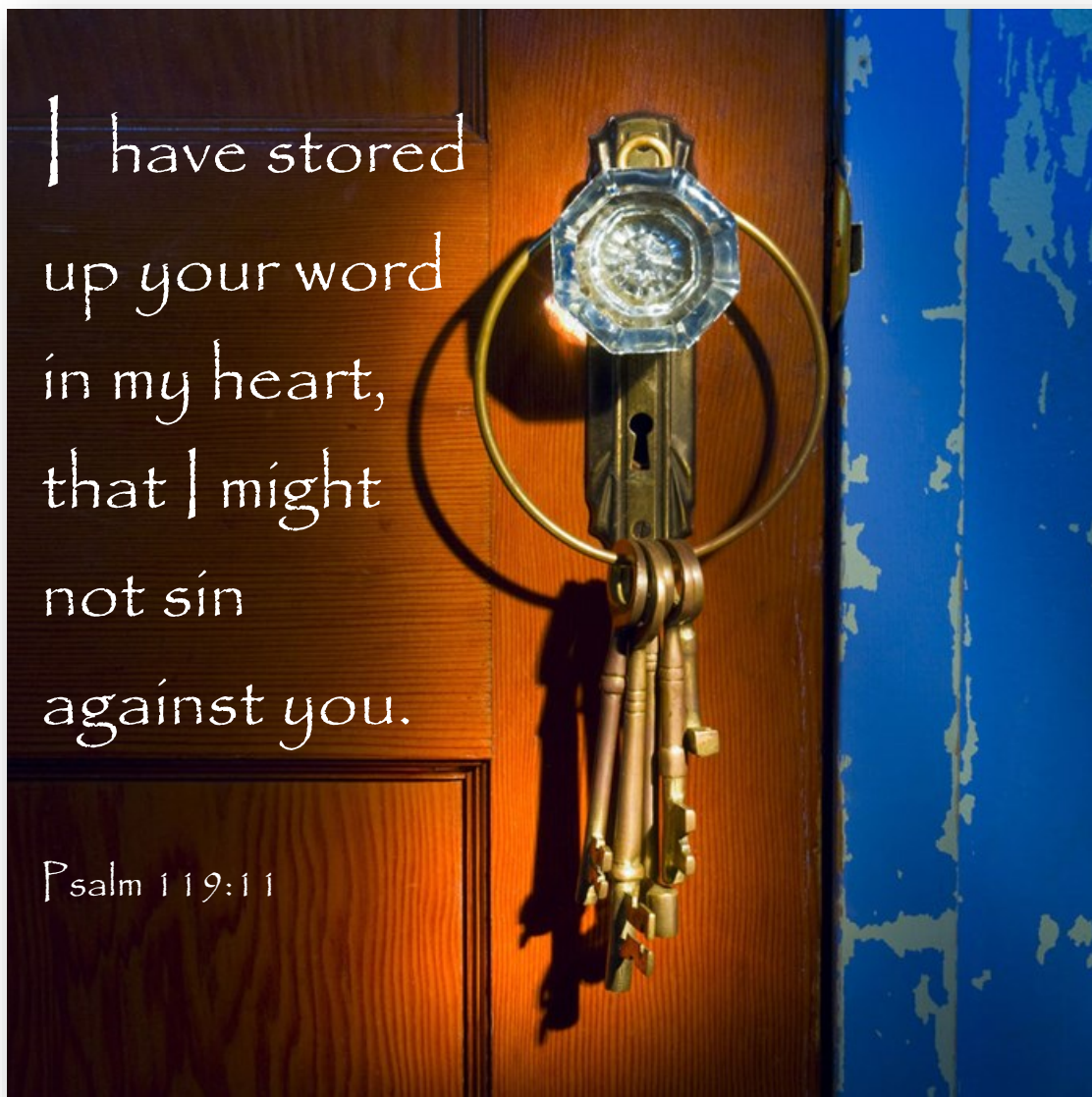


UNLOCKING THE WORD



THE GOSPEL OF MARK STUDY GUIDE

CHAPTER 1



CHAPTER 1

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THE BOOK OF MARK BACKGROUND

The Gospel of Mark—Jesus Christ Servant and King

Mark, or John Mark, is a Jew and the companion of the Apostle Peter. He presents Jesus to a Gentile Roman audience as the *suffering servant*, yet convincing them that this Jesus is the true King, the King of Kings. A hard sell and up hill task to the Roman mind, for who would want a servant as a king?

Rome was about “Empire”, strong, secure leadership. Slaves were servants, not kings. Mark knows his audience’s Hellenistic worldview, that man is the captain of his own destiny; which the Romans exulted in society. Mark targets the four cultural pillars that Rome was built on: *Education, Health Care, Entertainment, and Competition*, and writes to his audience with these in mind. You will find many references and descriptions of these four pillars woven into Mark’s gospel.

This Gospel could be called the *action gospel* as it unfolds rapidly. This would likely appeal to his hearers who are all about decisive action. This is not unlike our own western culture: the face pace, get to the point, make your argument, give me the facts, hurry up and give me the answer. Whereas, Eastern thought learning happens via discovery and experience, taking the “long way” to enjoy the process of learning, like a treasure hunt.

Mark identifies more of the acts of Jesus and less about what Jesus taught. By doing so, Mark demonstrates what true Kingly behavior is, to serve and sacrifice for the empire, for the kingdom of God, something Romans would understand, a man of action.

Cont.

Gospel Outline

Mark's Gospel can be outlined in three large overarching scenes.

- The first is chapters 1-8 all of which take place in Galilee and asks the question: “Who is Jesus?”
- Chapters 11-16 asks the question “How Jesus becomes king?”, taking place in Jerusalem during the last week of Jesus’ life. And in this case who finally “gets it” is a Roman soldier.
- Between those two scenes is chapters 8-10 creating a bridge with Jesus and the disciples traveling through the countryside on the way to Jerusalem and asks the question: “Who do you say I am?”, and Jesus will tell them the answer to the second question before they get to Jerusalem.

Justin Martyr spoke of this Gospel as “*the memoirs of Peter*”. *Mark was a helper, he wasn't a preacher, an apostle, but a regular guy that God called to ministry.* He would have had the privilege to know both Peter and Paul being taught by, working with and seeing them first hand begin this new work, “the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” The timeframe for this book ranges from AD 50-70, before the destruction of Jerusalem by Rome.

Important Cultural Players

Herodians—Tried to blend the Greek worldview with the Religious worldview by taking the best both. A little bit of the theater, luxury, leisure, healthcare, and have my synagogue worship.

