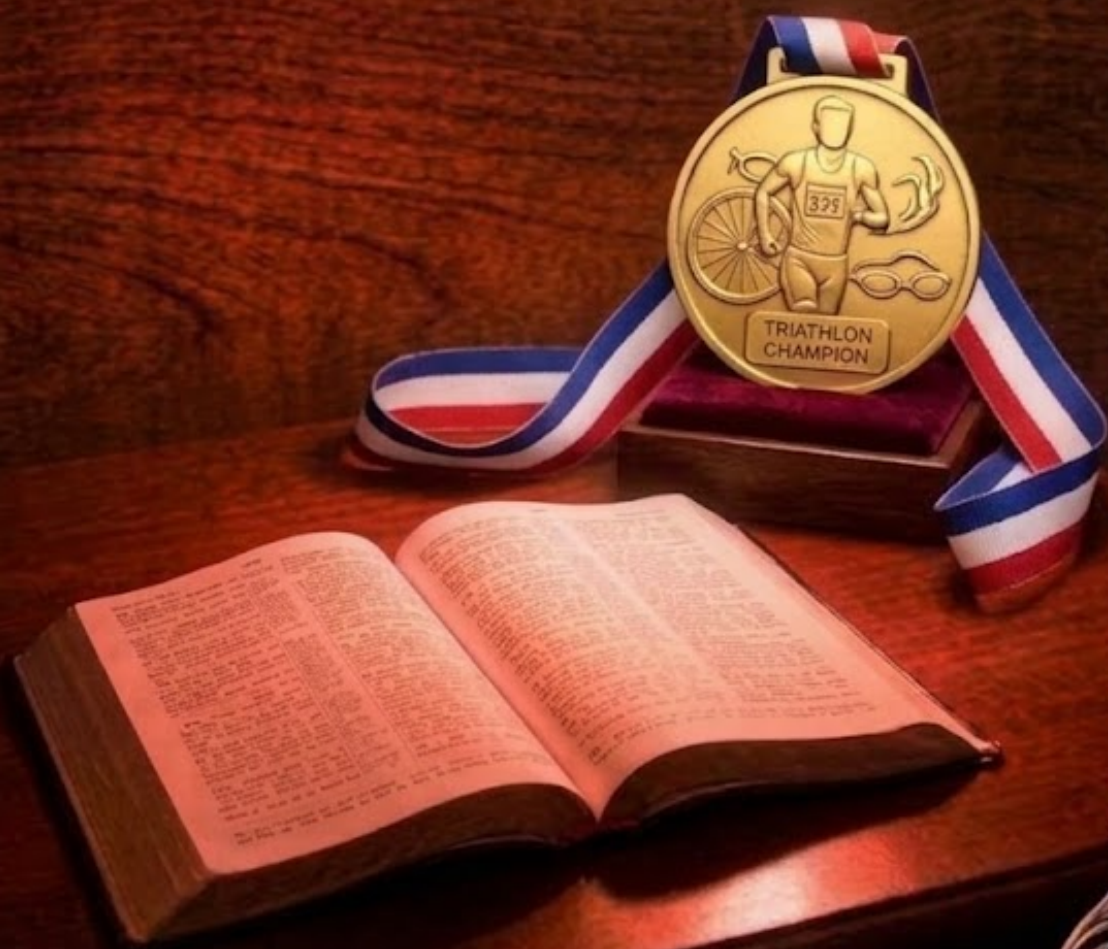


The Gospel of Mark

FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH



WELCOME

About This Book

A Christ-centered journey through the Gospel of Mark

The Gospel of Mark is a 13-session curriculum for middle school students (about 5th–8th grade) that walks through Mark’s fast-moving account of Jesus Christ, highlighting the lessons and instruction that point to Him as the Messiah and the Victorious Good News of Salvation. Each 45-minute session includes teaching, a one-page student handout, a PowerPoint slide presentation, and background notes on the history, culture, and society of Mark’s world for the teacher.

This printed book contains every session’s teacher guide and a reproducible student handout. The companion materials include 13 slide decks, 13 handout files, a companion web app with a three-question Think · Feel · Do reflection after every session, and 13 short podcast lessons.

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BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Introduction to the Gospel of Mark

Author, audience, and the book's big question

Who wrote Mark?

Early church tradition says the author was John Mark, whose mother's home in Jerusalem was a gathering place for believers (Acts 12:12). He was a cousin of Barnabas, traveled with Paul and Barnabas, left the trip partway, and was later restored (2 Timothy 4:11). Peter called him "my son" (1 Peter 5:13), and early writers say Mark recorded Peter's eyewitness preaching about Jesus. The Gospel of Mark is the story of Jesus as Peter remembered it.

Who was it written for?

Mark explains Jewish customs (7:3-4), translates Aramaic words (5:41; 15:34), and uses Latin-style words such as legion and praetorium. This suggests a largely non-Jewish, probably Roman audience. Most scholars place the writing in the 50s–60s AD, likely from Rome, when believers were facing growing pressure. Romans admired action and power, so Mark moves fast, using the word "immediately" about forty times.

What is Mark's big question?

"Who then is this?" (4:41). In the first half of the book (1:1–8:26), Jesus shows astonishing power: over sickness, evil spirits, nature, and death. At the center, Peter answers, "You are the Christ" (8:29). In the second half (8:27–16:20), Jesus teaches what kind of Messiah He is: the Suffering Servant who "did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (10:45). The book ends in victory: "He is risen!" (16:6).

What makes Mark's style special?

Mark is the shortest and most action-packed Gospel. He gives vivid eyewitness details (green grass, a pillow in the stern, a young man running away naked in the garden), shows Jesus' real emotions (compassion, anger, sorrow), and spends nearly half the book on the last week of Jesus' life. Mark also often "sandwiches" one story inside another so that the two explain each other (see 5:21-43 and 11:12-25).

THE THIRTEEN SESSIONS AT A GLANCE

#	PASSAGE	TITLE	BIG IDEA
1	Mark 1:1-20	The Good News Begins	The Good News is a Person: Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the King God promised, and He invites us to follow Him.
2	Mark 1:21-45	The Man with Authority	Jesus has complete authority over teaching, evil spirits, sickness, and even the things everyone else avoids, and He uses it with compassion.
3	Mark 2:1–3:6	Friends of Sinners	Jesus has the authority to forgive sins, and He came for people who know they need Him, not for people who think they are good enough.
4	Mark 3:7-35	The Twelve and the True Family	Jesus calls people first to be with Him and then to be sent out, and everyone who does the will of God belongs to His family.
5	Mark 4:1-41	Seeds and Storms	The Word of God is a seed that grows in a soft heart, and the One who speaks that Word is the Lord who rules the wind and waves.

#	PASSAGE	TITLE	BIG IDEA
6	Mark 5:1-43	Power over Fear, Sickness, and Death	Jesus is stronger than every enemy we fear: evil, sickness, and even death, and He invites us to trust Him and not be afraid.
7	Mark 6:1-56	Rejected, Sent, and Providing	Jesus is more than enough: when people reject Him He keeps going, when we give Him a little He does a lot, and when we are afraid He says, “It is I.”
8	Mark 7:1–8:26	What Really Makes Us Clean	God cares about the heart more than outward rules, Jesus’ mercy reaches everyone, and sometimes He opens our eyes gradually.
9	Mark 8:27–9:32	Who Do You Say That I Am?	Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, who must suffer and rise again, and following Him means trusting Him even when the road leads through a cross.
10	Mark 9:33–10:52	The Servant King	Jesus, the King, came to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many, and He calls us to follow Him by serving, trusting, and seeing clearly.
11	Mark 11:1–12:44	The King Enters Jerusalem	Jesus is the promised King who comes to His people, and what He wants most is a heart that loves God and loves others.
12	Mark 13:1–14:72	The Lamb Who Was Given	Jesus willingly went to the cross as the Passover Lamb, obeying His Father to the end, and He holds on to His disciples even when they fail Him.
13	Mark 15:1–16:20	He Is Risen!	Jesus died for our sins and rose again in victory, and now He sends us to tell the whole world the Good News.

FOR THE TEACHER

How to Use This Curriculum

A 45-minute plan, teaching tips, and sensitive-topic guidance

THE 45-MINUTE PATTERN

Every session follows the same rhythm so that students know what to expect: a **Welcome & Opening Question** (5 min), **Teaching Part 1** (10 min), a hands-on **Activity** (8 min), **Teaching Part 2** (10 min), **Discussion** (7 min), and **Think · Feel · Do & Prayer** (5 min). Adjust the timing to fit your group. If you must cut something, shorten the activity, not the Scripture.

PREPARING EACH WEEK

1. Read the passage aloud from your own NKJV Bible at least twice during the week before.
2. Read the Teacher Background Notes first. They explain the culture, history, and word meanings so you can answer questions confidently.
3. Print the one-page handout (one per student) and load the slide deck.
4. Listen to the podcast lesson. Students can also listen at home, and it makes a good review or a car-ride conversation starter.
5. Pray for each student by name.

TEACHING MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

- **Keep Jesus at the center.** Each lesson points to a Person, not just to a behavior. End every session with the question, “What does this show us about Jesus?”
- **Tell the story.** Mark is a storyteller. Use your voice, pause for effect, and let students picture the scene.
- **Welcome honest questions and doubt.** The father in Mark 9 prayed, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!” Jesus honored that prayer.
- **Make it active.** Middle schoolers learn by moving, making, and talking. The activities are designed to take 8 minutes with simple supplies.
- **Protect students.** Never ask a student to share something personal in front of the group. The Think · Feel · Do reflections are private by design.

HANDLE WITH CARE

A few passages in Mark deal with heavy subjects. Teach them truthfully, but with calm and gentle words: unclean spirits (Sessions 2, 4, 6), the death of John the Baptist (Session 7), marriage and children (Session 10), the hard sayings about sin (Session 10), and the arrest, trial, and crucifixion of Jesus (Sessions 12–13). Do not show graphic images. Always point to the hope in Christ, and let students know you are available privately if something stirs up a hard personal experience.

SESSION 1 OF 13 • TEACHER GUIDE

The Good News Begins

Mark 1:1-20 — Jesus steps onto the stage and calls ordinary people to follow Him.

BIG IDEA	The Good News is a Person: Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the King God promised, and He invites us to follow Him.
KEY VERSE Mark 1:15	<i>“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”</i>
JESUS IN THIS PASSAGE	Mark’s very first line tells us who Jesus is: the Christ (God’s promised King) and the Son of God. The Father’s voice from heaven and the Spirit coming like a dove confirm it. Everything in Mark answers one question: Who is this Man?

TEACHER BACKGROUND NOTES: CULTURE, HISTORY, AND SOCIETY

WHO WROTE MARK? Early church tradition says the writer was John Mark. We meet him in Acts 12:12, where believers were praying at his mother Mary’s house in Jerusalem. He was a cousin of Barnabas (Colossians 4:10), traveled with Paul and Barnabas, quit the trip partway (Acts 13:13), and later was restored—Paul called him “useful for ministry” (2 Timothy 4:11). Peter called him “my son” (1 Peter 5:13). Early writers say Mark wrote down the preaching of Peter, which explains the vivid eyewitness details. It is a wonderful reminder that God uses people who have failed and been restored.

WHO WAS IT WRITTEN FOR? Mark explains Jewish customs (7:3-4), translates Aramaic words (5:41; 15:34), and uses Latin-style words like “legion” and “praetorium.” That points to a non-Jewish, probably Roman, audience, and most scholars place the writing in the 50s–60s AD, likely from Rome, when believers faced growing pressure under Emperor Nero. Romans admired action and power, so Mark moves fast. He uses the word “immediately” about forty times and spends almost half his book on the final week of Jesus’ life.

THE SETTING OF CHAPTER 1. About 400 years of silence had passed since the prophet Malachi. Israel lived under Roman rule and longed for the Messiah. John the Baptist looked and sounded like Elijah (2 Kings 1:8): camel-hair clothing and a leather belt. He preached in the wilderness near the Jordan River. Baptism was already used for Gentiles who converted to Judaism; John shocked the crowds by telling Jewish people they needed to repent too. Galilee, where Jesus called His first disciples, was a busy fishing region. Fishermen were hard-working, ordinary working men, not trained rabbis. Jesus chose them on purpose.

SESSION FLOW • 45 MINUTES

MIN	SEGMENT	WHAT TO DO
5	Welcome & Opening Question	Ask: “If you could read one headline about the best news ever, what would it be?” Collect ideas on the board.
10	Meet Mark (Teaching Part 1)	Tell who Mark was, why he wrote, and read 1:1-3. Introduce the “Who is this Man?” question we’ll chase all quarter.
8	Activity: Breaking News	Small groups write a 20-second “breaking news” report announcing the arrival of the King, then perform it.

MIN	SEGMENT	WHAT TO DO
10	Baptism, Wilderness, and the Call (Teaching Part 2)	Walk through 1:9-20. Use the key verse and the Jesus connection.
7	Discussion	Use the discussion questions in small groups.
5	Think–Feel–Do & Prayer	Students complete the handout’s application box. Close in prayer.

TEACHING OUTLINE (NKJV)

The first line says it all

Mark does not start with a birth story or a long family tree. He starts with a headline: “The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God” (1:1). The word gospel means good news. In Mark’s day, a messenger would run into a city with “gospel” when a king won a great victory. Mark says the greatest victory ever won is about to be told, and it is all about one Person.

A messenger clears the road

Before a king traveled, workers would fix the road for him. God sent John the Baptist to do that for hearts. Mark quotes the prophets: “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD; make His paths straight’” (1:3). John told people to repent, which means to turn around and go God’s direction. John was humble. He said, “I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit” (1:8). He knew his job was to point to Jesus, not to himself.

Heaven opens

When Jesus is baptized, the sky is “torn open,” the Spirit comes down like a dove, and the Father speaks: “You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (1:11). Jesus had not done any miracles yet. The Father loved Him just for who He is. That is important: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are all present, and Jesus is shown to be God’s Son before the first sermon is preached.

Tested in the wilderness

Right after this, the Spirit leads Jesus into the desert where Satan tempts Him for forty days (1:12-13). Mark tells it in just two verses. Jesus is facing the enemy on our behalf. The first Adam failed in a garden; Jesus, the last Adam, wins in a wilderness. Mark adds that angels took care of Him. Even when we feel alone in a hard time, God has not forgotten us.

