



is not supported by the Bible or by any church historians in the first few centuries after the establishment of the church.

**What Makes Mark’s Gospel Unique?**

Oftentimes, we summarize the styles of the Gospel by speaking of the audience for whom they are written. For example, Matthew is said to be the Gospel to the Jews because of its large quoting of the Old Testament, Luke is said to be to the Greeks because of its precise nature and length, John is said to be the Gospel to the thinking man because of its philosophical nature. In this bent, Mark is said to be written to the Romans because of its short, to the point style and its constant movement by using the word “immediately” and “and.” Mark focuses on what Jesus does more than what Jesus says. For example, the gospel has eighteen miracles but only four parables. Mark’s gospel is a good book to use as a summary of the life of Christ because over ninety percent of what Mark records is repeated in the Matthew and Luke.

**Some Important Things to Remember**

When studying the Book of Mark, always remember the bookends of 1:1 and 15:39. Mark’s point is that Jesus is the Son of God. Everything else in the Book is to support that assertion. While many passages can be used as the key verse of the book, notice what 7:37 says, “He has done all things well.” This is an excellent summary of the earthly life of Jesus.

**Questions:**

1. Why did Mark have a unique perspective to write this book?
2. Why is it good to study the background of Biblical authors?
3. Of the four gospels, which is your favorite account? Why?
4. Why do you think Mark wanted to emphasis the fact that Jesus is God’s Son? What effect does that fact have on your life?

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*Next Week  
Lesson Two:  
Jesus, Man of  
Greatness  
Mark 1:1-45*



**Power Over Unclean Spirits (1:23-28)**

As Jesus was teaching in Capernaum, a man with an evil spirit cried out to him asking Jesus what was his purpose was in being there. Demon possession was a phenomenon that occurred mainly in the days of Jesus’ ministry on earth and the apostles’ time as well. While at times there were some similarities to sicknesses and mental illness, demon possession was real and literal in the Biblical accounts. It was allowed by God primarily to show Christ’s and the apostles’ authority. There is very little evidence that demon possession occurs today. As Jesus told the spirit to come out of the man, the man convulsed, shrieked and fell to the ground. The spirit left the man and fled the presence of Christ. The people were amazed that even the demons obeyed Christ.

**Power Over Sickness (1:29-45)**

Jesus continued to show his power over the sicknesses and weaknesses of the human body. He healed Peter’s mother-in-law and many others in the region who were sick or demon possessed. While many people searched him out for him amazing powers, Jesus still found time to pray alone and to travel to various towns and synagogues in Galilee to preach the good news. He also healed a man who had the dreaded disease of leprosy. As word got out about the power and authority of Jesus, the people of the area thronged to see and hear him. It became very difficult for Jesus to enter into the towns or public places of the region.

**Questions**

1. What evidence do we have that Jesus is God’s Son?
2. Does demon possession occur today? Why or why not?
3. Why is it important that Jesus was able to do miracles?
4. What implications does the authority of Jesus have on your life?

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*Next Week  
Lesson Three:  
Jesus,  
Greater Than Sin  
Mark 2:1-28*



**Stretching Wineskins (2:18-22)**

The disciples of John the Baptizer and of the Pharisees would often fast. One time they asked Jesus why his disciples did not fast. Jesus responded that his disciples were joyful because he was with them. Jesus used the metaphor of patching wineskins to explain his point. When a fresh skin was filled with wine, it would swell as the wine aged. Once the swelling was complete, it would stiffen and no longer be pliable to further growth. In the same way, Jesus was ushering in a new kingdom with new rules. No longer would fasting be a major spiritual work as it had been in the Old Testament Day of Atonement. Instead, the disciples of Jesus would be filled with joy. While there would be occasions when the disciples would fast and be persecuted, for the most part, the New Covenant is filled with rejoicing.

**God Cares For His People (2:23-28)**

As Jesus and his disciples were traveling on the Sabbath, they plucked grain from the fields to eat. This broke a tradition of the Pharisees. When Jesus was confronted over this, Jesus reminded them that he was Lord of the Sabbath. As David had broken tradition to feed himself, so it was permissible for the disciples to pluck and eat grain on the Sabbath. We must be careful that our traditions do not cause a stumbling block for those wishing to obey God.

**Questions**

1. What did the friends do to bring the lame man to Jesus? What are we doing to bring others to Jesus?
2. If all people need salvation, why do you think Jesus said only the sick need a doctor?
3. Have you ever fasted? Why or why not?
4. Why do people make so many religious traditions?