Sadducees—They were priests but had pretty much the same view of the Herodians. They were secular in nature and had been for centuries which made them very corrupt.

Essenes—Priests who did not agree with the Sadducees and broke off separating themselves moving away from Jerusalem in to the wilderness. They devoted themselves to the learning, copying and living out scripture. We can thank them for much of the ancient manuscripts we have today.

Zealots—Devoted to doing the right things as part of upholding to Jewish culture and kill the Romans if they get in their way.

Pharisees—They took the same zeal and devotion as the Zealots but without the sword. More of a political means to change and stay in power.

The first reference to the author and circumstance of the Second Gospel comes from Papias, bishop of Hierapolis in Asia Minor, in a work entitled *Exegesis of the Lord's Oracles*, composed sometime prior to Papias's death in A.D. 130. Although the *Exegesis* has since been lost, Papias's testimony has been preserved by Eusebius in the following version:

Mark became Peter's interpreter and wrote accurately all that he remembered, not, indeed, in order, of the things said or done by the Lord. For Mark had not heard the Lord, nor had he followed him, but later on, as I said, followed Peter, who used to give teaching as necessity demanded but not making, as it were, an arrangement of the Lord's oracles, so that Mark did nothing wrong in thus writing down single points as he remembered them. For to one thing he gave attention, to leave out nothing of what he had heard and to make no false statements in them.

Characteristics of this gospel

1. Mark's Gospel unique among the Gospels. First, it emphasizes Jesus' actions more than His teaching. Mark recorded 18 of Jesus' miracles but only four of His parables (4:2–20, 26–29, 30–32; 12:1–9) and one major discourse (13:3–37). Repeatedly Mark wrote that Jesus taught without recording His teaching (1:21, 39; 2:2, 13; 6:2, 6, 34; 10:1; 12:35). Most of the teaching he did include came out of Jesus' controversies with the Jewish religious leaders (2:8–11, 19–22, 25–28; 3:23–30; 7:6–23; 10:2–12; 12:10–11, 13–40).

2. Mark's writing style is vivid, forceful, and descriptive, reflecting an eyewitness source such as Peter (cf., e.g., 2:4; 4:37–38; 5:2–5; 6:39; 7:33; 8:23–24; 14:54). His use of Greek is nonliterary, close to the everyday speech of that time with a recognizable Semitic flavoring. His use of Greek tenses, especially the "historical present" tense (used over 150 times), simple sentences linked by "and," frequent use of "immediately" (*euthys*; cf. comments on 1:10), and the use of forceful words (e.g., lit., "impelled," 1:12) lend vividness to his narrative.

3. Mark portrayed his subjects with unusual candor. He emphasized the responses of Jesus' hearers with various expressions of amazement (cf. comments on 1:22, 27; 2:12; 5:20; 9:15). He related the concern of Jesus' family over His mental health (cf. 3:21, 31–35). He candidly and repeatedly drew attention to the disciples' lack of understanding and failures (cf. 4:13; 6:52; 8:17, 21; 9:10, 32; 10:26). He also highlighted Jesus' emotions such as His compassion (1:41; 6:34; 8:2; 10:16), His anger and displeasure (1:43; 3:5; 8:33; 10:14), and His sighs of distress and sorrow (7:34; 8:12; 14:33–34).

4. Mark's Gospel is dominated by Jesus' movement toward the Cross and the Resurrection. From Mark 8:31 onward Jesus and His disciples were "on the way" (cf. 9:33; 10:32) from Caesarea Philippi in the north through Galilee to Jerusalem in the south. The rest of the narrative (36%) was devoted to events of the Passion Week—the eight days from Jesus' entry into Jerusalem (11:1–11) to His resurrection (16:1–8).

Occasion and Purpose

Mark's Gospel contains no direct statement about this, so that information must be derived from a study of its contents and presumed historical setting. Because such assessments differ, various views have been given.

Some suggested purpose statements: (a) to present a biographical portrait of Jesus as the Servant of the Lord, (b) to win converts to Jesus Christ, (c) to give instruction to new Christians and strengthen their faith in the face of persecution, (d) to provide material for evangelists and teachers to use, and (e) to correct false ideas about Jesus and His messianic mission. These suggestions, though helpful, seem either to exclude portions of the Gospel from consideration or fail to account for Mark's emphases.

Mark's purpose was basically *pastoral*. The Christians in Rome had already heard and believed the good news of God's saving power (Rom. 1:8) but they needed to hear it again with a new emphasis to catch afresh its implications for their lives in a dissolute and often hostile environment. They needed to understand the nature of discipleship—what it meant to follow Jesus—in light of who Jesus is and what He had done and would keep doing for them.

Grassmick, J. D. (1985). [Mark](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, pp. 99–100). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books. Grassmick, J. D. (1985). [Mark](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, pp. 99–100). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

THE BOOK OF MARK

STUDY ONE

BACKSTORY

To say God helps those who help themselves is to completely falsify the Gospel. God helps the helpless. Christ, who purchased, purified and possess a people through His work done at the cross. God empowering the weak to show His strength. Making the helpless, helpful so that only the things done in Christ's name last into eternity. A people who are passionate to do good works to making mush of Christ. Apart from that any good work is nothing more than self-righteousness, the helpless trying to make a name for themselves.

-Dale Lautzenheiser

When we think of the word, redemption, other words like redeem, reclaim or ransom may come to mind. Liberate, recover, purchase, are also words we may think of. But at some point, our thought process must come to this: *"Is what I'm redeeming worth the price that must be paid?"* We determine if something or someone has value base on whatever threshold we may have, then decide to act on, be inconvenienced by, or motivated to move.

This study turns that notion on its head and by revealing that Gods holy, good and kind nature redeems a people who have no value in and of themselves to add to Him. ***He redeems for no other reason than it's His joy to do so.***

the GOSPEL of MARK

BIG IDEA: Christ's church is meant to be restorative and in Him there is hope to restore that which was in ruin.

WEEK 1 | September 6, 2020

Ruin and Restoration

MARK 1:1

Mark is called the cousin of Barnabas in Col. 4:10, so Mary was his aunt. **John ... Mark.** Cousin of Barnabas (Col. 4:10), acquaintance of Peter in his youth (1 Pet. 5:13). He accompanied Barnabas and Paul to Antioch (v. 25) and later to Cyprus (13:4, 5). He deserted them at Perga (13:13) and Paul refused to take him on his second missionary journey because of that desertion (15:36–41). He accompanied Barnabas to Cyprus (15:39). He disappeared until he was seen with Paul at Rome as an accepted companion and co-worker (Col. 4:10; Philem. 24). During Paul's second imprisonment at Rome, Paul sought John Mark's presence as useful to him (2 Tim. 4:11). He wrote the second gospel that bears his name, being enriched in his task by the aid of Peter (1 Pet. 5:13).

