rejection. In Mark 6:1-6, Jesus Himself is rejected by His hometown and His message of the coming Kingdom. How can the idea of Jesus’ rejection bring comfort when we try to spread the Good News of His Kingdom?**
 - a. Jesus, God-in-flesh, was perfect. He had no flaws and He made no mistakes. Yet, even He experienced rejection. When our message falls on deaf ears, we can take comfort in the fact that God knows what that’s like.
6. **When we share the Good News of Jesus and stand according to His principles, a variety of responses may occur. Have you ever shown Christ's love and experienced rejection?**
7. **In Acts 7, Stephen is rejected by the Sanhedrin and stoned to death for following Jesus. Before Stephen passes, he sees Jesus at the right hand of God, warmly ready to receive him into heaven. How can this bring comfort when we experience rejection for our faith?**
8. **Go Love Exercise: You have a Christian friend who is distraught. They are an avid reader of the author mentioned in question one and have that quote on a sign in their home. Unfortunately, because of your friend’s faith, their employer unexpectedly let them go. “I was thinking positive! I thought I was bound for promotion and God’s spiritual blessings,” they cry out. How can you go love your friend, gently speaking the truth from Mark 6?**

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER & THE MISSION OF THE WEEK

MISSION OF THE WEEK: Daniel and Kelsey

Daniel & Kelsey serve in a closed country in North Africa where they are leading others to Christ while teaching in the community as their reason for being in the country. They live there with their two young children. Pray that they are able to continue to change lives through the power of the Holy Spirit working through them and in the people around them.

CONNECT QUESTION

1. **With Valentine's Day happening this last Friday, we will be talking about our hearts today! Read the scenario below and, as a group, describe what's happening externally and internally within the husband's heart.**
 - a. A husband barely making ends meet decides to pick up some landscaping side work to afford his wife a new wedding ring for Valentine's Day. She had no idea about his side work and that a new wedding ring was coming. She is completely blown away!
2. **Again, read the scenario below and, as a group, describe what's happening externally and internally within the husband's heart.**
 - a. A husband buys his wife a brand-new wedding ring. She is stunned and blown away. What she doesn't realize is that her husband is also having an emotional affair, sending secret texts back and forth with a coworker.

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. **We will start our study time by examining a conflict between Jesus and the Pharisees. Have your group take turns reading Mark 7:1-23. Based on what Jesus reveals about the Pharisee's hearts, describe the Pharisees externally and internally.**
 - a. Understanding the Text: Jesus cites the example of "Corban," whereby a son could withhold support for his parents by declaring his property to be dedicated to God and off limits to them. The Pharisees used this as an excuse to not help their parents.
 - b. While the Pharisees were focused on externally following traditions of cleanliness, Jesus reveals in verse seven that their hearts were dirty and far from God (vs. 6).
2. **Mark 7 shifts focus to an encounter between Jesus and a Greek Phoenician woman. The area of Tyre, where Jesus was traveling, was known as an epicenter of idolatry and paganism. The Book of Matthew describes her as a Canaanite, an ancient rival of the Jewish people. (Matthew 15:22). With this background, if you were a Jew, you would assume that this woman's heart would be wicked. Have a few people read Mark 7:24-30 and encourage everyone in the group to read along in their copy of the Scriptures. In these verses, what do we learn about this woman's heart?**
 - a. This Greek Phoenician woman was motivated by faith, believing that Jesus could heal her daughter. This pure heart must have surprised early Jewish readers who would have been skeptical of her background and genealogy.

b. Commentary From Commentaries: In verse 27, Jesus is being intentionally provocative, seeking to draw out a response of persistent faith from the woman. He wants her to claim what is rightfully hers—the opportunity to participate in the eschatological salvation available through Jesus the Messiah. While Jesus “loses” the debate, he is delighted to do so, since his purpose is to provoke even greater faith.