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*Next Week  
Lesson Four:  
Jesus,  
Greater Than Satan  
Mark 3:1-35*



**The Evil Authorities Accusing Jesus (3:20-30)**

Jesus and his apostles were so busy; they did not even have time to eat. When his family heard about this they tried to capture him and take him away because they thought he was crazy. The scribes accused Jesus of being Beelzebub, or Satan. Jesus explained how ludicrous this idea was because his work was destroying Satan’s kingdom and power. Jesus had bound Satan and was entering his house and taking the people who belonged to Satan. Nothing could stand in the way of Jesus accomplishing his will.

**The Evil Ones ‘Helping’ Jesus (3:31-35)**

Jesus’ brothers and mother came to get Jesus and were standing outside the house. When Jesus was told that his mother and brothers were there, he responded by looking around at those who were by him and saying, “Here are my mother and brothers.” Those who do the will of God are much closer to Jesus than just disciples. Jesus considers us family when we are faithful to him. The spiritual bonds that we have are much stronger and closer than any blood relations here on earth.

**Questions**

1. Sin takes you where you don’t want to go and takes you further than you want to go. Do you have any examples of this fact?
  
2. Why do you think the Pharisees were so opposed to Jesus and his teachings?
  
3. Why is it important that we never lose sight of the battle that is always raging between Jesus and Satan for the souls of this world?
  
4. What are some examples you have seen of the closeness and love of Christians for one another?

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*Next Week*  
*Lesson Five:*  
*Jesus, Greater Than*  
*the Storm*  
*Mark 4:1-41*













**Feeding 5,000 (6:30-44)**

As the apostles reported back to Jesus, he brought them to a secluded place so that they could have time together to at least eat. But the crowds continued to come after Jesus and a difficult situation arose. Five thousand men (plus the women and children) were gathered to listen to Jesus but there was nowhere for these people to get food. Jesus, having compassion on the people, told the apostles to find something. Finding only five loaves of bread and two fish, the apostles knew that there was not enough food to feed everyone who was there. Jesus blessed the food they had and created enough to feed everyone and even have some left over.

**Walking on Water (6:50)**

When the people were fed, Jesus immediately made the apostles get into a boat and sent them to Bethsaida while he sent the multitudes away. Now when the boat was in the middle of the sea during the early morning hours, the men saw a figure like a ghost walking on the sea. They cried out in fear, but Jesus proclaimed, "It is I, do not fear." Jesus then got in the boat with them and comforted them. As they arrived back at land; once again the crowds thronged around them. It seemed that everyone was bringing the sick and the hurting to be healed by Jesus.

**Questions**

1. In what ways do our families and close friends affect us spiritually?
2. Is it wrong to mourn when a Christian dies? Why or why not?
3. Why do we get so busy? What are the dangers in being busy?
4. How do you keep a spiritual mindset when you are busy? What suggestions do you have?

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*Next Week*

*Lesson Eight:*

*Jesus, Greater Than  
Vain Religion*

*Mark 7:1-8:38*

















**The Widow's Mite (12:38-44)**

Jesus warned the people of the ruling authorities who used long, flowing robes to look religious, yet devoured widow's houses and lived their lives full of pretense. Then Jesus noticed a widow who threw in just two mites into the Temple treasury. Jesus was very impressed with her giving, not because of the monetary amount, but because it was all that she had. Jesus used her example to show what true faith in God looks like. It's not just flowing robes and eloquent works that were used by the Pharisees. It is instead a contrite heart following God.

**A Final Prophecy (13:1-37)**

The Disciples asked Jesus when the Temple would be destroyed and when the world would end. Jesus warned them that there would be many signs of the coming destruction of the Temple. Wars, earthquakes and famines would be seen all over the world. Disciples would be persecuted and many people would be hated for the cause of Christ. Jesus then warned that when they saw the armies of Rome approach they were to leave the city immediately. They were not to return to their house to get their possessions, nor were they to wait for anything because at that time the Temple and the city would be utterly destroyed. This prophecy was fulfilled in AD 70. Concerning the Second Coming of Christ, Jesus told his disciples that there would be no signs preceding it. It would come as a thief in the night. Therefore we must always be ready for Christ to return!

**Questions**

1. Like the fig tree, why is it vital that our fruit match our words?
2. What are the implications of the Greatest Commandment?
3. Why was Jesus so impressed by what the widow gave?
4. What signs will happen before Jesus returns?

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*Next Week*  
*Lesson Twelve:*  
*Jesus, Greater Than*  
*Our Weaknesses*  
*Mark 14:1-72*