Mark knows Peter, he very well was one of the 3000 saved at Pentecost. He knows Paul and has seen the church from its earliest beginning. Yet even with all those heavy hitters of the faith, something happens. Mark bails. He leaves. He deserted his companions in the ministry. Remember Mark isn't an apostle, not a preacher or teacher. But what is his ministry? Acts 13:5: he is a helper. He had proven himself over a period of time that he went on Paul's first missionary journey to start new churches. We know that wasn't a walk in the park, as the Jews followed him everywhere to cause and stir up trouble, Acts 13:6-10

So when Paul and Barnabas have the idea to go back out and check on all the churches, they need some support, some helpers. And who comes to mind? Mark. And then the sparks fly, Acts 15:39 a sharp disagreement. It's a provocation, an intense emotional disagreement because Paul is so totally focused on one thing, the gospel and any distraction just slows him down.

Peter made an ill decision denying he knew Jesus, yet he was restored. Paul the same in persecuting Jesus via the church. They both knew what it was like to receive restoration. Jesus never treated them the way He was treated. Mercy is just that: when we humble ourselves, coming in penitence at the cross of Christ. Hating our sin and trusting Him. So here we see a young man with a reputation of in ruin because of a ill decision. Yet even poor decisions don't have the power to subvert the power of the gospel to restore. And isn't that good news?

PRAYER

This week pray this prayer each day and submit yourself to Him by trusting in Him.

Lord, restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit, let your face shine on me that I may be saved. Remove your righteous indignation from me with your mercy. Heal the ruin I've caused and lead me and turn my mourning into comfort. Amen. Psalm 51:12, 80:3, 85:4, Isaiah 57:18

MacArthur, J., Jr. (Ed.). (1997). [The MacArthur Study Bible](#) (electronic ed., p. 1655). Nashville, TN: Word Pub.

READING PLAN

This week use the following steps to dig into the truth of God's word:

Reading:

Begin with reading through the passage a few times and really seek to understand the individual words, phrases, and thoughts that make up the passage. Take time to journal anything specific that stands out to you. Don't try to add your own meaning, but read the text as it comes off the page. The goal is not to see the words with your eyes, but to feel them in your heart, mind, and soul.

Meditation:

This step has everything to do with thinking of specific chunks of the passage in front of you. Think about phrases and specific words that stood out to you. Focus intently on why the Holy Spirit might have chosen these words to speak to you today. Reflect on how it might apply to your life. Is it relevant to something you are going through? Does it bring to mind a struggle you have been dealing with? Journal some thoughts that followed your meditation time.

Prayer:

Our next step is to take all of the words, thoughts, feelings, actions, fears and convictions that you've just experienced and offer them to the Lord in prayer. Ask him to illuminate what he would have you do with them. Simply talk to God and tell him how you are feeling. Confess any anxieties, praise him for who he is, ask him for what you need. Take time to record your prayers in a prayer journal.

Contemplation:

Be silent in the presence of the Lord. Relax, embrace, and just be with the Lord. ***Don't rush this.*** Quiet your mind and soul sitting patiently with Him. Take time after contemplation to write down your experience with God in silence.

SCRIPTURE

Monday: - Genesis 4:1-5; Hebrews 11:1-4; Genesis 22:2; Hebrews 11:17-19

Tuesday: - Exodus 12:1-14; 1 Corinthians 5:1-8; Hebrews 9:20; Leviticus 16:30-34

Wednesday: - Ruth 4:1-10; Romans 3:24-26; Psalm 111:9, 130:7

Thursday: - Ephesians 1:1-22, 2:1-10, Galatians 3:13, Hebrews 7:27, 9:24-28, 10:10-12

Friday: - Job 33:24, Isaiah 35:10, 51:10; Matthew 20:28; 1 Timothy 2:6

Saturday: - Catch up, Reflect and Pray.

NOTES

GROWTH GUIDE—Mark 1:1

WEEK 1 | SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

BIG IDEA: Christ's church is meant to be restorative and in Him there is hope to restore that which was in ruin.

BELONG

- When have you restored something in your life that had gotten ruined?
- What was the reason for restoring it?
- What makes something worth all the work, energy, and effort to want to fix it in the first place?

GROW

1. Read the following Scripture that pertain to the life of Mark. Acts 12:12-13:3, 15:36-41; Colossians 4:7-11; 2 Timothy 4:9-11; Philemon 24; 1 Peter 5:12-14. Sum up the context in these five sections.
2. We are not told the specifics of the conflict between Paul and Barnabas but what didn't they allow to happen? See Acts 15:39,41. What is and was the fundamental focus of their lives? What does this say about the focus of their faith?
3. Is it possible to stop conflict? How could you prevent it before it starts?
4. We know that conflicts arise. As Christians, what should always be at the forefront of our minds? How do we keep our mind focused on what it means to be part of the kingdom of God and how we should conduct ourselves? Specifically when the issue is reconciliation? See Philippians 1:29, 1 Corinthians 6:1-11
5. What are the attitudinal or character attributes that have to be present for restoration to even happen?
6. In light of our current national upheaval and divisiveness is it possible to be reconciled? If you said yes, what is your part in doing so?
7. For Christians to be united what must always be present? See Romans 2:6-8
8. Why must truth be the bond that unifies?
9. Think of some of those "sharp" disagreements in your church life. What were the results? In general where they focused on the mission of God; making and teaching disciples? Or on something man-centered and lesser such as the type, form or length of worship, or worse, colors of paint or carpet?
10. What should we be in conflict over? See Galatians 1:6-9

REACH

What was Jesus' preemptive teaching to avoid or minimize most conflicts? See Mark 9:35 Romans 13:8, Hebrews 10:24-25. What is your plan as an individual/small group to out-do each other in service and love?

the GOSPEL of MARK

BIG IDEA: Preparation pre-supposes the fact that you know you are not ready and are willing to act so that you will be.