3. **What do these two stories teach us about the heart and the people around us?**
4. **We all have moments when we are wrong in our assumptions about someone’s internal heart condition based on what we see externally. Share some moments of when this happened to you. Try to think of both positive and negative examples.**
5. **We are going to read three sets of verses that explain our hearts and Jesus’ relationship to them. Read the three passages and then answer this question: what do these verses teach us about the heart and its relationship to our internal and external condition?**
 - a. Jeremiah 17:9-10
 - b. Ezekiel 36:26-27
 - c. Hebrews 10:22-25
6. **Looking at the Ezekiel and Hebrews verses above, what are some action steps you can take when dealing with wickedness in your heart?**
7. **Go Love Exercise: Someone from church comes to you and reveals a secret sin that they’ve been struggling with all year. They are afraid to talk to a pastor and their family about it in fear of what others might think. How can you go love this person?**

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER & THE MISSION OF THE WEEK

MISSION OF THE WEEK: LOVEtheLOU

LOVEtheLOU is a community development initiative that connects resources to the needs of St. Louis. During the constant process of growth and development, they strive to see St. Louis restored through transforming actions. LTL is proud of the progress in St. Louis and are excited about what will continue to happen as they grow and develop. You can find out more at lovethelou.org

CONNECT QUESTION

1. **What different answers might the world give to the question, “Who is Jesus?”**
 - a. If you want a longer explanation of how different religions view Jesus, scan the QR code to read our commentary’s description of how the world views Jesus.
2. **How has your view of Jesus changed over time?**



COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. **Our discussion today is going to focus on the identity of Jesus. We are going to look at a moment in Mark 8 when Jesus challenges His disciples with a question about His identity. Have one person read Mark 8:27-30 and encourage everyone in the group to read along in their copy of the Scriptures. What sticks out to you when you read these verses?**
2. **In week one of our Mark series, we discussed how the word Messiah comes from the Hebrew word mashiach and means “anointed one” or “chosen one.” Jesus is the chosen Savior who came to restore the world. What evidence have we seen in the book of Mark that Jesus is the Messiah?**
 - a. Thus far in the book of Mark, we’ve seen eight healing stories, four victories over the demonic, and even Jesus forgiving a man’s sins (2:5). All three examples show us that Jesus is the anointed one who came to restore a fallen world.
3. **We have arrived at the hinge point in the book of Mark. From this moment on, the Gospel will focus on what Jesus as Messiah will entail. Have one person read Mark 8:31-33 and encourage the group to read along in their copy of the Scriptures. Why was Peter rebuking Jesus?**
 - a. Jesus predicted His death at the hands of the Romans; Peter wanted a Messiah who would defeat Rome. Jesus anticipated rejection by the Jewish leaders; Peter wanted a Messiah who would bestow governmental power to the Jewish leaders.

- b.** Commentary from Commentaries: Jesus teaches service instead of domination, and sacrifice instead of conquest. This is how true salvation will be achieved and how the kingdom of God will be inaugurated. Though Peter has correctly discerned Jesus' messianic identity, he has yet to learn the suffering role of the cross.
- 4. While this type of Messiah shocked Peter, this picture of a suffering Savior was predicted 700 years previous in the book of Isaiah. Have your group turn to Isaiah 53 and read the chapter silently on their own. How does this chapter predict the future of Jesus's life?**
- 5. When discussing Christ's identity, Peter misunderstood why Jesus came and therefore put Him in a box. As Messiah, Peter wanted Jesus to overthrow Rome and restore power to the Jewish people militarily. We face that same temptation to create boxes when talking about Jesus's identity. What box are you tempted to put Jesus in?**
 - a.** For example, maybe you love the idea of Jesus as a compassionate Savior but struggle with the idea of Jesus as Judge.
- 6. Go Love Exercise: The disciples were challenged with this question, "Who do you say I am?" Let's pretend that you have the opportunity to broadcast a message to the entire world. Every person will hear what you have to say. You choose to talk about Jesus and His identity; you decide to answer the question, "Who is Jesus?" In the space below, write what you would say in your message to the listening world. After about five minutes, share your answers with your group and discuss why you wrote what you wrote.**

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER & THE MISSION OF THE WEEK

MISSION OF THE WEEK: Pioneer Bible Translators

The goal of Pioneer Bible Translators isn't just translation, but transformation. They bring people to Jesus through Bible translation and church planting, combined with discipleship, incarnational ministry, and the use of translated Scripture. Nathan and Amy work with all of PBT through the website, IT, and editing so the gospel can be shared with the world. You can find out more at pioneerbible.org.

