

THE GOSPEL OF MARK - GUIDE 1

EASTERTIDE

MARK 1:1 - 2:17

NAME:

MARK 1:1-13

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Mark begins by declaring that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of God” (Mark 1:1). What do those titles reveal about who Jesus is, and how can they lead us to grow in our trust of him?

John the Baptist’s role was to prepare people’s hearts for Jesus (Mark 1:2-8). What practices help us to prepare our hearts to receive and follow Christ today?

At Jesus’s baptism, the Father declares his love and pleasure in the Son before Jesus begins his ministry (Mark 1:9-11). What does this teach us about identity and how our relationship with God shapes our lives?

Immediately after his baptism, Jesus enters the wilderness and faces testing (Mark 1:12-13). How can remembering God’s presence and promises help us remain faithful during seasons of testing?



MARK 1:14-20

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

John the Baptist was arrested and eventually executed for proclaiming the Good News. Have you ever faced consequences as a direct result of your faith in Jesus? What is a Christlike response to such opposition?

Mark 1:18 tells us, "And immediately they left their nets and followed him." If Jesus were to call us today, would we do as the Apostles did? What barriers may be holding us back from fully surrendering to discipleship?

The Kingdom of God is open to all who love and follow Jesus. Where do we see signs of the Kingdom in our community, families, and churches?

As Jesus discipled His earlier followers, we are called to do likewise. Is there someone you would be willing to disciple or mentor in their faith? In what ways can you walk alongside a newer believer as they become a fully committed follower of Jesus.



MARK 1:21-28

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

The demon immediately recognized who Jesus was. What does this story teach us about the difference between knowing about Jesus and surrendering to Him?

The man with the unclean spirit was in the synagogue. What might this reveal about how spiritual struggles can exist even in religious spaces, and how the church can become a place of healing?

Jesus' presence exposed the problem and brought freedom. When have you seen God bring conviction that led to growth or healing in someone's life?

Is there a part of your life that you are struggling to surrender to Jesus? What might it look like this week to invite Christ more fully into that part of your life?



MARK 1:29-39

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Why do you think Jesus commanded the demons to be silent and prevented them from revealing His true identity at this early stage of His ministry? (Mark 1:34)

After an exhausting Sabbath filled with teaching in the synagogue and a late night of healing and ministering to crowds, Jesus still rose very early the next morning to pray alone in a solitary place. What activities or priorities do you tend to place ahead of intentional time with your Heavenly Father—especially during your busiest or most demanding seasons?

Following His time alone in prayer, Jesus gained clear direction from the Father. In what concrete ways does your own time spent with God in the “lonely place” shape and redirect your decisions about the next steps you should take?

Jesus chooses to leave Capernaum—even though people are seeking Him—to proclaim the message in other towns (vv. 35-39). How does this decision challenge our tendency to stay in comfortable or successful situations, and what might it look like for us to follow Jesus in moving outward to share the gospel?



MARK 1:40-45

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

In what ways can you relate to the man? Are there areas of your life right now that need the healing (physical, emotional, relational), cleansing, or transformation that only Jesus can provide?

The text says that Jesus was “moved with compassion” when he saw the man. When you think of the suffering of people around you and all around the world, what moves you to compassion? How might Jesus be leading you to be his hands and feet in places of deep need?

In a time when people with leprosy were quarantined from others due to their uncleanness, what does it say about Jesus’ power that he physically touches the man to heal him?

After seeing Jesus’ compassion and authority firsthand, why do you think the man chose not to listen to his commands to go straight to the priest? Are there times when we are quick to receive Jesus’ gifts, but slow to listen to his instructions?



MARK 2:1-12

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

In this story, Jesus addresses the man's sin before healing his body. What does this teach us about our deepest need, and how does that shape the way we come to Jesus?

The four friends refused to let obstacles keep them from bringing their friend to Jesus. Who in your life might need someone to "carry the mat" for them through prayer, encouragement, or invitation?

The teachers of the law questioned Jesus' authority to forgive sins. What helps you grow in trusting the authority of Jesus over your life?

The crowd ended by praising God because of what they saw Jesus do. How has Jesus brought forgiveness or restoration into your life in a way that leads you to praise God?



MARK 2:13-17

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

In Mark 2:13-17, Jesus calls Levi and then sits down at the table with people others avoided. Why do you think Jesus intentionally shared meals with people who were often rejected by society? What does this teach us about the heart of God?

Levi's life changed quickly when he left the tax table and sat at Jesus' table. How can we "get up and follow" Jesus like Levi did and what might we need to leave behind?

The Holy Spirit was poured out on many nations at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-13), and later there was a "second Pentecost" where God's Spirit was poured out on Gentile believers who opened their hearts to God (Acts 10:44-48). What do these outpourings show us about who God wants to include in His family?

There is always room for one more at Jesus' table. When you think of an empty chair at Jesus' table, who in your life right now might that chair be for (someone who might need friendship, encouragement, or an invitation to know Jesus)? How might God be calling you to invite them?

Levi's first response to Jesus was to share a meal with others at his house (Acts 2:13-15). What are simple ways we can extend the hospitality and grace of Jesus to others?



MEMORY VERSE
MARK 1:15

“The time has come,” he said.
“The kingdom of God has come
near. Repent and believe the
good news!”

FOR CHILDREN:

“The kingdom of God has come
near. Repent and believe the
good news!”