WEEK 2 | September 13, 2020

The Preparation of John

MARK 1:1-8

Preparation comes in many forms and types, it just depend on what the need is. The very idea invokes an emanate danger, disaster or at the very least an important need. This assumes:

- first that you are cognizant of the need in the first place.
- Second in recognizing the need, that you have the knowledge, understanding and self-awareness that in fact you are not prepared.
- Third is actually knowing what actions to take to become prepared thereby avoiding the approaching disaster.

John the Baptist is the representative and final expression of the Old Testament. The Old Testament itself, terminating in him, becomes one great forerunner, and the voice of the Spirit of God in the wilderness, which proclaims the manifestation of Christ; that is, it becomes the introduction to the original New Testament, springing from heaven.

John the Baptist is the herald, calling out to those who would hear that the Kingdom of God is coming and is here. The King is coming. There is lies the impending dread. Should a dignitary come to your home to visit would you like them to see it the way it is? Or would you tidy it up a bit? Funny, it doesn't take someone of that stature, but just inviting friends over for dinner creates the need to clean up. How much more with the King of Kings who has the power of death and hell?

"Oh my brothers and sisters in Christ, if sinners will be damned, at least let them leap to hell over our bodies. And if they will perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees, imploring them to stop, and not madly to destroy themselves. If hell must be filled, at least let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go there unwarned and unprayed for." ~Charles Spurgeon

PRAYER

This week pray this prayer each day and submit yourself to Him by trusting in Him.

Lord prepare me with a heart for the lost. Help me be strong and couragous like John, calling on those to repent. Prepare me with your holy Word that what is spoken is done in truth and love. Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary pure and holy tried and true and with thanksgiving I'll be a living sanctuary, for You. In so doing no matter the response you will be glorified in me. Amen.

READING PLAN

This week, dig into the scriptures below using the Two Truths and a Lie method:

Truth 1:

What is the biggest Truth that you pulled from your reading today? Why did it stand out to you? What made it an important truth for you to cling to? How can you apply it to your life? Write down the scripture and the truth that you gleaned.

Truth 2:

Use Bible study tools or Google to find another Bible truth that supports the statement from the first truth that you found. Write down the scripture. What does this verse or passage say to support that truth? What do you need to do to walk in the power of that truth?

Lie:

What lie are you believing or are tempted to believe that stands in the way of these truths? Take time to refute that lie with the truths that you've learned. God has given Christians a spirit of power, love and self-control, 2 Timothy 1:7, therefore there is victory over fear. Write down a sentence that says something like this, "The lie I've believed is _____, but God's word says that _____."

SCRIPTURE

Monday: - Matthew 11:10, Luke 7:27, Hebrews 9

Tuesday: - Matthew 25

Wednesday: Genesis 6:11-22, Hebrews 11:7

Friday: - Acts 2:22-47. 11:17, Romans 10:9-10, Luke 3:8, Acts 26:20

Saturday: - Catch up, Reflect and Pray.

NOTES

GROWTH GUIDE—Mark 1:1-8

WEEK 2 | SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

BIG IDEA: Preparation pre-supposes the fact that you know your not ready and are willing to act so that you will be.

BELONG

- Describe a time in life when you were prepared. What benefit did that give you in life?
- Describe a time when you were NOT prepared. What did that do in your life?

GROW

1. Mark gives the title to his gospel in verse 1. There are four key words he uses; Beginning, Gospel, Jesus Christ, Son of God. What is he communicating to his Roman, mostly illiterate audience? We may not be illiterate in our day but as a culture we certainly are “biblically” illiterate. How do we go about communicating the message today?
2. The term “Gospel” does not refer to Mark’s book but instead to the good news about Jesus Christ. What is the good news? What must be understood for the good news to be good news? Romans 3:23.
3. Look at the following text: Isaiah 40:9; 41:27;52:7; 61:1-3. What is the importance and how was it expressed?
4. John the Baptist came to do what? Why is his role so important to legitimize the one who was coming after him?
5. What does the idea of preparing presuppose? What does that say about the Jews coming to John and that they were coming out into the wilderness? What should it have reminded them of?
6. What did the first wilderness journey do to prepare the nation of Israel?
7. John was preparing the people to receive their King with a baptism of repentance. The Jews performed baptisms for Gentile proselytes. Being God’s covenant people, what does this speak to if John is asking them to do the same thing?
8. John’s ministry was a call to repent. What is the meaning and genesis of repentance? Is it more than being sorry or getting caught? 1 Thessalonians 1:9, Acts 3:19; 5:31; 8:22; 11:18’ 17:30; 20:21; (Acts 26:20, Matt 4:17, Matt 3:7-8)
9. Read 2 Cor 7:10. If one is truly repentant, what must accompany it? Who is producing it? 2 Tim 2:25. What makes someone in the world sorrowful? Someone who is fulfilling fleshly desires?

REACH

Repentance is at the very heart of salvation and is proof that faith exists. Fact is, it’s Saving faith has certain elements that we employ. Repenting is one of them. True repentance cannot happen apart from a genuine sorrow and hatred of one’s sin. Other elements of faith we employ are in Romans 10:9. How did Jesus sum them all up in Matthew 28:18-20.

So the question is, what will it take for you to be prepared to stand before a just and holy God?

the GOSPEL of MARK

BIG IDEA: Jesus Christ is divine, truly God, truly man sent to fulfill all righteousness.

WEEK 3 | September 20, 2020

The Reason Jesus is Baptized

MARK 1:9-11

The term Christ, is the official title given to Jesus in the New Testament (NT). It signifies his office as anointed Savior and alludes to his spiritual qualifications for the task of saving his people. The word derives from **Greek Christos**, which translates **Hebrew Messiah** (Jn 1:41). Both terms come from verbs meaning **“to anoint with sacred oil”**; hence as titles they mean **“the Anointed One.”** Applied to Jesus, they express the conviction that he had divine appointment for his office and function.

Jesus’ office and function were foreshadowed by the three groups of Old Testament (OT) anointed officials: **prophets, priests, and kings**. The anointed person was not a free agent. As prophet, priest, or king he spoke, served, or ruled in the name of the Lord and as his representative to the people of God.

The Gospels portray Jesus as modestly accepting the title and role of Messiah-Christ. His baptism should be understood as his anointing to the threefold office of prophet, priest, and king. At his baptism by John (the new Elijah, Mt 11:14) Jesus received the outpouring of the Spirit and God’s mandate to begin his ministry (Mt 3:16–4:17). John himself denied being the anointed one but identified Jesus as the Christ (Jn 1:20; Lk 3:15–17).

