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X

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

FOR STUDENTS

DAILY DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE
FALL 2023
VOLUME 10 • NUMBER 1

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EDITOR'S note

When we first find out that there are four different versions of the story of Jesus, we might ask: *Why? Why not just tell it all in one story?* Well, good storytellers know that every audience is different. They carefully choose their language, pacing, imagery, and more to ensure that their message is relevant to their audience's context. Each of the four Gospel writers recorded the good news of Jesus in a style that was uniquely crafted for the people they were trying to reach.

Mark wrote his Gospel mostly for Romans and other Gentiles—people who weren't as familiar with the Hebrew Scriptures. He explained Hebrew customs, translated words into Greek, and focused on action and reaction in Jesus's ministry.

Through Mark, we discover that all of Jesus's preaching, teaching, healings, and miracles ultimately pointed to the most important three days in all of history: Jesus's death and resurrection. With this pivotal series of events, Jesus opened the way for humanity to have eternal life with God.

APRIL-LYN CAQUETTE

INTRODUCTION TO **mark**

Mark's Gospel emphasizes actions and deeds. Jesus is on the go—healing, casting out demons, performing miracles, hurrying from place to place, and teaching. In Mark everything happens “immediately.” As soon as one episode ends, another begins. The rapid pace slows down when Jesus enters Jerusalem (see 11:1). Thereafter, events are marked by days, and His final day by hours.

AUTHOR AND BACKGROUND

The Mark who wrote this Gospel was John Mark, the son of a widow named Mary, in whose house the church in Jerusalem sometimes gathered (see Acts 12:12-17) and where Jesus possibly ate the Last Supper with His disciples. Mark was the cousin of Barnabas (see Col. 4:10), and he accompanied Barnabas and Paul back to Antioch after their famine relief mission to Jerusalem (see Acts 12:25). Mark next went with Barnabas and Paul on part of the first missionary journey as an assistant (see Acts 13:5), but at Perga, Mark turned back (see Acts 13:13).

According to the early church fathers, Mark wrote his Gospel in Rome just before or just after Peter's martyrdom. Because Mark wrote primarily for Roman Gentiles, he explained Jewish customs, translated Aramaic words and phrases into Greek, used Latin terms rather than their Greek equivalents, and rarely quoted from the Old Testament. Most Bible scholars are convinced that Mark's was the earliest Gospel and served as one of the sources for Matthew and Luke.

PURPOSE

Mark identifies his theme in the first verse: “the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God” (1:1). That Jesus is the divine Son of God is the major emphasis of Mark's Gospel. His purpose was to summon people to repent and respond in faith to the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God (1:1,15).

OUTLINE OF mark

- I. Prologue to the Gospel (1:1-13)
- II. Jesus's Ministry in Galilee (1:14–8:21)
 - A. Events in and around Capernaum (1:14-45)
 - A. Five conflict stories (2:1–3:6)
 - C. Jesus appoints twelve apostles (3:7-19)
 - D. Charges about Jesus's mental state (3:20-30)
 - E. Jesus's spiritual family (3:31-35)
 - F. Jesus speaks in parables (4:1-34)
 - G. Jesus's authority revealed (4:35–5:43)
 - H. Rejection at Nazareth (6:1-6)
 - I. Jesus sends out His twelve disciples (6:7-13)
 - J. Death of John the Baptist (6:14-29)
 - K. Jesus feeds five thousand people (6:30-52)
 - L. A third summary of Jesus's ministry (6:53-56)
 - M. God's word or the traditions of the elders? (7:1-23)
 - N. Ministry beyond Galilee (7:24–8:21)
- III. On the Way to Jerusalem (8:22–10:52)
 - A. The blind man at Bethsaida (8:22-26)
 - B. "You are the Messiah!" (8:27–9:1)
 - C. Transformation on the mountain (9:2-13)
 - D. The disciples' failure to cast out an evil spirit (9:14-29)
 - E. Jesus's second prediction of His death (9:30-32)
 - F. Who's the greatest? (9:33-50)
 - G. Jesus teaches about divorce and remarriage (10:1-12)
 - H. Jesus blesses little children (10:13-16)
 - I. The rich man and possessions (10:17-31)
 - J. Jesus's third prediction of His death (10:32-34)
 - K. James and John make a request (10:35-45)
 - L. Jesus heals blind Bartimaeus (10:46-52)
- IV. Week in Jerusalem (11:1–16:8)
 - A. The royal procession (11:1-11)
 - B. A barren tree (11:12-26)
 - C. A series of conflict stories (11:27–12:44)
 - D. Jesus predicts the temple's destruction (13:1-2)
 - E. Jesus's Olivet Discourse (13:3-37)
 - F. The Sanhedrin's plot to kill Jesus (14:1-2)
 - G. Jesus anointed at Bethany (14:3-9)
 - H. Judas makes a deal (14:10-11)
 - I. The Passover meal (14:12-31)
 - J. Jesus in Gethsemane (14:32-42)
 - K. Jesus's arrest, trial, and crucifixion (14:43–15:47)
 - L. An alarming visit to the tomb (16:1-8)
- V. Appendix: Jesus's Appearances (16:9-20)