“Follow Me”

Jesus begins preaching: “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel” (1:15). Then He walks by the Sea of Galilee and sees fishermen: Simon, Andrew, James, and John. He says, “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men” (1:17). Mark says they left their nets “immediately.” Jesus does not choose the powerful or the polished. He calls working people, and He invites them to be with Him first. Jesus still says “Follow Me” to every one of us.

Let’s sum it up for kids

Jesus is the King, and He is also the Savior who wants friends. The Good News is that we do not have to earn God’s love. We repent (turn around), believe (trust Him), and follow (walk with Him day by day).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Mark begins with “the beginning of the gospel” instead of Jesus’ birth?
2. What does it mean to “repent”? Why is it more than just saying sorry?
3. Simon and Andrew left their nets “immediately.” What might be hard to leave behind if Jesus called you?
4. Which part of the Father’s words at the baptism (1:11) is most encouraging to you?
5. John said Someone greater was coming (1:7-8). How can you point people to Jesus this week?

SLIDE DECK OUTLINE

1. **The Gospel of Mark** — *Session 1: The Good News Begins; Mark 1:1-20*
2. **Who Was Mark?** — *John Mark, a young man in Jerusalem (Acts 12:12); Failed once, restored later (2 Timothy 4:11); Wrote Peter’s eyewitness preaching*
3. **The Big Question** — *Who is this Man?; Mark gives the first answer in verse 1: the Christ, the Son of God*
4. **Gospel = Good News** — *In Rome, a messenger announced a king’s victory; Mark announces the King’s victory over sin and death*
5. **The Messenger** — *John the Baptist: “Prepare the way of the LORD” (1:3); Humble: “He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit” (1:8)*
6. **Heaven Opens** — *Father: “You are My beloved Son” (1:11); Son: Jesus; Spirit: like a dove*
7. **Tested and Triumphant** — *40 days in the wilderness; Jesus faces Satan for us; Angels ministered to Him*
8. **“Follow Me”** — *Simon, Andrew, James, and John left their nets; Jesus calls ordinary people*
9. **Key Verse** — *“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.” (1:15)*
10. **Think – Feel – Do** — *THINK: Who is Jesus?; FEEL: How does it feel that the Father loves His Son and invites you?; DO: What will you follow Him in this week?*

THINK · FEEL · DO (PERSONAL APPLICATION QUIZ)

THINK What did you think about Jesus’ call to “Follow Me”?

FEEL How did it feel knowing God the Father is pleased with His Son and invites you to follow?

DO What is one way you will follow Jesus this week?

HANDOUT ANSWER KEY

1. Son · 2. repent · 3. dove · 4. Follow

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank You for being the Good News. Help us to turn to You, trust You, and follow You right away. Amen.

THE GOSPEL OF MARK · SESSION 1 · STUDENT HANDOUT

The Good News Begins

Mark 1:1-20

Name: _____ Date: _____

KEY VERSE · MARK 1:15

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

FILL IN THE BLANKS

WORD BANK: *dove · Follow · repent · Son*

1. Mark begins his book by calling Jesus the _____ of God.
2. John the Baptist told people to _____, which means to turn around.
3. When Jesus was baptized, the Spirit came down like a _____.
4. Jesus told the fishermen, “_____ Me.”

DIG DEEPER

1. What is one thing about Jesus that stands out to you in these 20 verses?

2. Who is someone who has pointed you to Jesus?

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

This week, read Mark 1 once more and underline every time you see the word “immediately.” Ask Jesus to help you say yes to Him right away.

THINK · FEEL · DO

THINK	What did you think about Jesus' call to “Follow Me”?
FEEL	How did it feel knowing God the Father is pleased with His Son and invites you to follow?
DO	What is one way you will follow Jesus this week?

SESSION 2 OF 13 · TEACHER GUIDE

The Man with Authority

Mark 1:21-45 — Jesus teaches with authority, frees the troubled, heals the sick, and touches the untouchable.

BIG IDEA	Jesus has complete authority over teaching, evil spirits, sickness, and even the things everyone else avoids, and He uses it with compassion.
KEY VERSE Mark 1:22	<i>“And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.”</i>
JESUS IN THIS PASSAGE	Jesus does not quote other teachers to prove a point. He speaks, and evil spirits obey, fevers leave, and leprosy is cleansed. Only God has that kind of authority, and Jesus uses it for the good of hurting people.

TEACHER BACKGROUND NOTES: CULTURE, HISTORY, AND SOCIETY

CAPERNAUM. A fishing town on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee, it became Jesus’ home base. Archaeologists have found a first-century fishing-village layout and a later synagogue built on the foundation of an older black basalt one. Peter’s house was here (1:29). Capernaum sat on a main trade road, so news traveled fast, just like Mark’s writing style.

SYNAGOGUE AND SCRIBES. On the Sabbath, synagogue leaders could invite a visiting teacher to speak. Scribes were experts in copying and explaining the Law. They taught by quoting earlier rabbis (“Rabbi so-and-so said...”). Jesus spoke directly, “Assuredly, I say to you...,” and that amazed the people. Mark places Jesus’ authority before He ever explains it.

DEMONS AND HEALING. In Mark, spirits instantly recognize Jesus and call Him “the Holy One of God” (1:24), but Jesus silences them. He does not want a testimony from evil spirits. Teachers: keep this part calm and clear. Jesus is not in a fight He might lose; one word from Him and the spirit leaves. Keep the focus on His power and care, not on dramatic details.

LEPROSY. “Leprosy” in the Bible covered several serious skin diseases (Leviticus 13–14). A person with it had to live outside the camp, tear his clothes, and cry “Unclean!” Nobody touched a leper. Jesus reaches out and touches him first, then heals him, and sends him to the priest as the Law required (Leviticus 14) so that his healing could be confirmed. Jesus did not come to break God’s law but to fulfill it.

SESSION FLOW · 45 MINUTES

MIN	SEGMENT	WHAT TO DO
5	Welcome & Opening Question	Ask: “Who is the most powerful person you know? What makes them powerful?”
10	A Day in Capernaum (Teaching Part 1)	Walk through 1:21-34. Draw a timeline of one busy Sabbath.
8	Activity: Authority Charades	Students act out who has authority (police officer, teacher, referee). Then ask: What makes Jesus’ authority different?
10	Early Morning and the Leper (Teaching Part 2)	Cover 1:35-45. Highlight prayer and compassion.
7	Discussion	Use discussion questions in small groups.
5	Think–Feel–Do & Prayer	Complete the handout’s application box. Close in prayer.

TEACHING OUTLINE (NKJV)

A different kind of teacher

On the Sabbath, Jesus goes into the synagogue in Capernaum and teaches. Mark says, “They were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes” (1:22). The scribes were smart, but they quoted other people. Jesus spoke as the One who wrote the Word. Everyone could tell the difference.

Authority over evil

Right in the middle of the meeting, a man with an unclean spirit cries out. The spirit knows who Jesus is, “the Holy One of God.” Jesus simply says, “Be quiet, and come out of him!” and the man is set free (1:25). The people ask, “What is this? A new doctrine?” They were seeing that Jesus’ words do something. Jesus is stronger than anything that hurts or scares us.

Authority over sickness

Next, Jesus goes to Peter’s house, where Peter’s mother-in-law has a fever. Jesus takes her by the hand, lifts her up, and the fever leaves (1:30-31). She immediately begins to serve. By evening, the whole town is crowded around the door, and Jesus heals many. He is not too busy, tired, or important for people in need.

Alone with the Father

Look at verse 35. “Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.” After the biggest day of ministry, Jesus does not sleep in. He goes to pray. If Jesus, the Son of God, needed time with the Father, how much more do we! When the disciples find Him, He moves on to preach in other towns, because preaching the Good News is why He came.

The man nobody touched

A man with leprosy kneels and says, “If You are willing, You can make me clean.” Mark writes that Jesus was “moved with compassion” (1:41). Then, instead of stepping back, Jesus stretches out His hand and touches him. He says, “I am willing; be cleansed.” The leprosy leaves at once. Jesus is willing. That is the heart of the Gospel: the One with all the authority is also the One with all the compassion.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What made Jesus' teaching different from the scribes' teaching?
2. Why do you think Jesus would not let the unclean spirit talk about who He was?
3. Why did Jesus get up early to pray, even after a busy day? What does that say to us?
4. Why do you think Jesus touched the man with leprosy instead of just speaking?
5. Is there something in your life you think is "too big" or "too dirty" for Jesus? What does this passage say?

SLIDE DECK OUTLINE

1. **The Man with Authority** — Session 2; Mark 1:21-45
2. **A Day in Capernaum** — Synagogue teaching; A man set free; Peter's mother-in-law healed; The whole town at the door
3. **Teaching with Authority** — Scribes: "Rabbi said..."; Jesus: "I say to you..."; Key verse: Mark 1:22
4. **Authority over Evil** — The spirit knew Jesus; Jesus: "Be quiet, and come out!"; No struggle, only a word
5. **Authority over Sickness** — Jesus took her by the hand; The fever left; She served
6. **Alone with God** — Before daylight, a solitary place; Jesus prayed; Then He moved on to preach
7. **The Leper** — Unclean and alone; Jesus was moved with compassion; He touched him; "I am willing; be cleansed."
8. **Jesus: Power and Compassion** — The One with all authority; Is willing to help you
9. **Think – Feel – Do** — *THINK: What amazes you about Jesus?; FEEL: How does it feel that He is willing?; DO: What will you bring to Him this week?*

THINK · FEEL · DO (PERSONAL APPLICATION QUIZ)

THINK What did you think was the most amazing thing Jesus did in this passage?

FEEL How did it feel to know that Jesus is willing to help and not afraid to touch the hurting?

DO What is one thing you will bring to Jesus in prayer this week?

HANDOUT ANSWER KEY

1. authority · 2. fever · 3. pray · 4. compassion

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You have all authority and You are willing to help. Teach us to come to You in prayer and to trust Your good heart. Amen.

THE GOSPEL OF MARK · SESSION 2 · STUDENT HANDOUT

The Man with Authority

Mark 1:21-45

Name: _____ Date: _____

KEY VERSE · MARK 1:22

“And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.”

FILL IN THE BLANKS

WORD BANK: *authority · compassion · fever · pray*

1. Jesus taught as one having _____.
2. Jesus healed Peter’s mother-in-law of a _____.
3. Jesus went to a solitary place to _____.
4. Jesus was moved with _____ and touched the man with leprosy.

DIG DEEPER

1. Which power of Jesus (teaching, healing, freeing, cleansing) means the most to you? Why?

2. Where could you find a quiet place to pray this week?

THIS WEEK’S CHALLENGE

Set aside five minutes each morning this week to be alone with God, like Jesus did. Read one verse from Mark and thank Jesus for being willing to help.

THINK · FEEL · DO

THINK

What did you think was the most amazing thing Jesus did in this passage?

FEEL

How did it feel to know that Jesus is willing to help and not afraid to touch the hurting?

DO

What is one thing you will bring to Jesus in prayer this week?

SESSION 3 OF 13 · TEACHER GUIDE

Friends of Sinners

Mark 2:1–3:6 — Jesus forgives sins, eats with the outcasts, and is Lord of the Sabbath.

BIG IDEA	Jesus has the authority to forgive sins, and He came for people who know they need Him, not for people who think they are good enough.
KEY VERSE Mark 2:17	<i>When Jesus heard it, He said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”</i>
JESUS IN THIS PASSAGE	Only God can forgive sins, and Jesus does it with a word. He also calls Himself “Lord of the Sabbath,” a claim only God can make. The religious leaders see that and begin to plot against Him.

TEACHER BACKGROUND NOTES: CULTURE, HISTORY, AND SOCIETY

HOUSES AND ROOFS. A typical Galilean house had a flat roof made of wooden beams covered with branches, mud, and clay, reached by an outside staircase. Four friends could dig through it and lower a mat bed with ropes. Imagine the dust falling on the crowd, and Jesus, who never complains! Some believe this was Peter’s house in Capernaum.

SCRIBES AND SIN. The scribes in the room said, “Who can forgive sins but God alone?” (2:7). They were exactly right about that. Their mistake was not seeing that God was standing in front of them. Jesus healed the paralyzed man as visible proof of what He could do invisibly—forgive.

TAX COLLECTORS. Levi (also called Matthew) collected taxes for Rome. Tax collectors bid for the job, paid Rome up front, and then charged people extra to make a profit. Jews saw them as traitors and thieves. Levi’s feast included other “sinners,” a name for people who did not keep the Pharisees’ standards. Eating together meant friendship, so Jesus eating with them shocked the Pharisees.

FASTING AND SABBATH. Pharisees fasted twice a week (Luke 18:12) and had built extra man-made rules around the Sabbath (to rest, Exodus 20:8-11). Picking grain while walking was allowed by Deuteronomy 23:25, but the Pharisees called it “work.” Jesus cites David (1 Samuel 21) and says the Sabbath was a gift for people. In 3:1-6, a man with a withered hand is healed in the synagogue, and the Pharisees leave to plot with the Herodians, a political group they usually opposed. Mark is showing us the first shadow of the cross.

SESSION FLOW · 45 MINUTES

MIN	SEGMENT	WHAT TO DO
5	Welcome & Opening Question	Ask: “What is the best thing a friend has ever done for you?”
10	Four Friends and a Roof (Teaching Part 1)	Teach 2:1-12 with a quick roof-lowering demonstration (a small cardboard house with a hole and a toy on a string).
8	Activity: Who’s at the Table?	Set a table in the room. Students write names of people others avoid and place them “at the table.” Discuss how Jesus responds.
10	Levi’s Party and Lord of the Sabbath (Teaching Part 2)	Cover 2:13–3:6. Emphasize that Jesus is for the sick, not the self-righteous.

MIN	SEGMENT	WHAT TO DO
7	Discussion	Use discussion questions.
5	Think–Feel–Do & Prayer	Handout application box and closing prayer.

TEACHING OUTLINE (NKJV)

Four friends who would not give up

A crowd packs the house, and four men carry their paralyzed friend to Jesus but cannot get through the door. So they climb up, dig through the roof, and lower him down. Mark says, “When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven you’” (2:5). Jesus looks at the man’s biggest need first. His legs needed healing, but his heart needed forgiveness more.

Who can forgive sins?