CONNECT QUESTION

1. **Outside of faith, what areas of your life have you grown?**
 - a. For example, maybe you've grown as a cook or grown in patience with your kids.
2. **With Mark 8 behind us, we are halfway through the book of Mark! How have you seen your faith grow through this study of the second Gospel?**

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

READ TO THE GROUP: Followers of Jesus can always find room for growth. As works in progress, there will never be a season of our faith without sin and struggles. Today, we will look at a chapter in Mark filled with moments of sin and struggles by the disciples. Our text will reveal how much the disciples need to grow.

1. **Have one person read Mark 9:1-10 and encourage everyone in the group to read along in their copy of the Scriptures. Peter, James, and John have just witnessed Jesus transfigure before them in a glorified body. God speaks from a cloud and tells the disciples to listen to Jesus. What do you think God means when he uses the word "Listen"? How can that word be applied beyond just our ears?**
2. **Using your group's definition for the word listen, why is listening crucial to our spiritual growth?**
3. **Unfortunately, the next story in Mark 9 will reveal how little the disciples have listened. Have two people read Mark 9:14-18 and 28-29. Why couldn't the disciples cast out the demon? How does it relate to faith?**
 - a. Commentary From Commentaries: Their failure was not because they said the wrong words or followed the wrong ritual. Their problem was that their past successes had given them confidence in their own abilities. Jesus calls them to more prayer, that is, greater dependence on God, who alone has authority over the forces of evil. The disciples' authority to cast out demons was always mediated authority; they are Jesus' representatives acting in his power. The same is true for us today. The most powerful servant of God is the one who recognizes that "when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Cor 12:10). Doing great things for God means seeking His guidance, being led by His Spirit, and allowing His power to work through us.

4. **Have one person read Mark 9:19-27 and encourage everyone in the group to read along in their copy of the Scriptures. Looking at the earthly Father's words in verse 24, how does his posture differ from the disciples?**
 - a. The father recognizes his unbelief and goes to Jesus for help. Whereas the disciples tried to rely on their own power, the Father sought out Jesus and His power for a miracle. The disciples abandoned faith because they thought they could exorcise the demon on their own. The father stepped out in faith because he realized only Jesus could help.
5. **What would change about your life if you approached your problems with more faith? How would you grow?**
6. **We are going to look at one more moment of failure by the disciples in chapter nine, specifically pride, and how this sin can be a barrier to entering into Jesus' Kingdom. Have one person read Mark 9:30-41 and encourage everyone in the group to read along in their copy of the Scriptures. How do you see the sin of pride on display in these verses?**
 - a. In the first century's honor/shame culture, boasting was common to confirm one's social status in the community. Jesus encourages His disciples to take the lower status forgetting power and privilege. He uses children as an illustration, a group known in the culture for their insignificance and lack of social status.
7. **Go Love Exercise: You have a Christian friend who is hard on him/herself for the number of faults and failures in their faith journey. "Looking at my life, I know Jesus has to have given up on me. Look at how messy I am," they cry out to you. Looking at the posture of Jesus in the face of the disciple's failure in Mark 9, how can you go love your friend? What aspect of Christ's character would be helpful to highlight?**

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER & THE MISSION OF THE WEEK

MISSION OF THE WEEK: Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County believes that everyone deserves to have a safe and affordable place to live and raise a family. To that end, Habitat for Humanity builds more than homes; they build communities and provide educational programs and support to ensure homeownership sustainability.