- Jesus’ first disciples followed him because they knew he was the Messiah (Jn 1:41).
- The demons recognized him as “the Holy One [anointed] of God” (Mk 1:24; cf. Mt 8:29).
- The crowds followed him as the Prophet, the new Moses (Jn 6:14, 32), but deserted him when they understood that his kingdom was a spiritual, not a political realm (Jn 6:66).
- The twelve remained loyal, saying, “We believe ... you are the Holy One of God” (Jn 6:69 NIV). The confession of the disciples voiced by Peter and approved by Jesus as a divine revelation is: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Mt 16:16).
- At his trials the decisive factor in Jesus’ condemnation was his claim to be the Christ (Mt 26:63, 64, 68; 27:11, 17, 22, 37).

The earliest Christian preaching was the proclamation that Jesus is the Christ (Acts 2:36; 3:18, 20; 9:22; 28:23, 31). This remains the earliest (Mt 16:16) and most basic article of Christian confession (1 Cor 1:23; 1 Jn 5:1), affirming that Jesus perfectly fulfilled the role of anointed prophet, priest, and king as the servant of God for his people (Lk 7:16; 1 Cor 15:25; Heb 7:22–28; Rv 19:16).

PRAYER

Search me Lord and know my heart. Try me and know my thoughts, See if there is any wicked way in me and lead me in the way of everlasting. Let your imputed righteousness be magnified in me so that I may fulfill the good deeds you have prepared for me to walk in. Amen.

READING PLAN

This week, use the **PLANT** method to look into the truth of scripture.

Prepare:

Put away distractions and ask God to prepare your heart for your reading and journaling time.

Learn:

What does this passage have to teach me today? Write down lessons that the characters learned or a principle(s) that is/are present you can glean from this passage.

Ask:

Ask questions of the passage. What don't you understand about the passage and take time to write down these questions. What could be illuminated through further study? What principles should you discuss with those around you?

Name Truths:

What are some of the nuggets of truth from this passage that you can learn from? What truths do you need to take away and put into practice?

Take Action:

What will you do with what you've read? How can you put the lessons and truths into action this week? Write out your steps and follow them.

SCRIPTURE

Monday: - Psalm 11

Tuesday: - Psalm 1

Wednesday: - Psalm 112

Thursday: - Psalm 37

Friday: - Psalm 139

Saturday: - Catch up, Reflect and Pray.

NOTES

GROWTH GUIDE—Mark 1:9-11

WEEK 3 | SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

BIG IDEA: Jesus Christ is divine, truly God, truly man. Sent to fulfill all righteousness.

BELONG

Review last week

GROW

1. Read the parallel accounts of Jesus being baptized. Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22, John 1:29-34.
2. What was John the Baptist fully aware of about Jesus as Matthew accounts to try to prevent Jesus from being baptized?
3. The prevention is therefore a testimony of Jesus being what? Hebrews 4:15
4. Read Matthew 3:11. What is John not worthy to do? Why is this so significant for our understanding? Isaiah 55:9
5. Why did Jesus, who was even more aware of His own sinlessness than John was, want to submit Himself to an act that testified to confession and repentance of sin?
6. How was Jesus' baptism different from all others?
7. Since Jesus was the sinless Lamb and Son of God, what are some reasons He submitting to baptism? (Some suggestions; the right way to transition from a carpenter to ministry. To identify with sinners which He would be accused of-Isaiah 53:12, Matt 9:11, to give an example of obedience to His followers, a symbol of His death, burial, and resurrection and therefore a prefigure merit of Christian baptism.)
8. How did Jesus fulfill all righteousness? Romans 8:3, 2 Cor 5:21; Isaiah 53:11

REACH

The prescription for baptism comes as the culmination of faith in Jesus Christ, as one of faith elements like repentance from last weeks study, as well as believing in Jesus and believing that He is the Son of God, the verbal confession and the subsequent living a life in keeping with repentance. All of these means are grace gifts from God that we participate in. They are not works we do, but like Christ, are the means in which we fulfill righteousness or how we walk by faith, or how we love Him. No one element supersedes another or is more important, but they all work in unity.

There are those that say that baptism is not important or not necessary but it was to Jesus at the beginning of His earthly ministry and it was the very last thing He told His followers (Matt 28:18-19). Luke's book of Acts of the early church is full of stories of new believers being baptized.

*If you have yet to be baptized, humble yourself like Christ and submit to His command to do so. If you have been baptized, be patient with those yet to come to the full knowledge of Christ and make sure you haven't overlooked one of the other elements. Faith comes by hearing and hearing from God's Word (Romans 10:17) and what we hear is that we are to **believe, repent, confess, be baptized, and be faithful to our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.***

The GOSPEL of MARK

BIG IDEA: The ministry plan for every Christian is *testing, proclaiming, asking, and following* the one who has all authority to save, Jesus Christ.

WEEK 4 | September 27, 2020

The Ministry Plan for the Church

MARK 1:12-20

Jesus begins His earthly ministry and sets out a pattern for ministry for His followers to walk in. Testing, Proclaiming, Asking, and Following. He said that the servant is not above the master, so by conforming to His kingdom we should have and anticipate to see His life and treatment in our own.

As Christians the fortitude of your faith in Jesus Christ will always be tested, not because God needs to know; He already does. Or that He needs to “test your metal”, in fact He promises He won’t allow a test greater than anything which you can handle. No the testing is not for Him, it’s for you... and the fact that this world is bathed in sin clashes with God’s kingdom. We have the tendency to take the path of least resistance but we all know that the greatest moments of growth have taken place through persevered difficulty.

Jesus summed up His ministry and life one last time in Matthew 28:18-20. He has all authority, and commands to go and make more disciples by baptizing them and teaching them everything He taught the first disciples. That’s what we see in Acts, the proclaiming of the kingdom of God. That proclamation has two inseparable forms, your life and your words.

One thing Jesus did was to not only proclaim or teach about the kingdom of God but to go one step further when He was finished to ask for a response to His teaching. That can be done with a good question such as: “Would you please consider what we’ve talked about?” Or, “Could we talk some more?” The reason is not just where you spend eternity but has ramifications here and now.

How so? The strength of the Christian proclamation is directly tied to how closely your life is being lived in obedience or following to the commands of the Savior you claim to be following. When Jesus says, “Come follow me.”, that is loaded with practical, real-time, meaning to every generation of believers. We know we won’t do this to perfection but that should never deter us from living in grace. Besides, who in history has offered anything remotely better that they could actually deliver on?