how to use THIS STUDY

The *Daily Discipleship Guide* is designed with students in mind and accomplishes two goals: it helps students follow along with each session of study and provides weekly opportunities to continue studying the Bible on your own. It does this by providing an outline of each session and five days of **Daily Devotions** that primarily come out of the book of the Bible you are studying each session this quarter.

The *Daily Discipleship Guide* opens with **This Week's Focus**, a short introduction to the theme(s) that will be unpacked in each session. This section introduces the **Central Truth** in a manner that connects to the context in which you live. The **Central Truth** is the main point of the Bible passage you will be unpacking throughout the session.

EXPLORE **scripture**

The next page you will find in each Session of the *Daily Discipleship Guide* is the **Explore Scripture** page. This section includes the passage of Scripture you will be studying this week, broken down into the three sections that will be studied in turn so that you can follow along with your leader.

CONVERSATION **questions**

This portion of the study is designed to help you walk through the Scriptures of each session with your leader. The **Discussion Questions** are designed to help you to dig into Scripture and train you to look to the Bible for the answers. All questions are numbered “01–08” and correspond to the discussion questions found in the Conversation section of the **Leader Guide** so that you and your Bible study leader can be on the same page.

- This section also includes four different types of Context notes: **History, Culture, Theology,** and **Context** which train students to better understand how to study the Bible and apply it to the world in which you live.

NOW **what?**

This portion of the study is designed to highlight the Central Truth of the passage and help you apply that truth to your daily life.

- Each session contains four **Now What?** Questions.
- The questions are numbered “09–12” and are also included in the **Leader Guide** so that you can follow along with your leader during the group session.

DAILY **devotions**

Each session concludes with five Daily Devotions designed to train you how to study the Bible on your own. These devotions are built around the **Seven Arrows of Bible Reading**. More than just understanding what the Bible says, this Bible reading method gives you simple tools to unpack what the Bible has to say about God, about us, and about the world we live in. Most importantly, the **Daily Devotions** will challenge you to apply the gospel to how you live at home, school, and in your community. These devotions are perforated so that you can tear them out if you prefer to leave your *Daily Discipleship Guide* at your church or with your leader. The **Leader Guide** includes a list of the passages of Scripture covered in these devotions so that your leader can follow along with your daily readings and follow up with you on your progress.



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any mixture of error, for its matter and that all
Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. To
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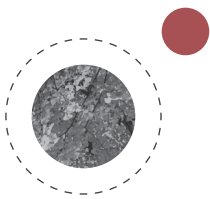
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THE WEEK OF

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how to use THIS STUDY

PREPARATION

Prior to each group meeting . . .

- Familiarize yourself with the Scripture text by reading each passage twice.
- Read the chapter of Scripture that precedes and follows each session's Bible text for context.
- Read over the Explore Options, Conversation Questions, Now What? questions, and leader notes so that you will be prepared to lead students to discuss and engage the text.
- Refer to the relevant Scripture Commentary for help with questions that come up as you study the text.

ALIGNMENT

Explore the Bible for Students generally covers the same texts as *Explore the Bible* for Adults. Occasionally we will study different verses/passages in order to speak to the unique context of teenagers. Any discrepancies are listed here:

- **Session 2:** memory verse is Mark 1:15, not 1:17; **Session 3:** added Mark 3:31-35; **Session 5:** added 8:11-21; **Session 6:** added 8:27-29 and 9:2-10, omitted 9:1; **Session 7:** added 9:14-16; **Session 9:** added 11:12-14, omitted 11:26; **Session 10:** memory verse is 13:31, not 13:37; **Session 13:** added 16:15-16

LEADER GUIDE

This teaching plan for the leaders of students contains five sections:

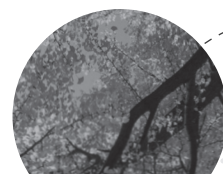
EXPLORE scripture

This portion of the study is designed to introduce you and your students to the passage of Scripture they will be studying and the Central Truth of the text. The **Central Truth** is the main point of the Bible passage that you and your students will be unpacking throughout the session. **This Week's Focus** seeks to introduce the Central Truth in a manner that will connect with the context in which students live. This section also includes two interactive options for introducing the theme(s) of each session:

- **EXPLORE OPTIONS:** These interactive activities or illustrations introduce the Central Truth of each session. Each session contains two Explore Options. Review both and choose the one that works best for your group.
- **LET'S TALK:** These icebreaker questions introduce the key themes to be unpacked in each session. These questions are designed to get students to open up as study begins. They are not included in the *Daily Discipleship Guide*, since they are conversational in nature.
- **ANIMATED VIDEOS:** *Explore the Bible* for Students has animated videos outlining why the Scripture we are studying matters to students. This quarter has two videos on the Gospel of Mark. The video bundle can be purchased at goexplorethebible.com/students.

CONVERSATION questions

- **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:** These questions are designed to get students to dig into Scripture, training them to look to the Bible for the answers to their questions. All questions are included in the *Daily Discipleship Guide* and are numbered "01–08" so that you can guide students to look at particular discussion questions in their copies of the *Daily Discipleship Guide*.
- **KEY QUESTIONS:** There will sometimes be days when special events or activities cause you to have less time to study the Bible with students than usual. So, in the event that you are pressed for time, we have highlighted the key discussion questions that you don't want to miss in each session.
- **LEADER'S NOTES:** This section contains teaching notes on each session's Scripture as well as answers to discussion questions so that leaders are prepared to teach each week.
- **BE VULNERABLE:** If you open up, oftentimes students will, too. These are challenges for you, as the leader, to share with students about your own personal walk with Christ as a means of pointing them to Christ.
- **CONTEXT NOTES:** *Explore the Bible* for Students contains five types of Context notes designed to help students understand the Bible.





additional RESOURCES

DAILY DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

The *Daily Discipleship Guide* provides students with all the discussion questions from the *Leader Guide*, as well as five days of Daily Devotions each week. These Daily Devotions train students in studying the Bible on their own. They are perforated so you can send them home with students each week if you prefer hold on to their *Daily Discipleship Guide* for them.

ANIMATED VIDEOS

Each quarter of *Explore the Bible* for Students has 2–3 **animated videos** that unpack why the books of the Bible we are studying matter in the lives of students.

MIDDLE SCHOOL OPTIONS

This **Middle School** versions of the *Leader Guide* and *Daily Discipleship Guide* are available via a curriculum subscription to **Ministry Grid** at curriculum.lifeway.com. They provide the same biblically rich content but with unique Explore Options and discussion questions to help younger students discuss the Bible.

LEADER PACK

The **Leader Pack** can be purchased at lifeway.com/explorethebiblestudents. It includes:

- **Posters** illustrating key truths from each session.
- **Family Connection** guides to equip parents and guardians to discuss the Bible with students.
- **Midweek Studies:** Thirteen sessions of additional verse-by-verse studies that complement each session.
- **PowerPoint templates** to prepare slides.

LEADER TRAINING

Explore the Bible for Students has a free **Leader Training** document available for download at explorethebible.lifeway.com/studentextras. This guide helps prepares leaders to teach by addressing challenging topics that might come up and highlighting key aspects of the *Leader Guide*.

These notes are also included in the *Daily Discipleship Guide* so that you may draw students' attention to them in your group meeting:

- » **HISTORY:** Historical setting, including information on key events and characters.
- » **CULTURE:** Highlights the social, political, and cultural environment or similarities to our culture.
- » **THEOLOGY:** Information to help answer questions about God that might arise from the text.
- » **CONTEXT:** Important cross references and notes to help students understand the chapter and book a text is in as well as the wider context of Scripture.
- » **GIVE AN ANSWER:** Teenagers tend to have lots of questions about the Bible. In these notes, we try to anticipate questions your students might have and answer them so you are prepared.

SCRIPTURE commentary

- This portion of the study is located on the right-hand side of each Conversation Question page. The **Commentary** seeks to help leaders understand the Bible text. Words and phrases are in **bold** when they are taken directly from that session's scripture. Words are in *italics* when they refer to specific Greek or Hebrew words.
- In addition to the Commentary provided in the *Leader Guide*, each quarter of *Explore the Bible* for Students gives leaders access to additional Bible commentaries online at logos.com/explorethebible. Sign up for an account and then use code **EXPLOREFALL2023** at checkout to access additional commentaries and study helps on Mark.

NOW what?

This portion of the study is designed to highlight the Central Truth of the passage and help students apply that truth to their daily lives.