Some scribes think, “This is blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins.” They were right that only God can. Jesus knows their thoughts and asks which is easier to say: “Your sins are forgiven” or “Get up and walk.” Then He proves it: He tells the man to rise, take up his bed, and go home. The man gets up in front of everybody. Jesus is God, and He has the power to forgive.

A party with the wrong people

Next Jesus sees Levi, a tax collector, sitting at his booth. Jesus says two words: “Follow Me.” Levi gets up and follows. Then Levi throws a big dinner, and Jesus sits at the table with tax collectors and sinners. The Pharisees complain. Jesus answers, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance” (2:17). If we think we are good enough on our own, we will miss Jesus. If we know we need Him, He welcomes us.

New wine, new wineskins

People ask why Jesus’ disciples are not fasting like the Pharisees. Jesus says a wedding guest does not fast while the bridegroom is with him. He is the Bridegroom! He also says you do not pour new wine into old wineskins. In plain words, Jesus is bringing something new that old rules cannot hold.

Lord of the Sabbath

On the Sabbath, the disciples pick grain. The Pharisees object. Jesus says, “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath” (2:27-28). God made rest as a gift, not a burden. In chapter 3, Jesus heals a man’s withered hand on the Sabbath even though the Pharisees are watching Him. He is “grieved by the hardness of their hearts.” The Pharisees leave and plot to destroy Him. Mark shows us from early on that Jesus is heading to the cross.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you think made the four friends so determined to get their friend to Jesus?
2. Why did Jesus forgive the man’s sins before healing his legs?
3. Why did the Pharisees get upset that Jesus ate with tax collectors? How did Jesus answer?
4. What is the difference between a rule that helps and a rule that hurts?
5. Who is a friend you could “carry” to Jesus by praying for or inviting?

SLIDE DECK OUTLINE

1. **Friends of Sinners** — Session 3; Mark 2:1–3:6

2. **A Crowded House** — *Four friends and a paralyzed man; They dug through the roof!*
3. **Forgiveness First** — *“Son, your sins are forgiven you.”; Only God can forgive sins; Jesus is God*
4. **Levi’s Party** — *A tax collector follows Jesus; Jesus eats with sinners*
5. **The Great Physician** — *“I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.” (2:17)*
6. **New Wine** — *Jesus is the Bridegroom; He brings something new*
7. **Lord of the Sabbath** — *Rest is a gift; Jesus heals on the Sabbath*
8. **The Shadow of the Cross** — *Pharisees plot to destroy Him; Jesus keeps loving anyway*
9. **Think – Feel – Do** — *THINK: Do I know I need Jesus?; FEEL: How does His welcome feel?; DO: Who will I carry to Him?*

THINK · FEEL · DO (PERSONAL APPLICATION QUIZ)

THINK What did you think about Jesus forgiving the man’s sins before healing him?

FEEL How did it feel to see Jesus welcome people others avoided?

DO Who will you pray for or invite so they can meet Jesus this week?

HANDOUT ANSWER KEY

1. roof · 2. sins · 3. tax · 4. Sabbath

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank You for forgiving our sins and welcoming us. Help us carry our friends to You. Amen.

THE GOSPEL OF MARK · SESSION 3 · STUDENT HANDOUT

Friends of Sinners

Mark 2:1–3:6

Name: _____ Date: _____

KEY VERSE · MARK 2:17

When Jesus heard it, He said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”

FILL IN THE BLANKS

WORD BANK: *roof · Sabbath · sins · tax*

1. The paralyzed man’s friends lowered him through the _____.
2. Jesus said, “Son, your _____ are forgiven you.”
3. Levi was a _____ collector who followed Jesus.
4. Jesus is Lord of the _____.

DIG DEEPER

1. Which character in the story do you relate to most: the paralyzed man, a friend, Levi, or a Pharisee? Why?

2. Who needs a friend like the four who carried the man?

THIS WEEK’S CHALLENGE

This week, pray for one friend by name every day and invite them to something where they can hear about Jesus.

THINK · FEEL · DO

THINK

What did you think about Jesus forgiving the man’s sins before healing him?

FEEL

How did it feel to see Jesus welcome people others avoided?

DO

Who will you pray for or invite so they can meet Jesus this week?

SESSION 4 OF 13 · TEACHER GUIDE

The Twelve and the True Family

Mark 3:7-35 — Jesus appoints twelve to be with Him, faces opposition, and makes a new family of those who do God's will.

BIG IDEA	Jesus calls people first to be with Him and then to be sent out, and everyone who does the will of God belongs to His family.
KEY VERSE Mark 3:35	<i>“For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and My mother.”</i>
JESUS IN THIS PASSAGE	Jesus chooses twelve ordinary men, shows He is stronger than Satan, and warns that rejecting the Spirit's witness to Him is the most serious sin of all. He then welcomes anyone who does God's will into His own family.

TEACHER BACKGROUND NOTES: CULTURE, HISTORY, AND SOCIETY

THE CROWDS. People came from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea (south), beyond the Jordan, and Tyre and Sidon (north, on the Mediterranean coast). That is a very wide area. Jesus asked for a small boat to be ready so the crowd would not crush Him. Jesus' fame spread because of what He did, not because of any marketing.

THE TWELVE. Twelve matches the twelve tribes of Israel, showing that Jesus is forming a renewed people of God. They were mostly Galilean working men: fishermen, a tax collector (Matthew/Levi), and a Zealot (Simon, likely from a group opposed to Rome). Mark says they were chosen “that they might be with Him and that He might send them out” (3:14). Being with Jesus always comes before doing for Jesus. “Boanerges,” “Sons of Thunder,” was the nickname for James and John.

BEELZEBUL. The scribes from Jerusalem said Jesus worked by the power of Beelzebul (a name for Satan). They could not deny the miracles, so they twisted them. Jesus responds with logic: a kingdom divided against itself cannot stand. He then tells a short parable of a strong man whose house is robbed; the point is that Jesus has bound the strong man (Satan) and is rescuing people. The “unforgivable sin” (3:28-30) is stubbornly calling the Holy Spirit's work evil and refusing Christ. Younger students often worry about this. Reassure them: a person who is troubled about it and wants to come to Jesus is not guilty of it. The sin is a hard heart that keeps saying no.

HIS FAMILY. His family thought He was “out of His mind” (3:21) and came to take charge of Him. Mary and His brothers arrived and stood outside. In the ancient world, family was everything: your identity, your safety, your inheritance. When Jesus says that His true family are those who do God's will, He is not dishonoring His mother (He cares for her from the cross, John 19:26-27). He is opening the door of His family to everyone.

SESSION FLOW · 45 MINUTES

MIN	SEGMENT	WHAT TO DO
5	Welcome & Opening Question	Ask: “What does it mean to belong to a family or a team?”
10	Chosen to Be With Him (Teaching Part 1)	Teach 3:7-19. Write the twelve names on cards and let students find them in the text.
8	Activity: Strong Man Rescue	A simple game: one “strong man” guards a treasure (a bag of candy) and a student “stronger than he” ties him up in a cooperative relay. Debrief: Jesus is stronger than Satan.
10	Opposition and Family (Teaching Part 2)	Cover 3:20-35. Share the reassurance about the unforgivable sin.
7	Discussion	Use discussion questions.
5	Think–Feel–Do & Prayer	Application box and closing prayer.

TEACHING OUTLINE (NKJV)

Crowds and a boat

So many people want to touch Jesus that He asks His disciples to keep a small boat ready (3:9). Even evil spirits fall down before Him and say, “You are the Son of God!” and He silences them. Jesus does not need spirits to introduce Him.

Chosen to be with Him

Jesus goes up on a mountain, calls those He wants, and appoints twelve: Simon (whom He names Peter), James, John, Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot. Mark tells us why: “that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach” (3:14). Notice the order. First with Him, then sent out for Him. Jesus wants our friendship before He wants our work.

A house divided

Scribes from Jerusalem say that Jesus casts out demons by the power of the prince of demons. Jesus asks, “How can Satan cast out Satan?” A kingdom divided cannot stand. Then He explains that no one can rob a strong man’s house unless he first ties up the strong man. Jesus is the One who is stronger. He has come to set people free.

A serious warning

Jesus gives a serious warning about calling the work of the Holy Spirit evil. Do not be afraid if you are worried you have done this. This is about a heart that hardens and keeps refusing Jesus. If you want Jesus, you are not too far gone. His arms are open.

A new family

Then Jesus’ mother and brothers come and stand outside, calling for Him. The crowd says, “Your mother and Your brothers are outside seeking You.” Jesus looks at those sitting around Him and says, “Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and My mother” (3:34-35). Jesus is not pushing away His family. He is showing us that anyone, from anywhere, can be part of His family by trusting Him and following Him. No matter what your home is like, you can belong to God’s family.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Jesus chose twelve ordinary men instead of famous leaders?
2. What does “with Him” mean? How can you spend time “with Jesus” this week?
3. How did Jesus answer the accusation that He worked for Satan?
4. Why does Jesus’ welcome of everyone into His family matter for people who feel left out?
5. What does “doing the will of God” look like in a middle schooler’s week?

SLIDE DECK OUTLINE

1. **The Twelve and the True Family** — *Session 4; Mark 3:7-35*
2. **Crowds Everywhere** — *From all over the region; A boat ready for Jesus*
3. **Chosen** — *Twelve apostles; “that they might be with Him”*
4. **The Twelve** — *Peter, James, John, Andrew; Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas; James, Thaddaeus, Simon, Judas*
5. **Stronger Than Satan** — *“How can Satan cast out Satan?”; Jesus ties up the strong man*
6. **A Serious Warning** — *A hard heart that keeps refusing Jesus; If you want Jesus, His arms are open*
7. **His True Family** — *Mother and brothers outside; “Whoever does the will of God...” (3:35)*
8. **Think – Feel – Do** — *THINK: What does belonging to Jesus mean?; FEEL: How does it feel to be welcomed?; DO: Who can I welcome this week?*

THINK · FEEL · DO (PERSONAL APPLICATION QUIZ)

THINK What did you think about Jesus choosing the twelve “to be with Him”?

FEEL How did it feel to hear that anyone who does God’s will is in Jesus’ family?

DO Who will you welcome or include this week?

HANDOUT ANSWER KEY

1. twelve · 2. Satan · 3. stand · 4. will

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank You for welcoming us into Your family. Help us be with You and to welcome others. Amen.

THE GOSPEL OF MARK · SESSION 4 · STUDENT HANDOUT

The Twelve and the True Family

Mark 3:7-35

Name: _____ Date: _____

KEY VERSE · MARK 3:35

“For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and My mother.”

FILL IN THE BLANKS

WORD BANK: *Satan · stand · twelve · will*

1. Jesus appointed _____ men to be with Him.
2. Jesus is stronger than _____, the strong man.
3. A kingdom divided against itself cannot _____.
4. Whoever does the _____ of God is My brother and sister and mother.

DIG DEEPER

1. Which of the twelve names do you know the most about? What stands out?

2. How can you be “with Jesus” before you try to do things for Him?

THIS WEEK’S CHALLENGE

Welcome someone who feels left out at school or church this week, just as Jesus welcomes people into His family.

THINK · FEEL · DO

THINK

What did you think about Jesus choosing the twelve “to be with Him”?

FEEL

How did it feel to hear that anyone who does God’s will is in Jesus’ family?

DO

Who will you welcome or include this week?

SESSION 5 OF 13 · TEACHER GUIDE

Seeds and Storms

Mark 4:1-41 — Jesus teaches in parables about the Word, then calms the storm with a word.

BIG IDEA	The Word of God is a seed that grows in a soft heart, and the One who speaks that Word is the Lord who rules the wind and waves.
KEY VERSE Mark 4:39	<i>Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace, be still!” And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.</i>
JESUS IN THIS PASSAGE	In the parables Jesus is the Sower who spreads God’s Word. In the storm, the disciples ask the question Mark has been building toward: “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!” Only God commands the sea (Psalm 107:29; Psalm 65:7).

TEACHER BACKGROUND NOTES: CULTURE, HISTORY, AND SOCIETY

PARABLES. A parable is a short story from everyday life that carries a spiritual truth. Jesus told them so that people with open hearts would understand and people with hard hearts would be left with their own choice (4:11-12, echoing Isaiah 6:9-10). Students often think a parable is meant to simplify; Jesus’ parables both reveal and test.

FARMING IN GALILEE. Farmers scattered seed by hand before plowing. Some fell on the hard-packed footpath between fields, some on thin soil over limestone rock, some among thorn seeds that were already in the ground, and some on good soil. A thirty-, sixty-, or hundredfold harvest (4:8) would be extraordinary; a normal yield might be seven- to tenfold. Jesus’ audience would have laughed with delight at the picture of such abundance.

MUSTARD SEED. The black mustard seed was proverbially the smallest seed a farmer planted, yet the plant could grow ten feet tall, tall enough for birds to nest in. God’s kingdom starts small and grows large.

THE SEA OF GALILEE. About 13 miles long and 8 miles wide, it lies about 700 feet below sea level and is surrounded by hills. Cold air rushing down from the hills over the warm lake can cause sudden violent storms. Several of the disciples were experienced fishermen; if they were terrified, it was a serious storm. Jesus was asleep “on a pillow” in the stern, the cushion used by the helmsman. Mark pictures His real humanity: He was tired. Yet He rebuked the wind like He rebuked unclean spirits, showing He is also fully God.

SESSION FLOW · 45 MINUTES

MIN	SEGMENT	WHAT TO DO
5	Welcome & Opening Question	Ask: “What is the smallest thing that has grown into something huge?” (Acorn/oak, etc.)
10	The Sower (Teaching Part 1)	Teach 4:1-20 with four small cups of soil: path (hard clay), rocky, thorny, and good potting soil.
8	Activity: Soil Check	Students plant a bean seed in a cup and write one thing they will do to keep their heart ‘soft’ (read, pray, obey, listen).
10	Light, Seeds, and the Storm (Teaching Part 2)	Cover 4:21-41. Use a bowl of water and a fan or breath to show a ‘storm,’ then calm it with a hand.
7	Discussion	Use discussion questions.

MIN	SEGMENT	WHAT TO DO
5	Think–Feel–Do & Prayer	Application box and closing prayer.

TEACHING OUTLINE (NKJV)

The Sower and the seed

Jesus is teaching by the lake, and the crowd is so big He gets into a boat. He tells a story: a farmer scatters seed. Some falls on the path and birds eat it. Some falls on rocky ground and grows fast, but has no root and withers in the sun. Some falls among thorns and gets choked. But some falls on good ground and produces “some thirtyfold, some sixtyfold, and some a hundredfold” (4:20).