PRAYER

This week pray the Lord’s prayer found in Matthew 6:9 and try to personalize it for example: Our Father in heaven, let your name be hallowed in (my life, family member or the name of someone who needs salvation) Let your kingdom come to (my or their) home and your will be done, and so on. Ask God to direct your life to bring an encouraging word or to have a gospel conversation with them.

READING PLAN

This week, use the WORD reading plan to dig into what God says about anger:

Word:

Pick a verse that stands out to you from today's passage. Write that verse out in your prayer journal. Read over this verse several times and pray for God to illuminate its meaning.

Observe:

Try to answer the Who, What, When, Where, and Why questions about this passage. Who wrote it? What is it about? When was it written? Where did it take place? Why did they include what they wrote in this passage?

Relevance:

How is this passage relevant to your life today? In what ways is it applicable and how can you immediately put to use what you're learning through reading?

Declare:

Write out any promises that you've gleaned from these portions of scripture, whether explicitly stated, or inferred. Declare these promises over your life in prayer. Ask God for His will and His timing in these promises.

SCRIPTURE

Monday: - Matthew 6:9-15

Tuesday: - Ephesians 1:1-14, 1 Peter 1

Wednesday: - Acts 2:37-47, 4:1-22

Thursday: - 2 Corinthians 8:1-7, James 1:1-7

Friday: - Luke 21:12-19

Saturday: - Catch up, Reflect and Pray.

NOTES

GROWTH GUIDE—Mark 1:12-28

WEEK 4 | SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

BIG IDEA: The ministry plan for every Christian is *testing, proclaiming, asking, and following* the one who can save, Jesus Christ.

BELONG

Take to review and talk about the last few weeks themes. What has the Holy Spirit taught, kept in your mind, transformed your thinking with respect to: Ruin and Restoration, Preparation or Righteousness?

GROW—Testing

1. Read Mark 1:12-13 and Matthew 4:1-11. Jesus was driven, led, compelled by God the Spirit to confront Satan, why? And why did He initiate the contact? Look at Mark 5:1-13, specifically vs 7. Is there a connection to how the demon would know who Jesus was and what He was capable of doing to them?
2. Jesus being God has the power to not only confront evil but overthrow and destroy it. Read James 4:17. How does this parallel for Christians?
3. Read Hebrews 2:18, 4:15. What other reasons would there be for Jesus going through this? How helpful is it to know He has experienced this life just like you in every way?
4. As Christians we know the testing of life will come. Jesus doesn't need to "test your metal" He already knows. Who is the test for and what is it meant to accomplish? See James 1:2-4.
5. If the end game is for you to be perfected and lack nothing, why do we bristle so hard against times of life testing of our faith?

Proclaiming/Asking

6. When sharing the gospel, what are the key elements that need to be explained?
 - What is Stephen using to make his claim about the Jewish leaders in Acts 7:51-53?
 - What is necessary to see in your own life that the law points out about you? What didn't the Jewish leaders think of themselves as? You are a what?
 - What is God doing behind the scenes so to speak? How do we know? Acts 16:14
 - See Acts 16:29-30. Based on this record what is the jailer doing? Acts 17:30
 - What is Paul and Silas's answer to his question? Acts 16:31
 - What else did Paul and Silas do? Acts 16:32. Why did they do this? Matthew 28:18-20
 - What was the final element? Acts 16:33

Key elements: The Law, See your sin, God opens, Sinner hears, Repentant heart, Belief in who Jesus is, Baptized in His name

REACH

The call to follow Christ is obedience to everything He has commanded. What specifically are some of those and what can we do to ensure we live in grace not making these a "to do list?"

BIG IDEA: Jesus is divine, truly God, truly man and has the authority to make the claim.

the GOSPEL of MARK

WEEK 5 | October 4, 2020

Jesus is Divine Authority

MARK 1:21-28

Mark's purpose in this section of our text is to build the foundation for people to understand and accept Jesus Christ, the Son of God: as King of Kings and Lord of Lord, God the Father's Messiah, Savior to the world. That is essential to any sovereign king; He must exert power over the current ruler of the kingdom He is displacing.

That ruler is none other than Satan. Jesus must be able to destroy the structure of sin that Satan uses to hold those captive to him including his demon minions. This is the first account Mark mentions is Jesus facing off with His enemy, in doing so grabbing the attention of his Roman audience. So Mark begins with the story of a battle of how Jesus crushed and defeated a demon. Just one of many examples in his gospel to display the power this Jesus has in backing up his claim of being "the Son of God."

For that claim to stand Jesus must have "all authority" in heaven and earth. Authority beyond just human authority but the power to command and control over all the evil forces in all the universe. This has to be made clear if Jesus is able to save those sinners who are captivity. This is one reason for God the Holy Spirit leading Jesus immediately from His baptism into the wilderness to face the enemy.

Remember the four pillars of the Roman Empire: Education, Health Care, Entertainment, Competition. Look for the terms Mark uses and will use throughout his gospel. "Astonished" - entertaining. "Authority" - Educated. Competition in the dialog with the unclean spirit and Health Care when Jesus casts it out.

Another thing to note the difference between the responses of the people and the demons. The people were amazed, the demons are left shaking in fear. The people didn't understand who Jesus was, where He came from, or the power He has; but the demons do.

PRAYER

This week pray this prayer each day and submit yourself to Him by trusting in Him.

Heavenly Father, help me see your true nature in Jesus Christ as Lord AND Savior. Let me be amazed at who Jesus is, amazed by His Word, amazed by Truth and what it took to be Savior. But Father let me also be just as in awe of His holiness, purity, and justice as Lord. Grant me the grace I need for this day. Father, let the power of Christ be displayed in my life so that I may be used by you to bring someone from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of light, in the name of Jesus, Amen.

READING PLAN

This week, use the **4P Method** to discover what scripture teaches about envy and thanksgiving:

Purpose:

Why do you think this passage was written? Why is it important enough to be in the Bible? What do you think the overall theme or topic is?

Primary Verse:

Which verse seems to be the most important thought in this passage? Why? Take time to write out the entire verse and the reference.

Promises:

Make a list of the promises you find in the passage. How do these apply to your life?

Problems:

Is there anything that didn't make sense in the verses you read? Any words, thoughts, or concepts you have trouble wrapping your brain around? Write them out for further study.