CONNECT QUESTION

1. Who comes to mind when you hear the phrase “servant-hearted?” Why have they earned that title?
2. Describe a meaningful moment in the last twelve months when someone served you. Why was it meaningful for you?

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. There are many titles given to Jesus throughout Scripture. He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. In the verse we will read today, Jesus will describe himself as “Son of Man.” Have someone read Mark 10:45 and encourage everyone in the group to read along in their copy of the Scriptures. Why are Jesus’ words shocking if he is also King of Kings and Lord of Lords?
2. Today, we will look at Mark 10 through the lens of servanthood. Have a few group members read Mark 10:1-12 and encourage everyone to read along in their copy of the Scriptures. How can Jesus’ description of marriage in verses 7-9 reflect this idea of servanthood?
 - a. These verses on divorce might be challenging to read if you have ever been through a divorce or experienced a divorce within your family. Below, we have two QR codes with resources that can help you. The first QR code is an extended commentary section explaining these verses and the second QR code is an article about healing after experiencing divorce. If this is an area you need prayer in, we encourage you to reach out to your group leader or WCC’s pastoral staff.



3. Have a few group members read Mark 10:13-16 and encourage everyone to read along in their copy of the Scriptures. Our WentzvilleKidz team always needs volunteers in the preschool and elementary departments on Sunday mornings. How can a volunteer serving in a three-year-old class accomplish this command by Jesus in Mark 10:13-16? Why is it important for the next generation to know Jesus?
4. Have a few group members read Mark 10:17-31 and encourage everyone to read along in their copy of the Scriptures. Jesus talks about how difficult it is for the rich to enter into the kingdom of God. What do you think Christ means when He says this?
5. Why would serving be a faith-growing experience for the man mentioned in Mark 10:17-31? What would it teach him?
6. Have a few group members read Mark 10:35-45 and encourage everyone to read along in their copy of the Scriptures. We started today's session by looking at Mark 10:45. How does the context before verse 45 color how we interpret Jesus' words?
7. How can pride get in the way of service? Have you seen that dynamic in your life?
8. Go Love Exercise: How can these different age groups practice servanthood? Pick one suggestion to apply to your own life.
 - a. 2-5 Year Old
 - b. 5-12 Year Old
 - c. 13-18 Year Old
 - d. Young Adult
 - e. Adult
 - f. Senior Citizen

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER & THE MISSION OF THE WEEK

MISSION OF THE WEEK: Tim and Amy Maxson

The Maxsons work at Fellowship Dubai church in the Middle East and are making disciples of migrant workers and others living temporarily in Dubai, who then take the Gospel back to their home country. Learn more about Tim and the work this ministry is doing at wentzvillecc.org/missions and clicking on the BigLife-Dubai link.

UPCOMING EVENTS

KIDZ NEXT STEPS

Where Elementary kids learn more about

FAITH & BAPTISM

FEB 10 | 6:30-7:30PM

wentzvilleKidz

wentzvillecc.org/kidz

NEXT STEPS CLASS

learn about WCC beliefs,
baptism, & membership

FEB 16 > 9:45am

50+ Movie Matinee

**Feb
22**

**Free
Entry**

wentzvillecc.org/50

PRESCHOOL SINGS

SUNDAY, MARCH 2

COLLIDE CONFERENCE

WHEN THE WAY WE LIVE BUMPS INTO TRUTH

APRIL 12, 2025

**ONE-DAY
CONFERENCE**

9AM-1PM | LUNCH INCLUDED | \$20 PER PERSON
WENTZVILLECC.ORG/COLLIDE



Friday June 6th @ 7:00
Saturday June 7th @ 2:00 & 7:00

**Registration
Opens March
15 @ 9am**

wentzvillecc.org/musicals

For more information about these events and
so much more, visit wentzvillecc.org/events

"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

Go Love!



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CHRISTIAN CHURCH