What the soils mean

Jesus explains it to His disciples. The seed is the Word of God. The path is a hard heart where Satan snatches the Word. The rocky ground is someone who is excited for a moment but gives up when trouble comes. The thorns are worries and the love of stuff that choke the Word. The good ground is a heart that hears the Word, accepts it, and bears fruit. The challenge is for us to ask, “What kind of soil am I?” The good news is that soil can change. God can break up hard hearts and pull weeds.

Little lamp, little seed

Jesus asks, “Is a lamp brought to be put under a basket?” A lamp is meant to shine. Then He tells about a seed that grows while the farmer sleeps, and a mustard seed, the tiniest seed that becomes a big plant. God’s kingdom may begin small in your life, but it will grow. Don’t despise small beginnings.

A furious storm

That evening Jesus says, “Let us cross over to the other side.” A great windstorm comes up, and waves crash into the boat until it is nearly full. And where is Jesus? Asleep on a pillow in the back. The disciples wake Him: “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?” Have you ever felt like that, as if Jesus did not care?

Peace, be still

Jesus gets up, rebukes the wind, and says to the sea, “Peace, be still!” The wind stops and there is a great calm (4:39). Then He asks, “Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?” Mark says they “feared exceedingly” and asked, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!” (4:41). That is the question of the whole book, and by the end, we get the answer. Notice that Jesus said, “Let us cross over.” He never promised that they would not face a storm. He promised they would get to the other side. If Jesus is in the boat of your life, you can trust Him in the storm.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Which kind of soil do you think is hardest for the Word to grow in today’s world? Why?
2. How can a person “soften” their heart? What does Jesus say in 4:20?
3. Why do you think Jesus was asleep in the boat?
4. The disciples were afraid even though Jesus was with them. When do you feel afraid?
5. What does it mean that wind and sea “obey Him”? What does that tell us about who Jesus is?

SLIDE DECK OUTLINE

1. **Seeds and Storms** — Session 5; Mark 4:1-41
2. **A Story about a Farmer** — Seed on path, rock, thorns, good soil; The seed is God’s Word
3. **Four Soils** — Hard path: doesn’t listen; Rocky: no roots; Thorny: worries choke it; Good: hears, accepts, bears fruit

4. **Kingdom Seeds** — *Lamp on a stand; Seed that grows by itself; Mustard seed: small beginnings, big result*
5. **A Furious Storm** — *“Let us cross over to the other side.”; Waves filled the boat; Jesus is asleep*
6. **“Teacher, do You not care?”** — *Fear is real; Jesus is in the boat*
7. **Peace, Be Still** — *Jesus speaks to wind and sea; A great calm; Key verse: Mark 4:39*
8. **Who Then Is This?** — *Only God commands the sea (Psalm 107); Mark’s big question continues*
9. **Think – Feel – Do** — *THINK: What kind of soil am I?; FEEL: What storm do I feel?; DO: How will I trust Jesus?*

THINK · FEEL · DO (PERSONAL APPLICATION QUIZ)

THINK What did you think about the four kinds of soil? Which sounds most like you?

FEEL How did it feel to hear that Jesus is in the boat with you during a storm?

DO What is one way you will keep your heart ‘soft’ and trust Jesus this week?

HANDOUT ANSWER KEY

1. Word · 2. smallest · 3. asleep · 4. still

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, make our hearts good soil for Your Word. When storms come, help us remember You are in the boat. Amen.

THE GOSPEL OF MARK · SESSION 5 · STUDENT HANDOUT

Seeds and Storms

Mark 4:1-41

Name: _____ Date: _____

KEY VERSE · MARK 4:39

Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.

FILL IN THE BLANKS

WORD BANK: *asleep · smallest · still · Word*

1. The seed in the parable is the _____ of God.
2. The mustard seed is the _____ seed that grows large.
3. Jesus was _____ on a pillow in the boat.
4. Jesus said to the sea, "Peace, be _____!"

DIG DEEPER

1. Which soil describes your heart right now: path, rocks, thorns, or good ground? What would help it grow?

2. What "storm" are you in right now? How can you remember that Jesus is in the boat?

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

This week, read a short passage in Mark each day and ask, "What is Jesus saying to me?" Then do one thing He says.

THINK · FEEL · DO

THINK

What did you think about the four kinds of soil? Which sounds most like you?

FEEL

How did it feel to hear that Jesus is in the boat with you during a storm?

DO

What is one way you will keep your heart 'soft' and trust Jesus this week?

SESSION 6 OF 13 • TEACHER GUIDE

Power over Fear, Sickness, and Death

Mark 5:1-43 — Jesus rescues a tormented man, heals a suffering woman, and raises a little girl.

BIG IDEA	Jesus is stronger than every enemy we fear: evil, sickness, and even death, and He invites us to trust Him and not be afraid.
KEY VERSE Mark 5:36	<i>As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, “Do not be afraid; only believe.”</i>
JESUS IN THIS PASSAGE	In one chapter Jesus defeats a legion of unclean spirits, heals a woman nobody could heal, and raises a dead girl. He is Lord over the spiritual world, sickness, and death, and He does it with tender compassion.

TEACHER BACKGROUND NOTES: CULTURE, HISTORY, AND SOCIETY

THE GERASENES. This region across the lake was in the Decapolis, a group of ten mostly Gentile (non-Jewish) cities. Pigs were unclean for Jews, so a large herd tells us this was a Gentile area. Tombs were considered unclean too; the man lived among them, a picture of total isolation. “Legion” was a Roman army unit of up to 6,000 soldiers; the man’s torment was heavy and complex. After his rescue, the people asked Jesus to leave (they were more afraid of loss than glad of healing), but the man became the first missionary to the Decapolis (5:19-20).

JAIRUS. A synagogue ruler was a respected community leader responsible for organizing worship. Jairus risked his reputation by falling at the feet of a controversial teacher. His daughter was twelve, the age at which a Jewish girl was approaching adulthood.

THE WOMAN WITH THE ISSUE OF BLOOD. Her bleeding (probably a chronic menstrual condition) made her ceremonially unclean under Leviticus 15. She could not worship, and anyone she touched became unclean. After twelve years and many doctors, she had spent everything and was worse (5:26). She tried to touch Jesus’ clothes in secret. Jesus did not let her slip away; He wanted to meet her face to face and restore her publicly. He called her “Daughter,” the only time in the Gospels He addresses someone this way. Her healing was also her restoration into the community.

“TALITHA, CUMI.” Aramaic was the everyday language of Jesus. Mark (writing for Romans) keeps the original words and translates them, which suggests that Peter, who was in the room (5:37), remembered the exact sounds and passed them on. Notice that Jesus took only three disciples (Peter, James, John) and the parents.

SESSION FLOW • 45 MINUTES

MIN	SEGMENT	WHAT TO DO
5	Welcome & Opening Question	Ask: “What are you most afraid of? What helps when you are scared?”
10	Legion and the Lake (Teaching Part 1)	Teach 5:1-20. Keep the tone calm; focus on the man’s freedom and testimony.
8	Activity: Tell Your Story	In pairs, students practice telling a three-sentence testimony: Before, Jesus, Now. Compare with the freed man.

MIN	SEGMENT	WHAT TO DO
10	Two Daughters (Teaching Part 2)	Teach 5:21-43. Emphasize that Jesus stops for one hurting person.
7	Discussion	Use discussion questions.
5	Think–Feel–Do & Prayer	Application box and closing prayer.

TEACHING OUTLINE (NKJV)

The man nobody could help

The boat crosses the lake and Jesus steps out into a non-Jewish land. A man with unclean spirits lives among the tombs. No chains could hold him, and no one could help him. But when he sees Jesus, he runs and kneels. Jesus commands the spirits to leave, and they do. Later the villagers find the man “sitting and clothed and in his right mind” (5:15). He is calm, dressed, and ready to learn.

The first missionary

The man begs to go with Jesus, but Jesus says, “Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you” (5:19). He goes and tells everyone in the ten cities. You don’t need a degree to tell your story. You only need to say what Jesus has done for you.

A father’s desperate plea

Back across the lake, Jairus, a leader of the synagogue, falls at Jesus’ feet. “My little daughter lies at the point of death. Come and lay Your hands on her.” Jesus goes with him, but a big crowd is pressing in.

A woman in the crowd

In that crowd is a woman who has been bleeding for twelve years. She had spent everything on doctors and only got worse. She thinks, “If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well.” She touches Him, and immediately she is healed. Jesus stops and asks, “Who touched My clothes?” She comes trembling and tells Him the whole truth. He says, “Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction” (5:34). Jesus did not want her to sneak away. He wanted her to know she was seen and loved.

Do not be afraid; only believe

While Jesus is still talking, messengers tell Jairus, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?” Jesus hears it and says, “Do not be afraid; only believe” (5:36). At the house, people are crying and some laugh at Jesus. He sends them out, takes the girl by the hand, and says, “Talitha, cumi,” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise.” She gets up and walks, and Jesus tells them to give her something to eat. Jesus cares about the big things, like raising the dead, and the little things, like lunch. Even death must obey Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you think it felt like for the man in the tombs to be free?
2. Why do you think Jesus told the man to go home and tell his story?
3. Why did Jesus stop for the woman even though He was on His way to a dying girl?
4. What is the difference between being afraid and not believing? What does Jesus say?
5. Which of the three people (the man, the woman, or Jairus) do you most relate to?

SLIDE DECK OUTLINE

1. **Power over Fear, Sickness, and Death** — Session 6; Mark 5:1-43

2. **The Man in the Tombs** — *Across the lake in Gentile land; Jesus frees him; In his right mind*
3. **Go and Tell** — *“Tell them what great things the Lord has done for you.”; The first missionary to the Decapolis*
4. **Jairus’s Request** — *A leader falls at Jesus’ feet; His daughter is dying*
5. **The Woman Who Touched** — *12 years of suffering; “If only I may touch His clothes”; “Daughter, your faith has made you well.”*
6. **Bad News** — *“Your daughter is dead.”; “Do not be afraid; only believe.” (5:36)*
7. **Talitha Cumi** — *Jesus takes her hand; “Little girl, I say to you, arise.”; Give her something to eat!*
8. **Lord of All** — *Evil, sickness, death; All must obey Him*
9. **Think – Feel – Do** — *THINK: What fear do I have?; FEEL: How does Jesus’ care feel?; DO: Who will I tell?*

THINK · FEEL · DO (PERSONAL APPLICATION QUIZ)

THINK What did you think about Jesus stopping for one hurting woman on His way to a dying girl?

FEEL How did it feel to hear Jesus say, “Do not be afraid; only believe”?

DO Who will you tell this week about what Jesus has done for you?

HANDOUT ANSWER KEY

1. Lord · 2. twelve · 3. Daughter · 4. believe

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You are stronger than anything we fear. Help us to trust You and tell others what You have done for us. Amen.

THE GOSPEL OF MARK · SESSION 6 · STUDENT HANDOUT

Power over Fear, Sickness, and Death

Mark 5:1-43

Name: _____ Date: _____

KEY VERSE · MARK 5:36

As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, “Do not be afraid; only believe.”

FILL IN THE BLANKS

WORD BANK: *believe · Daughter · Lord · twelve*

1. Jesus told the healed man to go home and tell what great things the _____ has done.
2. The woman had been sick for _____ years.
3. Jesus called her “_____.”
4. Jesus said, “Do not be afraid; only _____.”

DIG DEEPER

1. What is one thing Jesus has done for you that you can share with someone?

2. What fear do you need to hand over to Jesus right now?

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Tell one person this week what Jesus has done for you. Keep it short: Before, Jesus, Now.

THINK · FEEL · DO

THINK*What did you think about Jesus stopping for one hurting woman on His way to a dying girl?*

FEEL*How did it feel to hear Jesus say, “Do not be afraid; only believe”?*

DO*Who will you tell this week about what Jesus has done for you?*

SESSION 7 OF 13 · TEACHER GUIDE

Rejected, Sent, and Providing

Mark 6:1-56 — Jesus is rejected at home, sends out the twelve, feeds five thousand, and walks on the sea.

BIG IDEA

Jesus is more than enough: when people reject Him He keeps going, when we give Him a little He does a lot, and when we are afraid He says, “It is I.”

KEY VERSE
Mark 6:50

“Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.”

JESUS IN THIS PASSAGE

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who feeds His flock and the Lord who walks on the sea, echoing Job 9:8 and Psalm 77:19. Mark even says He “would have passed them by,” just as God passed by Moses and Elijah, showing His glory.

TEACHER BACKGROUND NOTES: CULTURE, HISTORY, AND SOCIETY

NAZARETH. A small, obscure village in Galilee. The people knew Jesus as “the carpenter” (6:3); the Greek word describes a craftsman who worked in wood and stone. Calling Him “the son of Mary” may have been a mild insult, since a man was normally called the son of his father. Their familiarity blinded them. Mark says Jesus “marveled because of their unbelief.” The one time we read that Jesus was amazed at unbelief.

THE SENDING. Jesus sends the twelve out two by two, with only a staff and sandals and no bread, bag, or extra money. Two witnesses were required in Jewish law (Deuteronomy 19:15). Shaking dust off one’s feet was something a Jew did when leaving Gentile land; here it is a sign that rejecting the message has consequences.

HEROD ANTIPAS AND JOHN. Herod Antipas was a son of Herod the Great, ruler of Galilee and Perea, and not technically a king. He had married Herodias, who had been his brother Philip’s wife, which violated Leviticus 18:16. John boldly told him so and was imprisoned (according to the historian Josephus, at the fortress of Machaerus). Herodias held a grudge. At Herod’s birthday feast, her daughter danced and Herod made a rash promise. The story is violent, so share it briefly: John was killed for telling the truth. Mark places it here as a shadow of what will happen to Jesus: an unjust ruler, a weak leader, and a righteous man put to death.

FEEDING THE FIVE THOUSAND. It is the only miracle in all four Gospels. Mark says there were 5,000 men (Matthew adds that women and children were there as well). Philip says that 200 denarii (about eight months’ wages) could not buy enough. The boy’s lunch was five barley loaves (a poor person’s bread) and two small fish. Jesus has them sit in groups on the green grass, which echoes Psalm 23. Twelve baskets are left over, one for each disciple.