SCRIPTURE

Monday: - Matthew 28:19, John 14:16, 2 Corinthians 13:14, Ephesians 1:13-14, 2:18-22, 3:14-17, 4:4-6

Tuesday: - Micah 5:2, John 17:5, 1 Timothy 1:9, 1 Peter 1:20, 1 John 1:1, 2:13

Wednesday: - John 8:58, Hebrews 1:12, 7:3, 24, 13:8, Psalm 102:27, Revelation 1:8, 5:13, 22:13

Thursday: - Jeremiah 10:1-16, John 3:13 6:41-42, 62, 13:3, 16:28

Friday: - Matthew 17:2, Mark 9:2-3, Luke 9:29, John 1:14, 2 Corinthians 4:4, James 2:1

Saturday: - Catch up, Reflect and Pray.

NOTES

GROWTH GUIDE—Mark 1:21-28

WEEK 5 | OCTOBER 4, 2020

BIG IDEA: Jesus is divine, truly God, truly man and has the authority to make the claim.

BELONG

Share from last week or previous studies how you have applied what we've learned in your life. How has this made you more mature in your faith in Jesus Christ? What fruit are you seeing from that maturing?

GROW

1. Read Mark 1:21-28, Ch 5:2, 6-8. Who are the only beings that actually know who Jesus is?
2. How would they know Him?
3. Read James 2:19. What makes them shudder or scream? Matthew 25:41
4. **What does this speak to about who Jesus is, where He came from? How could you use this to explain to someone who does not believe that Jesus is Divine but just another "good teacher"? Who do demons always attack? Who does Jesus attack?**
4. Read Mark 6:1-6. Why was it so hard for them to see and understand who Jesus was? How does this apply to us with the people we come in contact with where we live, work and play?
5. Go back to Mark 1. What is a demon possessed man doing in the synagogue? What does this say about who Satan is? What should we be aware of from a demon disguised as an angel of light and in the location he was in?
6. What does Jesus expose simply by showing up?
7. Ever wonder how long that man was in the synagogue before Jesus showed up? See Galatians 1:8. Why is Paul so worked up about this? Who is behind those who would preach a different gospel?
8. If you're a false teacher, a part of the kingdom of Satan, what location would you be preaching at?
9. 2 Corinthians 4:3-4. 1 John 5:19. What is the work of the devil? And what did Jesus come to do? 1 John 3:8.
10. Putting all this together, what two needs does the human race have because of its sin?
11. Explain why Jesus is one; the substitute who pays the penalty for our sin and the one who has the power to rescue us from the kingdom of Satan?

REACH

Demons knew who Jesus was right from the beginning and couldn't be saved. People didn't believe who Jesus was and wouldn't be saved. How do we go about sharing the message of Christ, His divinity, His purpose so that people would come to be both amazed and terrified so that they would be saved?

The GOSPEL of MARK

BIG IDEA: God's Kingdom is the power of grace that overcomes the spiritual and physical world.

WEEK 6 | October 11, 2020

The Reality of God's Kingdom

MARK 1:29-39

The testimony from John the Baptist, from the Holy Spirit, from God the Father, and Christ Himself of His power redeemed. The testimony of demons of Christ's power identifying Him as God the Son, that He is indeed the Messiah to rescue sinners. Proof of His unmistakable supernatural power of authority in the spiritual realm. If that is true, then He MUST have the power over the curse of sin still left on this world in which we live.

Mark wants us to see the reality of Jesus power over the spiritual realm has direct implications within our physical world as well. The reality of the Kingdom of God is not just something we're waiting around to see, but it is meant to be here and now in the present.

Jesus heals people of the physical effects of sin in the form of illness and disease, demonstrating He has the power over the earth's curse—able to create a body fitted for heaven. Driving this point home we constantly see Jesus healing, casting out demons showing His power and deity over both worlds which brings hope to the lost and forgotten sinner.

PRAYER

This week pray this prayer each day and submit yourself to Him by trusting in Him.

Lord, we live and see what the curse has done to this world and to us. Father, you alone have the power of life and death eternal. You say this life is but a vapor and is gone. So Lord first grant this prayer of healing of my eternal soul, my eternal healing so that where you are I will be also. With no more tears, sickness, suffering, death. But Father I do ask for healing in this life as well, laying my request at your feet, humbly asking your will be done, knowing your grace is sufficient even if the outcome is unpleasant to me. And if that is the case grant me the strength to praise and worship you even through tears. Amen.

READING PLAN

This week use the following steps to dig into the truth of God's word:

Reading:

Begin with reading through the passage a few times and really seek to understand the individual words, phrases, and thoughts that make up the passage. Take time to journal any specific that stands out to you. Don't try to add your own meaning, but read the text as it comes off of the page. The goal is not to see the words with your eyes, but to feel them in your heart, mind, and soul.

Meditation:

This step has everything to do with thinking of specific chunks of the passage in front of you. Think about phrases and specific words that stood out to you. Focus intently on why the Holy Spirit might have chosen these words to speak to you today. Reflect on how it might apply to your life. Is it relevant to something that you are going through? Does it bring to mind a struggle you have been dealing with? Journal some thoughts that followed your meditation time.

Prayer:

Our next step is to take all of the words, thoughts, feelings, actions, fears, and convictions that we've just experienced and offer them to the Lord in prayer. Ask him to illuminate what he would have you do with them. Simply talk to God and tell him how you are feeling. Confess any anxieties, praise him for who he is, ask him for what you need. Take time to record your prayers in a prayer journal.

Contemplation:

Be silent in the presence of the Lord. Relax, embrace, and just be with the Lord. Don't rush this. Quiet your mind and soul sitting patiently with Him. Take time after contemplation to write down your experience with God in silence.

Monday: - Lamentations 3:24-26; Psalm 46:10, 130:5, 139:10; Proverbs 15:22

Tuesday: - Psalm 90

Wednesday: - Exodus 32:9-13; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4; Hebrews 4:16

Thursday: - Daniel 9:20-27; Colossians 4:10-18

Friday: - Matthew 6:12-15; James 5:13-20

Saturday: - Catch up, Reflect and Pray.

NOTES

GROWTH GUIDE—Mark 1:29-39

WEEK 6 | OCTOBER 11, 2020

BIG IDEA: God’s Kingdom is the power of grace that overcomes the spiritual and physical world.

BELONG

- Who is or has been in your life that if you’d have missed that moment with them your life would not be the same?
- If you are a Christian, who did God use to introduce you to Jesus? How has that changed the trajectory of life for you?