- Each session contains four **Now What?** questions.
- The questions are numbered “09–12” and are included in the *Daily Discipleship Guide* so that you can guide students to look at particular discussion questions.

DAILY devotions

Each session concludes with the following:

- **7 ARROWS OF BIBLE READING:** These questions are designed to help you and your students learn how to study the Bible carefully and apply it thoughtfully to your lives.
- **LEADER CHALLENGE:** This section includes the memory verse in the *Daily Discipleship Guide* that students will be memorizing each week, as well as a reminder to check in with students midweek to connect with them and remind them to make time for their Daily Devotions.
- The Scripture texts of the five Daily Devotions that are included in your students' *Daily Discipleship Guide* (item 005646504) are also listed here. These devotions are perforated so that students can tear them out if you prefer to hold on to their *Daily Discipleship Guide* for them. We encourage you to take time on your own to review the devotions that students will be studying.

BIBLE reading plan

SEPTEMBER 2023

DAY 1: Mark 1:1-8
DAY 2: Mark 1:9-13
DAY 3: Mark 1:14-20
DAY 4: Mark 1:21-28
DAY 5: Mark 1:29-38
DAY 6: Mark 1:39-45
DAY 7: Mark 2:1-12
DAY 8: Mark 2:13-17
DAY 9: Mark 2:18-22
DAY 10: Mark 2:23–3:6
DAY 11: Mark 3:7-12
DAY 12: Mark 3:13-19
DAY 13: Mark 3:20-30
DAY 14: Mark 3:31-35
DAY 15: Mark 4:1-9
DAY 16: Mark 4:10-20
DAY 17: Mark 4:21-25
DAY 18: Mark 4:26-34
DAY 19: Mark 4:35-41
DAY 20: Mark 5:1-20
DAY 21: Mark 5:21-43
DAY 22: Mark 6:1-6
DAY 23: Mark 6:7-13
DAY 24: Mark 6:14-20
DAY 25: Mark 6:21-29
DAY 26: Mark 6:30-44
DAY 27: Mark 6:45-56
DAY 28: Mark 7:1-23
DAY 29: Mark 7:24-30
DAY 30: Mark 7:31-37

OCTOBER 2023

DAY 1: Mark 8:1-10
DAY 2: Mark 8:11-21
DAY 3: Mark 8:22-26
DAY 4: Mark 8:27-29
DAY 5: Mark 8:30-33
DAY 6: Mark 8:34-38
DAY 7: Mark 9:1-7
DAY 8: Mark 9:8-13
DAY 9: Mark 9:14-18
DAY 10: Mark 9:19-24
DAY 11: Mark 9:25-29
DAY 12: Mark 9:30-32
DAY 13: Mark 9:33-37
DAY 14: Mark 9:38-41
DAY 15: Mark 9:42-50
DAY 16: Mark 10:1-12
DAY 17: Mark 10:13-16
DAY 18: Mark 10:17-22
DAY 19: Mark 10:23-27
DAY 20: Mark 10:28-31
DAY 21: Mark 10:32-34
DAY 22: Mark 10:35-40
DAY 23: Mark 10:41-45
DAY 24: Mark 10:46-52
DAY 25: Mark 11:1-11
DAY 26: Mark 11:12-14
DAY 27: Mark 11:15-19
DAY 28: Mark 11:20-26
DAY 29: Mark 11:27-33
DAY 30: Mark 12:1-12
DAY 31: Mark 12:13-17

NOVEMBER 2023

DAY 1: Mark 12:18-27
DAY 2: Mark 12:28-34
DAY 3: Mark 12:35-37
DAY 4: Mark 12:38-40
DAY 5: Mark 12:41-44
DAY 6: Mark 13: 1-2
DAY 7: Mark 13:3-8
DAY 8: Mark 13:9-13
DAY 9: Mark 13:14-23
DAY 10: Mark 13:24-31
DAY 11: Mark 13:32-37
DAY 12: Mark 14:1-11
DAY 13: Mark 14:12-16
DAY 14: Mark 14:17-21
DAY 15: Mark 14:22-26
DAY 16: Mark 14:27-31
DAY 17: Mark 14:32-36
DAY 18: Mark 14:37-42
DAY 19: Mark 14:43-52
DAY 20: Mark 14:53-59
DAY 21: Mark 14:60-65
DAY 22: Mark 14:66-72
DAY 23: Mark 15:1-5
DAY 24: Mark 15:6-15
DAY 25: Mark 15:16-20
DAY 26: Mark 15:21-32
DAY 27: Mark 15:33-41
DAY 28: Mark 15:42-47
DAY 29: Mark 16:1-8
DAY 30: Mark 16:9-20