WALKING ON WATER. The “fourth watch” was between 3 and 6 a.m. The disciples had been rowing against the wind for hours. Jesus came to them in the middle of their struggle.

SESSION FLOW · 45 MINUTES

MIN	SEGMENT	WHAT TO DO
5	Welcome & Opening Question	Ask: “What is the best meal you’ve ever had? What is one thing that always seems to run out?”
10	Rejected and Sent (Teaching Part 1)	Teach 6:1-30 briefly, including the story of John’s courage.
8	Activity: Five Loaves	Give each group a small snack and ask them to ‘serve’ the room. Show how sharing multiplies joy. Then read 6:30-44.
10	Walking on the Water (Teaching Part 2)	Teach 6:45-56 with a diagram of the boat and the storm.
7	Discussion	Use discussion questions.
5	Think–Feel–Do & Prayer	Application box and closing prayer.

TEACHING OUTLINE (NKJV)

Hometown rejection

Jesus goes back to Nazareth and teaches in the synagogue. People are astonished, but then they say, “Isn’t this the carpenter? Don’t we know His family?” They are offended. Jesus says, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own country.” Mark says Jesus could do few miracles there because of their unbelief. Sometimes the people who know about Jesus miss Him the most. Don’t let familiarity make Jesus ordinary to you.

Sent two by two

Jesus sends out the twelve in pairs. They take no extra bread, bag, or money. They are to depend on God. They preach repentance, cast out demons, and heal many. Jesus uses ordinary people who trust Him. You don’t need to be perfect to be sent. You only need to go with Jesus.

A brave voice silenced

Then Mark tells us about King Herod and John the Baptist. John told Herod the truth, that it was wrong to take his brother’s wife. Herod arrested him, and Herodias plotted until John was killed. It is a sad and dark story. John stood for what was right and paid for it. Mark is preparing us. The same thing will happen to Jesus, a good man killed unjustly. But in both cases, God’s plan is not stopped.

Five loaves and two fish

The disciples return tired. Jesus takes them to a quiet place, but a crowd runs ahead. Mark says Jesus “was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd” (6:34). Late in the day, the disciples say, “Send them away.” Jesus says, “You give them something to eat.” All they have is five loaves and two fish. Jesus has them sit down in groups, gives thanks, breaks the bread, and gives it to the disciples to pass out. Everyone eats and is satisfied, and there are twelve baskets left. Jesus can do a lot with a little when we give Him what we have.

Walking on the sea

Jesus sends the disciples ahead in the boat while He prays on the mountain alone. In the middle of the night, He sees them straining at the oars against the wind. He walks out to them on the water. They see Him and cry out, thinking He is a ghost. But He says, “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid” (6:50). He gets into the boat and the wind stops. Mark says the disciples did not understand about the loaves because their hearts were hardened. But Jesus kept loving them anyway. Jesus sees you in your struggle, and He comes to you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think the people of Nazareth had trouble believing in Jesus?
2. Why did Jesus send the disciples out with so little?
3. What do you have that you can give to Jesus, like the boy's lunch?
4. Why did Jesus go to pray alone after the crowd was fed?
5. How does Jesus' message, "It is I; do not be afraid," help you in a storm?

SLIDE DECK OUTLINE

1. **Rejected, Sent, and Providing** — *Session 7; Mark 6:1-56*
2. **Hometown Rejection** — *"Isn't this the carpenter?"; Unbelief limited the miracles*
3. **Sent Two by Two** — *Trust God for what you need; Preach, heal, cast out*
4. **John the Baptist** — *A brave voice for truth; Killed by Herod; A shadow of the cross*
5. **Like Sheep without a Shepherd** — *Jesus saw the crowd and had compassion*
6. **Five Loaves and Two Fish** — *"You give them something to eat."; Five thousand fed; Twelve baskets left*
7. **Walking on the Water** — *Rowing against the wind; Jesus comes in the fourth watch; "It is I; do not be afraid." (6:50)*
8. **Jesus Is Enough** — *When rejected, when empty, when afraid*
9. **Think – Feel – Do** — *THINK: What can I give to Jesus?; FEEL: How does it feel that He sees my struggle?; DO: What small thing will I give?*

THINK · FEEL · DO (PERSONAL APPLICATION QUIZ)

THINK What did you think about Jesus using a small lunch to feed thousands?

FEEL How did it feel when Jesus said, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid"?

DO What small thing will you give to Jesus this week?

HANDOUT ANSWER KEY

1. carpenter · 2. two · 3. fish · 4. I

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You are more than enough. Take our small gifts and use them. When we are afraid, remind us that You are near. Amen.

THE GOSPEL OF MARK · SESSION 7 · STUDENT HANDOUT

Rejected, Sent, and Providing

Mark 6:1-56

Name: _____ Date: _____

KEY VERSE · MARK 6:50

“Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.”

FILL IN THE BLANKS

WORD BANK: *carpenter · fish · I · two*

1. The people of Nazareth called Jesus the _____.
2. Jesus sent the twelve out two by _____.
3. Jesus fed the crowd with five loaves and two _____.
4. Jesus said, “Be of good cheer! It is _____; do not be afraid.”

DIG DEEPER

1. What do you have (time, talent, something small) that you could put in Jesus’ hands?

2. What “headwind” are you rowing against, and what does Jesus say to you?

THIS WEEK’S CHALLENGE

Give Jesus one small thing this week (a prayer, a kind word, some time) and watch for what He does with it.

THINK · FEEL · DO

THINK

What did you think about Jesus using a small lunch to feed thousands?

FEEL

How did it feel when Jesus said, “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid”?

DO

What small thing will you give to Jesus this week?

SESSION 8 OF 13 · TEACHER GUIDE

What Really Makes Us Clean

Mark 7:1–8:26 — Jesus teaches about the heart, answers a mother’s faith, heals the deaf, feeds four thousand, and gives sight to a blind man.

BIG IDEA

God cares about the heart more than outward rules, Jesus’ mercy reaches everyone, and sometimes He opens our eyes gradually.

KEY VERSE
Mark 7:37

And they were beyond measure astonished, saying, “He has done all things well. He makes both the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

JESUS IN THIS PASSAGE

Jesus declares what truly defiles a person is what comes from the heart, and then He proves His kindness reaches a Gentile mother, a deaf man, a hungry crowd, and a blind man. His mercy knows no borders.

TEACHER BACKGROUND NOTES: CULTURE, HISTORY, AND SOCIETY

THE TRADITION OF THE ELDERS. The Pharisees had built traditions around God’s law, including ritual washing of hands, cups, and pots (7:3-4). Handwashing was not about germs but about religious purity. Jesus did not oppose cleanliness; He opposed putting man-made rules above God’s commands. His example is “Corban” (7:11): a person could declare property “devoted to God” so he would not have to use it to support his aging parents, which broke the fifth commandment. Mark adds that Jesus “declared all foods clean” (7:19), an important note for Gentile readers.

THE SYROPHOENICIAN WOMAN. Jesus traveled north to the region of Tyre, a Gentile area. The woman was Greek by culture and Syro-Phoenician by birth. Jesus’ word for “dogs” is the diminutive, “little dogs” or household pets, softer than the insulting term some Jews used for Gentiles. Jesus’ saying “Let the children be fed first” reflects God’s plan to bring salvation through Israel first (Romans 1:16). Her response shows great faith and humility, and Jesus rewards it. Teachers: help students see the warmth, not coldness, in the exchange.

THE DECAPOLIS AND THE DEAF MAN. Jesus returns to the mostly Gentile Decapolis. He heals a deaf man who also had a speech problem by putting His fingers in his ears, touching his tongue, looking up to heaven, sighing, and saying “Ephphatha,” Aramaic for “Be opened.” He used a method the man could understand without hearing. Isaiah 35:5-6 had predicted that when God came, the ears of the deaf would be unstopped and the tongue of the mute would sing.

LEAVEN AND THE BLIND MAN. Leaven (yeast) in the Bible often pictures how sin or false teaching spreads quietly. The Pharisees’ leaven was hypocrisy and Herod’s leaven was worldly power. Bethsaida was a fishing village; the healing of the blind man in two stages is found only in Mark, and it mirrors the disciples’ slowly opening eyes, which leads right into Peter’s confession in the next chapter.

SESSION FLOW · 45 MINUTES

MIN	SEGMENT	WHAT TO DO
5	Welcome & Opening Question	Ask: “What is the difference between looking clean and being clean?”
10	Clean on the Inside (Teaching Part 1)	Teach 7:1-23 using a cup that is shiny on the outside and dirty on the inside.
8	Activity: Open Your Ears	Play a short ‘whisper line’ game. Debrief: Jesus says ‘Be opened’ to ears, mouths, and eyes.
10	Mercy for Everyone (Teaching Part 2)	Teach 7:24–8:26 including both feedings, the leaven, and the blind man at Bethsaida.
7	Discussion	Use discussion questions.
5	Think–Feel–Do & Prayer	Application box and closing prayer.

TEACHING OUTLINE (NKJV)

Clean hands, unclean hearts

Pharisees and scribes from Jerusalem see the disciples eating without washing their hands the special way their traditions required. Jesus quotes Isaiah: “This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me.” They had added so many rules that they were actually breaking God’s commands. Then Jesus says that nothing outside a person can make him unclean, but what comes out of the heart does: evil thoughts, lies, theft, pride. We can look good on the outside and still have a heart that needs Jesus. The good news is He can give us a new heart.

A mother’s faith

Jesus goes north to a non-Jewish area. A mother comes to Him and begs Him to cast an unclean spirit out of her little daughter. Jesus says the children should be fed first, and she answers, “Even the little dogs under the table eat from the children’s crumbs.” She will not give up, and she is humble. Jesus says, “For this saying go your way; the demon has gone out of your daughter.” She goes home and finds her child well. Jesus’ mercy reaches beyond one nation. It reaches you.

Ephphatha: Be opened

In the Decapolis, friends bring a man who is deaf and can hardly speak. Jesus takes him aside, puts His fingers in his ears, touches his tongue, looks up to heaven, sighs, and says, “Ephphatha!” which means “Be opened!” Right away he hears and speaks. The people say, “He has done all things well. He makes both the deaf to hear and the mute to speak” (7:37). That is what Isaiah said God would do when He came to save His people.

Four thousand fed, and a warning

Another large crowd has been with Jesus three days and has nothing to eat. Jesus has compassion again. With seven loaves and a few fish, He feeds four thousand and there are seven large baskets left. Then the Pharisees demand a sign from heaven, though Jesus has just given many. Jesus warns the disciples about “the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod,” the way pride and hard hearts spread. The disciples think He is talking about bread! Jesus asks them to remember the baskets. He is always enough.

Two touches at Bethsaida

The last story is a quiet one. Friends bring a blind man to Jesus. Jesus leads him outside the village, spits on his eyes, lays hands on him, and asks, “Do you see anything?” The man says, “I see men like trees, walking.” So Jesus touches him again, and then he sees everything clearly. Why two touches? Mark is showing us that the disciples’ eyes are opening slowly, too. Be patient with yourself. Jesus keeps working until you see clearly.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is something people do to look good on the outside but that does not change the heart?
2. What do you think about the mother’s answer to Jesus? What does it show about her?
3. Why do you think Jesus took the deaf man aside?
4. The disciples forgot the miracles they had seen. How do we forget what God has done?
5. Why might Jesus have healed the blind man in two steps?

SLIDE DECK OUTLINE

1. **What Really Makes Us Clean** — Session 8; Mark 7:1–8:26
2. **Clean on the Outside** — Handwashing traditions; Honoring with lips but not with hearts
3. **What Comes from the Heart** — Evil thoughts, lies, pride; Jesus can give a new heart
4. **A Mother’s Faith** — Gentile woman in Tyre; “Even the little dogs eat the crumbs”; Her daughter is healed
5. **Ephphatha!** — “Be opened!”; He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak (7:37)
6. **Four Thousand Fed** — Seven loaves, seven baskets; Jesus is always enough
7. **Beware the Leaven** — Pride and hard hearts spread; Remember what Jesus has done
8. **Two Touches** — “I see men like trees, walking.”; Jesus touches again; Everything clear
9. **Think – Feel – Do** — THINK: Is my heart clean?; FEEL: How does Jesus’ mercy feel?; DO: What will I remember?

THINK · FEEL · DO (PERSONAL APPLICATION QUIZ)

THINK What did you think about Jesus saying that the heart is what matters most?

FEEL How did it feel to see Jesus show mercy to a mother who was not even Jewish?

DO What is one thing you will ask Jesus to open or clean in your life this week?

HANDOUT ANSWER KEY

1. heart · 2. dogs · 3. opened · 4. trees

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, clean our hearts and open our eyes. Thank You that Your mercy is for everyone. Amen.

THE GOSPEL OF MARK · SESSION 8 · STUDENT HANDOUT

What Really Makes Us Clean

Mark 7:1–8:26

Name: _____ Date: _____

KEY VERSE · MARK 7:37

And they were beyond measure astonished, saying, “He has done all things well. He makes both the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

FILL IN THE BLANKS

WORD BANK: *dogs · heart · opened · trees*

1. Jesus said that what comes out of the _____ makes a person unclean.
2. The woman said, “Even the little _____ under the table eat the children’s crumbs.”
3. Jesus said “Ephphatha,” which means “Be _____!”
4. The blind man first saw men like _____ walking.

DIG DEEPER

1. What is one thing in your heart you want Jesus to clean?

2. What is one thing God has done for you that you do not want to forget?

THIS WEEK’S CHALLENGE

Each night this week, write down one thing God did for you that day so you will not forget.

THINK · FEEL · DO

THINK*What did you think about Jesus saying that the heart is what matters most?*

FEEL*How did it feel to see Jesus show mercy to a mother who was not even Jewish?*

DO*What is one thing you will ask Jesus to open or clean in your life this week?*

SESSION 9 OF 13 · TEACHER GUIDE

Who Do You Say That I Am?

Mark 8:27–9:32 — Peter confesses Jesus as the Christ, Jesus explains the cross, and the Father speaks from the cloud.

BIG IDEA

Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, who must suffer and rise again, and following Him means trusting Him even when the road leads through a cross.

KEY VERSE
Mark 8:29

He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered and said to Him, “You are the Christ.”