GROW

1. Read Mark 1:29-39. Do an inventory of what happens while Jesus is at Peter’s home from our text.
2. Read John 1:39-42. Who is the one who introduced Peter to Jesus?
3. Now consider for a moment the ramification of Andrew not telling his brother of Jesus?
4. The impact of the gospel of grace is profound. How has it had its effect on you, your family, your community?
5. When we think of Jesus we often tend to think in just spiritual terms. With the supernatural power and ultimate authority, Jesus displays as proof of His deity as part of the Trinitarian Godhead. What two things is He able to do? Rescue souls from whom? And rescue souls from what?
6. What are some of the spiritual and physical effects of the curse of Adam’s sin?
7. We hear much about so called healings today, but are they true? Real? How do you determine that?
8. Go back to your inventory, or think of other scripture where Jesus heals and look for a pattern.
 - A. From our text, how do we see Jesus healing? What does He do?
 - B. Go to Matthew 8:13. How long does it take to be healed?
 - C. From our text, how thoroughly was the healing?
 - D. Who does Jesus heal? Luke 4:40
 - E. What kinds of diseases did Jesus heal compared to what we hear today?
 - F. Finally, what is the ultimate “disease” that Jesus has power over? Hint: Lazarus (So a true healer then would be able to heal with a word or touch, do it instantly, heal completely, heal everyone, heal real disease not invisible ailments, and finally raise people from the dead.)
10. Does this mean we don’t pray and ask for healing today?
11. By dealing with both the spiritual and physical what point is Jesus making about who He is?
12. Are we promised healing? What is God’s promise from Genesis 3:16 and Hebrews 9:27 for this life?

REACH

What would it take for you and your home or this small group to become a house like Peter’s? Maybe it already is... where the influence of the gospel of grace would transform the whole house and then from the whole house to cause such as stir that grace overflows into the neighborhood.

the GOSPEL of MARK

BIG IDEA: Jesus is willing and can make you clean.

WEEK 7 | October 18, 2020

Desperation and Delight

MARK 1:40-45

Leprosy is a chronic disease similar to tuberculosis bacillus and was common in Israel, and in some cases God used it as a judgment of sin. According to Luke 4:27, it had been around for a long time. So it is very likely that Jesus healed many lepers. In fact, in Mark chapter 14 and verse 3, we see occasion where Jesus is at a gathering with a whole lot of people in the home of none other than Simon the Leper. Well, Simon wouldn't have been a leper when the party occurred. If that were the case he'd have been an outcast on the fringes of the city and he wouldn't have been able to hold a party at his house and have people attend. More than likely Simon used to be a leper and many scholars believe Jesus healed him, but there's no record of his healing in the gospels.

Remember that the miracles recorded by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are selective. We could sum up the healing ministry of Jesus in the words of Luke, "He healed them all." Jesus healed people in the thousands.

The purpose of all these miracles, whether it is healing disease, raising the dead, casting out demons, feeding multitudes, walking on water, was done to validate the fact that Jesus is the Son of God. And therefore, not only does He have supernatural power, but what He says is true.

After all, ***the most important thing to Jesus was the message.*** Mark 1:38 says, "He said to them, '***Let's go somewhere else, to the towns nearby so that I may preach there also, for that is what I came for.***'"

Or as Jesus said on another occasion, "***I am not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.***" He came for the purpose of causing sinners to hear a message that would lead them to repentance and salvation, that meant to preach the Kingdom, to preach the gospel, to preach salvation. That's why He came. All the miracles did was validate the message of the Kingdom and that He was the King, the Son of God.

PRAYER

A simple prayer this week. Lord I know you can and are willing to make me clean. Let me never get over or think Your gospel was something that happened to be in the past, but something I need every day. Create in me a clean heart every day with new mercies morning by morning, so that I may speak of you freely where I live, work and play. Amen.

READING PLAN

This week, dig into the scriptures below using the Two Truths and a Lie method:

Truth 1:

What is the biggest Truth that you pulled from your reading today? Why did it stand out to you? What made it an important truth for you to cling to? How can you apply it to your life? Write down the scripture and the truth that you gleaned.

Truth 2:

Use Bible study tools or Google to find another Bible truth that supports the statement from the first truth that you found. Write down the scripture. What does this verse or passage say to support that truth? What do you need to do to walk in the power of that truth?

Lie:

What lie are you believing or are tempted to believe that stands in the way of these truths? Take time to refute that lie with the truths that you've learned. God has given Christians a spirit of power, love and self-control, 2 Timothy 1:7, therefore there is victory over fear. Write down a sentence that says something like this, "The lie I've believed is _____, but God's word says that _____."

SCRIPTURE

Monday: - Matthew 8:1-4, Luke 5:12-16

Tuesday: - Leviticus 13

Wednesday: - 2 Chronicles 26

Thursday: - 2 Kings 5:1-19, Numbers 11:35-12:15

Friday: - Luke 17

Saturday: - Catch up, Reflect and Pray.

NOTES

GROWTH GUIDE—Mark 1:40-45

WEEK 7 | OCTOBER 18, 2020

BIG IDEA: Jesus is willing and can make you clean.

BELONG

- Take some time to talk about previous studies and how you've applied them in your life.
- When have you been in so much pain, emotional or physical, that the pain of staying was greater than the thought of change and moved you into trying or doing something new?

GROW

1. Look at vs 40-41. The cure for leprosy also known as Hansen's Disease, was nonexistent. What emotional state would that put someone in? **What emotional state or pressure has this year brought you?**
2. What does hopelessness do to a person? Where does hopelessness come from? How does one get relief?
3. Where were lepers supposed to be? Where is this leper?
4. What is his attitude and demeanor toward Jesus?
5. What insight should this give us about our own asking, our prayer life?
6. How do you think he felt after being healed? Do you ever think that would change, or be taken for granted?
7. The only time we probably think of leprosy is in a study like this, not remotely even on our radar. But what should be on our radar is something we deal with about ourselves everyday, sin. What did it take for you, and does it take for someone to come to Christ?
8. How does knowing Jesus is moved with pity about your sin motivate you to live?
9. Do you think the leper was worried his leprosy would ever come back?
10. What did it take for Jesus to make you clean?
11. Romans 6:1-2. Take out the word "sin" and insert leprosy. Yes, silly I know. But how often do we live that way? What does it mean to live in the freedom of the grace God is so willing to give?
12. How freely do you talk about your faith in Jesus Christ and what He has done to save you?

REACH

Jesus has the power to make you clean continually because He was moved with pity to the cross. The pain of not fulfilling all righteousness and being obedient to the Father was greater than the pain of the cross. The cross then becoming the easier of the two options. Seeing that example, what ways can we live that out in our own lives, knowing that this life is just temporary but the next life is eternal?



BELONG. GROW. REACH.