JESUS IN THIS PASSAGE

This is the hinge of Mark. Peter says what Mark said in verse 1, Jesus is the Christ. Then Jesus begins to teach, for the first time plainly, that He will suffer, be killed, and rise on the third day. At the transfiguration, the Father confirms who Jesus is.

TEACHER BACKGROUND NOTES: CULTURE, HISTORY, AND SOCIETY

CAESAREA PHILIPPI. About 25 miles north of the Sea of Galilee, at the foot of snow-capped Mount Hermon, a spring poured out of a cave that pagans associated with the god Pan. Herod’s son Philip had rebuilt the city and named it in honor of Caesar. In a place full of idols and emperor worship, Jesus asked, “Who do you say that I am?” That setting makes Peter’s answer even bolder.

“CHRIST.” The Greek word *Christos* translates the Hebrew *Mashiach* (Messiah), “Anointed One.” Many Jews expected a political king who would defeat Rome. Peter had the right title but the wrong picture. When Jesus explained the cross, Peter took Him aside and rebuked Him, and Jesus rebuked Peter right back: “Get behind Me, Satan!” (8:33). Teachers: help students see that Peter was sincere, but he was thinking like people, not like God.

CARRYING A CROSS. When Jesus said, “Take up his cross” (8:34), His listeners knew exactly what He meant: a condemned person carried the crossbeam to his own execution. It meant giving up your own way, saying no to yourself, and going where Jesus goes. Jesus also said, “Whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it” (8:35).

THE TRANSFIGURATION. Jesus took Peter, James, and John up a high mountain (traditionally Mount Tabor, though Mount Hermon is closer to Caesarea Philippi). Jesus’ clothes became dazzling white, and Moses (who represents the Law) and Elijah (who represents the Prophets) appeared and talked with Him. Peter wanted to build three shelters (like the Feast of Tabernacles booths). A cloud, as in the Old Testament glory cloud, covered them, and the Father said, “This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!” (9:7). Moses and Elijah disappear, and only Jesus remains. He is the fulfillment of both the Law and the Prophets.

THE BOY AND HIS FATHER. At the bottom of the mountain, nine disciples cannot cast out a spirit from a boy. The father cries out one of the most honest prayers in the Bible: “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!” (9:24). It shows that faith does not mean having no doubts, but bringing our doubts to Jesus.

SESSION FLOW · 45 MINUTES

MIN	SEGMENT	WHAT TO DO
5	Welcome & Opening Question	Ask: “If someone asked you, ‘Who is Jesus?’ what would you say?”
10	The Question (Teaching Part 1)	Teach 8:27-9:1, using a map to show Caesar Philippi.
8	Activity: Take Up Your Cross	Pass out cards. Students write one thing they hold onto too tightly and one way they can follow Jesus instead. No one is required to share.
10	The Mountain and the Valley (Teaching Part 2)	Teach 9:2-32, emphasizing “Hear Him!” and “help my unbelief.”
7	Discussion	Use discussion questions.
5	Think–Feel–Do & Prayer	Application box and closing prayer.

TEACHING OUTLINE (NKJV)

Two questions

Jesus and His disciples go up to Caesarea Philippi. Jesus asks, “Who do men say that I am?” They say John the Baptist, Elijah, one of the prophets. Then He asks the question that matters most: “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answers, “You are the Christ” (8:29). That is the right answer. Everyone has to answer this question for themselves. Your parents’ answer or your friends’ answer won’t be enough.

The King who must suffer

Right away Jesus begins to teach that the Son of Man must suffer many things, be rejected, be killed, and rise again after three days. Peter takes Jesus aside and tells Him that can’t happen. Jesus says, “Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.” Peter wanted a King without a cross. But the cross is how Jesus saves us. It is the way God’s plan works.

Follow Me

Jesus calls the crowd and says, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it” (8:34-35). That means putting Jesus first, even when it costs us. Following Jesus is not easy, but it is the best way to live. He promises that those who lose their lives for Him will find them.

The mountain

Six days later, Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up a high mountain, and He is transfigured before them. His clothes shine whiter than anyone could make them. Moses and Elijah appear and talk with Him. Peter, not knowing what to say, offers to build three shelters. Then a cloud covers them, and a voice says, “This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!” (9:7). Suddenly only Jesus is there. The Father wants us to listen to His Son above every other voice.

The valley and the honest prayer

Back down the mountain, a father brings his son who has been troubled since childhood. The disciples could not help. Jesus says, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.” The father cries, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!” (9:24). Jesus heals the boy and lifts him up. If you have doubts, bring them to Jesus. He can help you believe. Then Jesus tells His disciples again that He will be killed and rise on the third day, but they do not understand. The road ahead is the cross, and the victory comes after it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Jesus asked, “Who do you say that I am?”
2. Peter was right and then wrong in the same conversation. What can we learn from that?
3. What does it mean to “take up your cross” in everyday middle school life?
4. What do you think the disciples thought when Moses and Elijah disappeared and only Jesus was left?
5. What is one doubt you have? How can you bring it to Jesus like the father did?

SLIDE DECK OUTLINE

1. **Who Do You Say That I Am?** — Session 9; Mark 8:27–9:32
2. **Caesarea Philippi** — *Idols and emperor worship; Jesus asks the biggest question*
3. **Peter’s Confession** — “*You are the Christ.*”; Key verse: Mark 8:29
4. **The King Must Suffer** — *Jesus explains the cross; Peter wants a King without a cross*
5. **Take Up Your Cross** — *Deny yourself; Follow Jesus; Lose your life, find it (8:35)*
6. **On the Mountain** — *Jesus shines; Moses and Elijah; Only Jesus remains*
7. **“Hear Him!”** — *The Father speaks; Listen to Jesus above all voices*
8. **Help My Unbelief** — *A father’s honest prayer; Jesus lifts the boy*
9. **Think – Feel – Do** — *THINK: Who is Jesus to me?; FEEL: What doubts do I have?; DO: How will I follow Him?*

THINK · FEEL · DO (PERSONAL APPLICATION QUIZ)

THINK What did you think about the question, “Who do you say that I am?”

FEEL How did it feel to hear the Father say, “This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!”

DO What will you do this week to listen to Jesus and follow Him?

HANDOUT ANSWER KEY

1. Christ · 2. cross · 3. Hear · 4. unbelief

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. Help us to hear You, follow You, and trust You even when we have doubts. Amen.

THE GOSPEL OF MARK · SESSION 9 · STUDENT HANDOUT

Who Do You Say That I Am?

Mark 8:27–9:32

Name: _____ Date: _____

KEY VERSE · MARK 8:29

He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered and said to Him, “You are the Christ.”

FILL IN THE BLANKS

WORD BANK: *Christ · cross · Hear · unbelief*

1. Peter said, “You are the _____.”
2. Jesus said to take up your _____ and follow Him.
3. The Father said, “This is My beloved Son. _____ Him!”
4. The father prayed, “Lord, I believe; help my _____!”

DIG DEEPER

1. In your own words, who is Jesus?

2. What doubt or fear can you bring to Jesus this week?

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Write your own answer to Jesus' question, “Who do you say that I am?” and share it with a trusted adult.

THINK · FEEL · DO

THINK

What did you think about the question, “Who do you say that I am?”

FEEL

How did it feel to hear the Father say, “This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!”

DO

What will you do this week to listen to Jesus and follow Him?

SESSION 10 OF 13 · TEACHER GUIDE

The Servant King

Mark 9:33–10:52 — Jesus turns greatness upside down: the first will be last, children are welcome, and He came to give His life as a ransom.

BIG IDEA

Jesus, the King, came to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many, and He calls us to follow Him by serving, trusting, and seeing clearly.

KEY VERSE
Mark 10:45

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

JESUS IN THIS PASSAGE

This is the heart of Mark. Jesus is the Son of Man, the king from Daniel 7, and He is the Servant of Isaiah 53 who gives His life as a ransom. In the Old Testament, a ransom is the price paid to set a captive free.

TEACHER BACKGROUND NOTES: CULTURE, HISTORY, AND SOCIETY

WHO IS THE GREATEST? The disciples were arguing about rank on the road. In Jewish culture, children had little status and were not usually considered important in public life. Jesus put a child in their midst, took the child in His arms, and said that whoever welcomes a child in His name welcomes Him. In the ancient world, greatness meant being served; Jesus turned it upside down.

HARD SAYINGS. Mark 9:42-50 uses strong images (cutting off a hand or foot). Jesus is using exaggeration to show how serious sin is, not literally telling anyone to hurt themselves. Teachers should say this clearly to middle schoolers. The point is: do whatever it takes to remove sin from your life, and do not cause a little one to stumble.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN. In 10:1-12, Pharisees test Jesus about divorce. Jesus takes them back to Genesis, to God’s original design for marriage. This is a sensitive topic for students from broken homes. Emphasize God’s design, His care for children, and His grace. Right after this, parents bring children for Jesus to bless, and the disciples try to send them away. Mark says Jesus was “greatly displeased.” It is one of the few times Jesus is described as angry with His own disciples.

THE RICH YOUNG RULER. A man runs to Jesus, kneels, and asks what he must do to inherit eternal life. Mark says Jesus looked at him and loved him. He told him to sell what he had and follow Him. The man left sad, because he had great possessions. Jesus’ saying about the camel and the needle’s eye uses humor and exaggeration: the largest animal in Palestine and the smallest opening. Salvation is impossible for man but possible with God (10:27). Wealth was seen as a sign of God’s blessing, so the disciples were astonished.

BARTIMAEUS. Jericho was about 15 miles from Jerusalem. The road was the last stop before the climb to the city. Blind beggars sat by the road, and Bartimaeus (“son of Timaeus”) is the only person healed in Mark whose name we are given. He calls Jesus “Son of David,” a messianic title, publicly, just days before Jesus enters Jerusalem as King. He throws off his cloak, probably his only possession, to come to Jesus.

SESSION FLOW • 45 MINUTES

MIN	SEGMENT	WHAT TO DO
5	Welcome & Opening Question	Ask: “What does it mean to be ‘great’? Who do you think is great and why?”
10	Upside-Down Greatness (Teaching Part 1)	Teach 9:33–10:16. Use a child-sized chair as a visual.
8	Activity: Serve First	Challenge: groups plan a secret act of service for someone at church (setting up chairs, writing a card). Discuss: Why did Jesus say the greatest is the servant?
10	The Ruler and the Beggar (Teaching Part 2)	Teach 10:17-52, highlighting the contrast between the ruler and Bartimaeus.
7	Discussion	Use discussion questions.
5	Think–Feel–Do & Prayer	Application box and closing prayer.

TEACHING OUTLINE (NKJV)

The argument on the road

On the road to Capernaum, the disciples argue about who is the greatest. Jesus sits down, calls the twelve, and says, “If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all” (9:35). Then He takes a little child in His arms and says that welcoming a child in His name is welcoming Him. In God’s kingdom, greatness is not about being big, famous, or strong. It is about serving.

Let the children come

Parents bring children to Jesus to touch them, but the disciples try to send them away. Mark says Jesus “was greatly displeased” and said, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God” (10:14). Then He takes the children in His arms, puts His hands on them, and blesses them. If you are young, you are not too small for Jesus. We come to Him the way a child does: simply trusting.

The man who walked away

A rich young man runs up and asks, “Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?” Jesus reminds him of the commandments. The man says he has kept them all since he was young. Then Mark says, “Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him.” Jesus told him to sell what he had, give to the poor, and follow Him. The man’s face fell, and he went away sad because he had great possessions. Jesus’ love for him was real, but the man loved his stuff more. Jesus says it is hard for the rich to enter the kingdom. The disciples ask, “Who then can be saved?” Jesus answers, “With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible” (10:27).

The ransom

For the third time, Jesus tells His disciples that He is going to Jerusalem to be handed over, mocked, killed, and rise again. And James and John ask for the best seats in His kingdom. Jesus says, whoever wants to be great must be a servant. Then He gives the key to the whole book: “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (10:45). A ransom is the price paid to set someone free. Jesus is the King who became a servant to rescue us.

Bartimaeus sees

As Jesus leaves Jericho, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus calls out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” People tell him to be quiet, but he cries out all the more. Jesus stops and says, “Call him.” Bartimaeus throws off his cloak, jumps up, and comes. Jesus asks, “What do you want Me to do for you?” He says, “Rabboni, that I may receive my sight.” Jesus says, “Go your way; your faith has made you well.” Immediately, he sees and follows Jesus on the road (10:52). The rich man had everything but walked away from Jesus. The blind beggar had nothing but followed Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think the disciples argued about who was the greatest?
2. What does it mean that “the kingdom of God” belongs to those who come like children?
3. Why did the rich young ruler walk away? What would be hard for you to give up?
4. What does “ransom” mean? How does it help you understand what Jesus did?
5. What is something you could ask Jesus for, like Bartimaeus did?

SLIDE DECK OUTLINE

1. **The Servant King** — *Session 10; Mark 9:33–10:52*
2. **Who Is the Greatest?** — *The disciples argue; “First shall be last”*
3. **Let the Children Come** — *Jesus was displeased with the disciples; He took them in His arms and blessed them*
4. **The Rich Young Ruler** — *Jesus looked at him and loved him; “Sell what you have... and follow Me”; He went away sad*
5. **With God All Things Are Possible** — *Salvation is impossible for man; Possible with God (10:27)*
6. **The Ransom** — *Third prediction of the cross; Key verse: Mark 10:45*
7. **Bartimaeus** — *“Son of David, have mercy on me!”; He threw off his cloak; “Your faith has made you well.”*
8. **Following Jesus** — *The rich man walked away; The blind beggar followed*
9. **Think – Feel – Do** — *THINK: What does it mean to serve?; FEEL: How does Jesus’ love feel?; DO: Who will I serve?*

THINK · FEEL · DO (PERSONAL APPLICATION QUIZ)

THINK What did you think about Jesus saying He came “to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many”?

FEEL How did it feel to hear that Jesus looked at the rich young man and loved him?

DO Who will you serve this week, and what will you do?

HANDOUT ANSWER KEY

1. servant · 2. children · 3. ransom · 4. David

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank You for serving us and giving Your life as our ransom. Help us to serve others and follow You. Amen.

THE GOSPEL OF MARK · SESSION 10 · STUDENT HANDOUT

The Servant King

Mark 9:33–10:52

Name: _____ Date: _____

KEY VERSE · MARK 10:45

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

FILL IN THE BLANKS

WORD BANK: *children · David · ransom · servant*

1. Jesus said, “If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and _____ of all.”
2. Jesus said, “Let the little _____ come to Me.”
3. The Son of Man came to give His life a _____ for many.
4. Bartimaeus said, “Jesus, Son of _____, have mercy on me!”

DIG DEEPER

1. Who is someone you can serve this week without being asked?

2. What do you need to throw off, like Bartimaeus threw off his cloak, to follow Jesus?

THIS WEEK’S CHALLENGE

Do one secret act of service this week and don’t tell anyone. Ask Jesus to help you think like a servant.

THINK · FEEL · DO

THINK

What did you think about Jesus saying He came “to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many”?

FEEL

How did it feel to hear that Jesus looked at the rich young man and loved him?

DO

Who will you serve this week, and what will you do?

SESSION 11 OF 13 • TEACHER GUIDE

The King Enters Jerusalem

Mark 11:1–12:44 — Jesus rides into Jerusalem as King, cleans the temple, answers every challenge, and names the greatest commandment.

BIG IDEA

Jesus is the promised King who comes to His people, and what He wants most is a heart that loves God and loves others.

KEY VERSE
Mark 12:30-31

“And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.” This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no other commandment greater than these.

JESUS IN THIS
PASSAGE

Jesus rides in on a colt, fulfilling Zechariah 9:9. He cleans the temple, tells a parable in which He is the beloved Son killed by the tenants, and quotes Psalm 110 to show that the Messiah is more than David’s son: He is David’s Lord.

TEACHER BACKGROUND NOTES: CULTURE, HISTORY, AND SOCIETY

THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY. It is probably Sunday of Passover week. Jerusalem swelled to many times its normal size as pilgrims came for the feast. Jesus rode a colt “on which no one has sat,” a detail that fits a sacred animal, and fulfilled Zechariah 9:9: the king comes “lowly and riding on a donkey.” In the ancient world, a king who came in peace rode a donkey, not a war horse. People spread their cloaks on the road, as for a king (2 Kings 9:13), and shouted “Hosanna!” which means “Save now!” from Psalm 118:25-26.

THE FIG TREE AND THE TEMPLE. Mark “sandwiches” stories: the fig tree (11:12-14), the temple cleansing (11:15-19), and the withered fig tree (11:20-25). Israel, like the tree, had leaves (religion) but no fruit. The temple’s Court of the Gentiles, the only place non-Jews could worship, had become a market where people exchanged money into the temple coin and bought animals for sacrifice at high prices. Jesus quoted Isaiah 56:7: “My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations,” and Jeremiah 7:11, “a den of thieves.”

THE CHALLENGES. The chief priests, scribes, and elders ask, “By what authority are You doing these things?” (11:28). Jesus asks about John’s baptism, and they won’t answer. Then the Pharisees and Herodians try the question of taxes to Caesar (12:13-17). A denarius coin had the emperor’s image; Jesus says to give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s. We bear God’s image, so we owe Him everything. The Sadducees, who denied the resurrection, ask a trick question about marriage in heaven. Jesus says they know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God (12:24).

THE PARABLE OF THE TENANTS. A vineyard owner (God) sends servants (the prophets) to collect fruit, and the tenants (Israel’s leaders) beat and kill them. Finally he sends his “beloved son,” and they kill him. Jesus quotes Psalm 118:22, “The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.” The leaders knew the parable was about them (12:12).

THE WIDOW’S OFFERING. In the Court of the Women stood thirteen trumpet-shaped offering chests. The widow dropped in two “mites” (lepta), the smallest Jewish coins, worth a tiny fraction of a day’s wage. Mark explains they equal a “quadrans,” a Roman coin, a detail for his Roman readers. Jesus noticed what no one else did.

SESSION FLOW · 45 MINUTES

MIN	SEGMENT	WHAT TO DO
5	Welcome & Opening Question	Ask: “How do people welcome someone important? What would you do for a king?”
10	Hosanna! (Teaching Part 1)	Teach 11:1-26 with the colt, cloaks, and palm branches (tape a ‘road’ across the floor).
8	Activity: Greatest Commandment Cards	Students make cards of the two commandments and write one way to live each out. Compare to the widow’s gift.
10	Questions for the King (Teaching Part 2)	Teach 11:27–12:44, highlighting the greatest commandment and the widow.
7	Discussion	Use discussion questions.
5	Think–Feel–Do & Prayer	Application box and closing prayer.

TEACHING OUTLINE (NKJV)

A colt and a crowd

Jesus and His disciples near Jerusalem. He sends two disciples to bring a colt that no one has ever ridden. People spread their cloaks and leafy branches on the road and shout, “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!” (11:9). Hosanna means “Save us now!” The prophet Zechariah had said the King would come humble, riding on a donkey. Jesus is King, but He comes in peace and humility.

A house of prayer

The next day, Jesus goes into the temple and drives out those who are buying and selling. He turns over the tables of the moneychangers and says, “Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations’? But you have made it a ‘den of thieves’” (11:17). The place where outsiders were supposed to be able to pray had become a marketplace. Jesus cares about worship that is honest and open to all people.

Whose authority?

The religious leaders ask Jesus, “By what authority are You doing these things?” Jesus asks them one question about John’s baptism. They know that if they say “from heaven,” He will ask why they did not believe, and if they say “from men,” the people will be angry. So they say, “We do not know.” They weren’t really looking for truth. Jesus tells them the parable of a vineyard owner whose servants were beaten and whose beloved son was killed. The leaders knew He was talking about them.

Trick questions

They try to trap Him with questions about taxes, and about the resurrection. Jesus answers every question perfectly. About the coin with Caesar’s picture, He says, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” We are made in God’s image, so we belong to God. Then a scribe asks, “Which is the first commandment of all?”

Love is the point

Jesus answers, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.” And the second is, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (12:30-31). That sums up the whole Old Testament. God cares about the heart. Finally, Jesus sits near the offering boxes and watches. Rich people put in large amounts. A poor widow puts in two small coins. Jesus calls His disciples and says that she “put in more than all,” because she gave all she had. God sees the heart behind the gift.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Jesus chose to ride a colt instead of a war horse?
2. What was wrong with what was happening in the temple?
3. Why do you think the religious leaders wouldn't answer Jesus' question about John?
4. How can you show love for God with your heart, soul, mind, and strength?
5. What does the widow's gift teach us about what matters to God?

SLIDE DECK OUTLINE

1. **The King Enters Jerusalem** — *Session 11; Mark 11:1–12:44*
2. **The Triumphal Entry** — *A colt, cloaks, and branches; “Hosanna!” means “Save now!”*
3. **A Humble King** — *Fulfilling Zechariah 9:9; Riding a donkey, in peace*
4. **The Temple** — *Money changers in the Court of the Gentiles; “A house of prayer for all nations”*
5. **By What Authority?** — *Jesus answers with a question; The leaders won't answer*
6. **The Vineyard** — *The owner sends servants, then his son; The stone the builders rejected*
7. **The Greatest Commandment** — *Love God with all you have; Love your neighbor as yourself (12:30-31)*
8. **The Widow's Gift** — *Two small coins; She gave all she had*
9. **Think – Feel – Do** — *THINK: What does it mean to love God?; FEEL: How does it feel to be seen by Jesus?; DO: Who will I love this week?*

THINK · FEEL · DO (PERSONAL APPLICATION QUIZ)

THINK What did you think about the King coming on a donkey instead of a war horse?

FEEL How did it feel to hear Jesus say that love for God and others is the greatest commandment?

DO How will you love God or a neighbor this week in a specific way?

HANDOUT ANSWER KEY

1. Hosanna · 2. prayer · 3. heart · 4. coins

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You are our humble King. Help us love You with all our hearts and love others as ourselves. Amen.

THE GOSPEL OF MARK · SESSION 11 · STUDENT HANDOUT

The King Enters Jerusalem

Mark 11:1–12:44

Name: _____ Date: _____

KEY VERSE · MARK 12:30-31

“And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.” This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no other commandment greater than these.

FILL IN THE BLANKS

WORD BANK: coins · heart · Hosanna · prayer

1. The crowd shouted, “_____! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!”
2. Jesus said, “My house shall be called a house of _____.”
3. The first commandment is to love the LORD with all your _____.
4. The poor widow gave two small _____.

DIG DEEPER

1. What is one way you can love God with your whole heart this week?

2. Who is a neighbor you can love this week?

THIS WEEK’S CHALLENGE

Write the two great commandments on a card and put it where you will see it every day.

THINK · FEEL · DO

THINK

What did you think about the King coming on a donkey instead of a war horse?

FEEL

How did it feel to hear Jesus say that love for God and others is the greatest commandment?

DO

How will you love God or a neighbor this week in a specific way?

SESSION 12 OF 13 · TEACHER GUIDE

The Lamb Who Was Given

Mark 13:1–14:72 — Jesus tells His disciples to watch, shares the Passover meal, prays in Gethsemane, and is arrested, tried, and denied.

BIG IDEA	Jesus willingly went to the cross as the Passover Lamb, obeying His Father to the end, and He holds on to His disciples even when they fail Him.
KEY VERSE Mark 14:24	<i>And He said to them, “This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many.”</i>
JESUS IN THIS PASSAGE	Jesus is the Passover Lamb. He chooses the cross, says that His blood establishes the new covenant promised in Jeremiah 31, prays “not what I will, but what You will,” and stands before the high priest and says, “I am.”

TEACHER BACKGROUND NOTES: CULTURE, HISTORY, AND SOCIETY

THE OLIVET DISCOURSE (Mark 13). Jesus and the disciples sit on the Mount of Olives, facing the temple. The disciples admire the huge stones. Jesus says that not one stone will be left on another; Titus and the Roman army destroyed the temple in AD 70. Jesus goes on to speak of wars, false teachers, persecution, and His return “with great power and glory” (13:26). Christians have different views on how the details line up, so teachers should keep the main emphasis: Jesus is coming back, no one knows the day, and our job is to “watch” and be ready (13:32-37).

ANOINTING AT BETHANY. A woman pours very expensive perfume (pure nard in an alabaster flask, worth about 300 denarii, nearly a year’s wages) on Jesus’ head. Some criticize the waste; Jesus says she has done “a good work” and has anointed His body for burial beforehand (14:3-9). Judas, who was a thief according to John 12:6, goes to the chief priests and agrees to betray Jesus for money (Matthew says thirty pieces of silver).

THE LAST SUPPER. It was a Passover meal (14:12), commemorating God’s rescue from Egypt, when lambs’ blood protected Israel’s homes from death (Exodus 12). The unleavened bread was a reminder of leaving in haste; the cups of wine reminded the people of God’s promises. Jesus took the bread and said, “Take, eat; this is My body,” and the cup, “This is My blood of the new covenant.” He is the true Lamb. Jeremiah 31:31-34 promised a new covenant in which God would forgive sin and write His law on hearts.

GETHSEMANE. The name means “oil press,” a garden at the foot of the Mount of Olives. Jesus was “deeply distressed and very troubled.” He prayed, “Abba, Father,” using the Aramaic word for father, a warm, personal word. The “cup” represents God’s judgment on sin (Isaiah 51:17), which Jesus would drink in our place. The disciples fell asleep three times.

THE TRIAL AND PETER’S DENIAL. Jesus was taken at night to the high priest’s house before a council of the Sanhedrin. Witnesses lied and disagreed. When the high priest asked, “Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” Jesus said, “I am,” and added that they would see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power and coming with the clouds of heaven (a clear claim from Daniel 7:13). The high priest tore his robes and they condemned Him for blasphemy. Meanwhile Peter, who had promised to die with Jesus, denied Him three times and wept when the rooster crowed. Mark, who got his information from Peter, tells this story honestly, which shows how forgiven Peter was.

SESSION FLOW · 45 MINUTES

MIN	SEGMENT	WHAT TO DO
5	Welcome & Opening Question	Ask: “What is the hardest thing you have ever had to do because it was the right thing?”
10	Watch! and the Passover (Teaching Part 1)	Teach 13:1–14:26 using bread and grape juice or a simple Passover plate to show the symbols (do not turn this into communion unless your church does so).
8	Activity: Stay Awake	A ‘watch and pray’ challenge: students spend 2 minutes in silence praying for one person, then share how it felt to stay focused.
10	The Garden, the Trial, and the Rooster (Teaching Part 2)	Teach 14:27-72 with care and gentleness. Do not show graphic images.
7	Discussion	Use discussion questions.
5	Think–Feel–Do & Prayer	Application box and closing prayer.

TEACHING OUTLINE (NKJV)

Watch!

As Jesus leaves the temple, a disciple says, “Look, Teacher! What wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!” Jesus says that all of it will be thrown down. Later, on the Mount of Olives, Jesus tells the disciples to be careful not to be deceived, that hard times will come, and that He will return in power and glory. He says, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away” (13:31). No one knows the day or hour, so His instruction is simple: “Watch!” (13:37). Don’t let Jesus’ return catch you asleep.

A gift and a betrayal

In Bethany, a woman pours expensive perfume on Jesus’ head. Some are angry about the waste. Jesus says, “She has done what she could.” She was preparing His body for burial. In the same chapter, Judas goes to the chief priests and agrees to betray Jesus for money. One person gives her best; another sells Jesus for silver.

The Lamb’s supper

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, Jesus and the twelve eat the Passover meal. At Passover, Jewish families remembered when God rescued them from Egypt and the blood of a lamb protected their homes. Jesus takes the bread, blesses it, breaks it, and says, “Take, eat; this is My body.” Then He takes the cup and says, “This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many” (14:24). Jesus is the true Passover Lamb. His death means forgiveness and a new relationship with God.

Not what I will

In Gethsemane, Jesus takes Peter, James, and John and says, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch.” He falls to the ground and prays, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will” (14:36). Three times He comes back and finds His friends sleeping. Jesus knew exactly what was coming, and He chose to go through with it. Then Judas arrives with a crowd, betrays Jesus with a kiss, and everyone runs away.

“I am” and the rooster

Jesus is taken to the high priest. False witnesses can’t agree. The high priest asks, “Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” Jesus says, “I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven” (14:62). They condemn Him. Meanwhile in the courtyard, Peter, who had promised to never deny Jesus, says three times, “I do not know this Man.” A rooster crows, and Peter remembers, and he weeps. It is a sad ending to the chapter, but remember, Jesus knew Peter would fail, and He loved him anyway. The story is not over.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Jesus said, “Watch!”? What does it mean to be ready?
2. What is the difference between the woman’s gift and Judas’ choice?
3. What did the Passover remind the Jews of? How is Jesus the Passover Lamb?
4. Why do you think Jesus prayed, “Not what I will, but what You will”? When have you had to pray something like that?
5. Peter failed badly. What does Jesus’ love for Peter tell you about how He treats us when we fail?

SLIDE DECK OUTLINE

1. **The Lamb Who Was Given** — Session 12; Mark 13:1–14:72
2. **Watch!** — The temple will fall; Jesus will return; “Watch!” (13:37)
3. **A Gift and a Betrayal** — The woman’s perfume; Judas’ plan
4. **The Passover** — Lamb’s blood in Egypt; Jesus is the true Lamb
5. **The New Covenant** — “This is My blood of the new covenant” (14:24); Forgiveness and a new heart
6. **Gethsemane** — Oil press; “Abba, Father... not what I will, but what You will.”
7. **Arrest and Trial** — Betrayed with a kiss; The high priest asks, “Are You the Christ?”; “I am.”
8. **Peter’s Denial** — Three times; The rooster crowed; Peter wept
9. **Think – Feel – Do** — THINK: What did Jesus choose?; FEEL: What does it feel like to fail?; DO: What will I surrender?

THINK · FEEL · DO (PERSONAL APPLICATION QUIZ)

THINK What did you think about Jesus saying that the cup is “My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many”?

FEEL How did it feel to read about Jesus praying alone in the garden while His friends slept?

DO What is one thing you will give to God, saying, “Not my will, but Yours”?

HANDOUT ANSWER KEY

1. Heaven · 2. blood · 3. You · 4. rooster

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank You for being our Passover Lamb. Help us to say, “Not my will, but Yours,” and to stay close to You. Amen.

THE GOSPEL OF MARK · SESSION 12 · STUDENT HANDOUT

The Lamb Who Was Given

Mark 13:1–14:72

Name: _____ Date: _____

KEY VERSE · MARK 14:24

And He said to them, “This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many.”

FILL IN THE BLANKS

WORD BANK: *blood · Heaven · rooster · You*

1. Jesus said, “_____ and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.”
2. Jesus said, “This is My _____ of the new covenant.”
3. In the garden Jesus prayed, “Not what I will, but what _____ will.”
4. Peter denied Jesus three times before the _____ crowed.

DIG DEEPER

1. What is one way you can “watch and be ready” for Jesus?

2. Is there something you need to pray, “Not my will, but Yours,” about?

THIS WEEK’S CHALLENGE

Spend a few minutes praying about something hard in your life, and end with, “Not what I will, but what You will.”

THINK · FEEL · DO

THINK	What did you think about Jesus saying that the cup is “My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many”? _____ _____
FEEL	How did it feel to read about Jesus praying alone in the garden while His friends slept? _____ _____
DO	What is one thing you will give to God, saying, “Not my will, but Yours”? _____ _____

SESSION 13 OF 13 • TEACHER GUIDE

He Is Risen!

Mark 15:1–16:20 — Jesus is crucified, buried, and rises from the dead, and He sends His followers into the world with the Good News.

BIG IDEA

Jesus died for our sins and rose again in victory, and now He sends us to tell the whole world the Good News.

KEY VERSE
Mark 16:6

But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him.”

JESUS IN THIS PASSAGE

This is the Good News that Mark promised in verse 1. The Son of God dies as our ransom, the temple curtain is torn in two, a Roman soldier confesses, and on the third day Jesus rises from the dead, victorious over sin and death.

TEACHER BACKGROUND NOTES: CULTURE, HISTORY, AND SOCIETY

PILATE AND BARABBAS. Pontius Pilate was the Roman governor (prefect) of Judea from about AD 26 to 36. The Jewish council could not carry out the death penalty under Roman rule, so they brought Jesus to Pilate. It was a custom to release a prisoner at Passover. Pilate offered Jesus or Barabbas (whose name means “son of the father”), a rebel and murderer. The crowd chose Barabbas. Barabbas went free while Jesus died in his place, a picture of what Jesus does for every sinner. Pilate knew the leaders acted out of envy (15:10).

CRUCIFIXION. Rome used crucifixion for slaves and rebels. It was meant to be a public shame and terror. Jesus was whipped, mocked with a purple robe and a crown of thorns, and made to carry His crossbeam. Simon of Cyrene (the father of Alexander and Rufus, probably known to Mark’s readers, 15:21) was forced to carry it. Teachers: tell this truthfully but without graphic detail. The point is love, not gore. Jesus was crucified at the third hour (9 a.m.), darkness fell from the sixth hour (noon) to the ninth hour (3 p.m.), and He died at about 3 p.m., the time of the evening sacrifice.

“MY GOD, MY GOD.” Jesus quoted Psalm 22:1 in Aramaic. Psalm 22 describes a righteous sufferer surrounded by enemies, with hands and feet pierced, and ends with God’s victory. As He bore our sin, Jesus experienced separation from the Father, and He did it for us (2 Corinthians 5:21).

THE TEMPLE CURTAIN AND THE CENTURION. The thick veil that separated the Holy of Holies from the rest of the temple was torn from top to bottom (15:38), meaning God had opened the way to Himself (Hebrews 10:19-20). Then a Roman centurion, who had watched many men die, said, “Truly this Man was the Son of God!” (15:39). The book that began with “the Son of God” (1:1) now has a Gentile soldier saying it.

BURIAL AND RESURRECTION. Joseph of Arimathea, a member of the council, asked Pilate for the body and laid it in a tomb cut in the rock, rolling a large stone over the door. Women watched where He was laid. Early on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome came with spices and found the stone rolled away. A young man in white (an angel) said, “He is risen!” and told them to tell “His disciples—and Peter.” Peter, who had denied Him, is singled out for mercy.

THE ENDING OF MARK. Many of the earliest manuscripts end at 16:8, and some later ones contain verses 9-20. The New King James Version prints 16:9-20 with a note. Scholars disagree about whether Mark wrote them. The longer ending matches what the other Gospels teach: Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene and the disciples and gave the Great Commission. Teachers: be honest about the note, and focus on what is in all the Gospels, that Jesus is risen and sends His followers into the world.

SESSION FLOW · 45 MINUTES

MIN	SEGMENT	WHAT TO DO
5	Welcome & Opening Question	Ask: “What is the best news you have ever received? Who did you tell first?”
10	The Cross (Teaching Part 1)	Teach 15:1-47 with reverence. Use a simple wooden cross and a purple cloth.
8	Activity: The Empty Tomb	Set up a small tent or box as a tomb. Students come in, leave a prayer of thanks on a card, and walk out. Debrief: What did the women find?
10	He Is Risen! (Teaching Part 2)	Teach 16:1-20. Review the whole Gospel of Mark: Who is this Man?
7	Discussion	Use discussion questions, then review the big ideas from all 13 sessions.
5	Think–Feel–Do & Prayer	Application box and closing prayer, and a time for students to share what they have learned.

TEACHING OUTLINE (NKJV)

Barabbas goes free

In the morning, Jesus is brought to Pilate. Pilate asks, “Are You the King of the Jews?” Jesus says, “It is as you say.” Pilate knows Jesus is innocent, but the crowd, stirred up by the chief priests, shouts for Barabbas, a murderer, to be released. Pilate gives in. Barabbas goes free while Jesus is condemned. That is the Gospel in one picture: the innocent One takes the place of the guilty.

The cross

Soldiers mock Jesus with a purple robe and a crown of thorns. They take Him to a place called Golgotha, “the Place of a Skull,” and crucify Him at nine in the morning. The sign above reads, “THE KING OF THE JEWS.” People shout insults, and Jesus does not answer. At noon, darkness covers the land for three hours. Then Jesus cries out, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?” which is translated, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (15:34). He was bearing our sin. Then He cried out and breathed His last.

The curtain and the soldier

At that moment, the curtain of the temple is torn in two from top to bottom. The way to God is open. And a Roman centurion, standing right in front of Jesus, says, “Truly this Man was the Son of God!” (15:39). Mark started his book with those words, and now a soldier says them. A man named Joseph of Arimathea asks Pilate for Jesus’ body and puts it in a new tomb, with a big stone over the entrance. Some women watch where He is laid.

He is risen!

Early Sunday morning, the women bring spices to the tomb. They wonder who will roll the stone away. But the stone has already been rolled away! Inside they see a young man in a white robe, and they are afraid. He says, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him” (16:6). Then he says, “Go, tell His disciples—and Peter—that He is going before you into Galilee.” Notice “and Peter.” Jesus wanted Peter, who had denied Him, to know that he was still loved and welcome.

Go into all the world

The longer ending of Mark (16:9-20) says that Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene and to His disciples, and that He said, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature” (16:15). He was then received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God, “and they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them” (16:19-20). So here is the answer to Mark’s big question: Who is this Man? He is the Christ, the Son of God, the Servant who gave His life as a ransom, and the risen Lord. And He is sending us to tell others. The Good News is a victory.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Barabbas’ story is important? How is it your story?
2. What do you think the tearing of the temple curtain means for us?
3. Why do you think a Roman soldier was the first to say, “Truly this Man was the Son of God!”?
4. Why did the angel say, “and Peter”? What does that tell you about Jesus?
5. After studying Mark, how would you answer the question, “Who is this Man?” Who could you tell?

SLIDE DECK OUTLINE

1. **He Is Risen!** — *Session 13; Mark 15:1–16:20*
2. **Barabbas Goes Free** — *Pilate and the crowd; The innocent for the guilty*
3. **The Cross** — *Golgotha; Darkness at noon; “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”*
4. **The Curtain and the Soldier** — *The way to God is open; “Truly this Man was the Son of God!” (15:39)*
5. **The Tomb** — *Joseph of Arimathea; The stone and the women*
6. **He Is Risen!** — *“He is risen! He is not here.” (16:6); “Tell His disciples—and Peter”*
7. **Go into All the World** — *“Preach the gospel to every creature” (16:15); Jesus is Lord*
8. **Mark in Review** — *1: Son of God 2-4: Authority and Family 5-8: Power and Mercy; 9-10: Christ and Servant 11-14: King and Lamb 15-16: Victory*
9. **Think – Feel – Do** — *THINK: Who is this Man?; FEEL: What does the empty tomb mean to me?; DO: Who will I tell?*

THINK · FEEL · DO (PERSONAL APPLICATION QUIZ)

THINK What did you think about the empty tomb and the words, “He is risen!”?

FEEL How did it feel to hear that the angel said, “and Peter,” so that even a failure was welcomed back?

DO Who will you tell this week about Jesus, and what will you say?

HANDOUT ANSWER KEY

1. Barabbas · 2. bottom · 3. Son · 4. risen

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank You for dying for our sins and rising again. Help us to tell others the Good News. Amen.

THE GOSPEL OF MARK · SESSION 13 · STUDENT HANDOUT

He Is Risen!

Mark 15:1–16:20

Name: _____ Date: _____

KEY VERSE · MARK 16:6

But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him.”

FILL IN THE BLANKS

WORD BANK: *Barabbas · bottom · risen · Son*

1. The crowd chose to free _____ instead of Jesus.
2. The temple curtain was torn in two from top to _____.
3. The centurion said, “Truly this Man was the _____ of God!”
4. The angel said, “He is _____! He is not here.”

DIG DEEPER

1. After 13 sessions, who do you say Jesus is?

2. Who will you tell the Good News to this week?

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Share the Good News of Jesus with one person this week using the three words: Jesus died, rose, and saves.

THINK · FEEL · DO

THINK*What did you think about the empty tomb and the words, “He is risen!”?*

FEEL*How did it feel to hear that the angel said, “and Peter,” so that even a failure was welcomed back?*

DO*Who will you tell this week about Jesus, and what will you say?*

APPENDIX A

Mark in Review

Who is this Man? One answer from every session

Use this chart for a final review, a game of ‘Who Said It?’, or a memory-verse challenge. Each row gives the session’s passage, key verse, and the answer to Mark’s big question.

#	TITLE / PASSAGE	KEY VERSE	WHO IS THIS MAN?
1	The Good News Begins Mark 1:1-20	Mark 1:15	The Son of God and the King who calls us to follow
2	The Man with Authority Mark 1:21-45	Mark 1:22	The One with authority and compassion
3	Friends of Sinners Mark 2:1-3:6	Mark 2:17	The Savior who forgives sins and eats with sinners
4	The Twelve and the True Family Mark 3:7-35	Mark 3:35	The stronger One who welcomes us into His family
5	Seeds and Storms Mark 4:1-41	Mark 4:39	Lord of the storm and the Sower of God’s Word
6	Power over Fear, Sickness, and Death Mark 5:1-43	Mark 5:36	Master of evil, sickness, and death
7	Rejected, Sent, and Providing Mark 6:1-56	Mark 6:50	The Shepherd who provides and comes to us in the storm
8	What Really Makes Us Clean Mark 7:1-8:26	Mark 7:37	The merciful One who cleans hearts and opens eyes
9	Who Do You Say That I Am? Mark 8:27-9:32	Mark 8:29	The Christ who must suffer and rise again
10	The Servant King Mark 9:33-10:52	Mark 10:45	The Servant King who gave His life as a ransom
11	The King Enters Jerusalem Mark 11:1-12:44	Mark 12:30-31	The humble King who deserves our whole heart
12	The Lamb Who Was Given Mark 13:1-14:72	Mark 14:24	The Passover Lamb who obeyed to the end
13	He Is Risen! Mark 15:1-16:20	Mark 16:6	The risen Lord who sends us to tell the world

APPENDIX B

Companion Web App and Podcast

Learn, listen, reflect, and keep your progress private

Companion web app. Students can browse all 13 sessions, read the session summary, download the handout, and answer the three Think · Feel · Do questions (What do you think? How do you feel? What will you do?). Reflections and progress are saved on the student's own device. The menu includes light, dark, and automatic themes, backup and restore to a local or cloud drive, the Tip Jar, and an About box.

Podcast lessons. Each session has a short audio lesson for fifth through seventh graders, with a male and a female voice teaching together. In the app, the player appears under “Listen to the Lesson,” just before “What We Learned.”

Tip Jar. If this material has blessed your ministry, you can support future curriculum at [https://cash.app/\\$QRPTips](https://cash.app/$QRPTips).

ABOUT THE PUBLISHER

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“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” Mark 10:45 (NKJV)