

FOLLOWING JESUS

THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Sermon Series Guide
Spring 2024

INTRO

What does it mean to follow Jesus?

In order to answer that question we have to come to terms with 3 things:

1. Who Jesus is and proclaimed himself to be.
2. What Jesus' purpose is.
3. The way Jesus teaches we should live.

Answering “the Jesus question” by coming to terms with who Jesus is, what his purpose is, and how He says we should follow him are the heart of the Gospel of Mark. In fact that is the only thing that Mark’s Gospel is concerned with. John Mark, the writer of this Gospel, was concerned mainly with getting to the core facts of life and ministry of Jesus. Anyone who reads the Gospel of Mark with spiritual sensitivity will come away both challenged and encouraged to follow Jesus, the Messiah, the son of God, and the servant King.

In the Gospel of Mark, we encounter a narrative that remains relevant in our modern world. Amidst competing ideologies and distractions, Mark ensures that Jesus' core message and ministry shine through. Like a skilled journalist, Mark presents the facts, allowing us to hear Jesus' profound message, witness His transformative ministry, and make a personal decision to respond. In essence, Mark distills the ministry and message of Jesus into three main things:

1. The Kingdom of God has begun and God’s restoration plan is afoot.
2. Jesus of Nazareth himself is the Son of God, Israel’s prophesied Messiah, and the King of the new and unfolding Kingdom.
3. Jesus is a servant King, who brings a spiritual Kingdom where God’s authority and power are used to serve creation not to conquer it annihilating the kingdom of darkness.

Everyone who comes into contact with ministry and message of Jesus the King has to accept this promised King and his Kingdom and choose to follow Him. That is as true today as it was over 2,000 years ago.

So will you take the Following Jesus Challenge now through Easter?

1. Identify one area of your life you haven’t given to God. Actively surrender it Jesus’ rescue and reign.
2. Choose to follow Jesus more faithfully by replacing one activity with daily bible reading.
3. Share what God is doing in your life with someone else.
4. Pray for 5: From October - March pray for 5 people to encounter and follow Jesus the King.

MARK

The Gospel according to Mark is quite possibly the oldest written account of the life of Jesus. It was likely written between 30-60AD. The historical view of the church is that the author is John Mark, a companion of both the apostles Paul and Peter. (*Acts:5,12,15:39; Col. 4:10; 2 Tim. 4:11; Philemon 24; 1 Pet. 5:13.*) Tradition holds that he wrote the Gospel in Rome, largely on the basis of Peter's preaching and eyewitness accounts. Papias (c. 60–130), a Bishop of Hierapolis, tells us that Mark was Peter's interpreter.

{ Mark's gospel emphasizes Jesus' ministry as bringing the Kingdom of God and his identity as a servant King. }



PERIOD
7BC - 26AD



LENGTH
16 CHPT | 11,304 WORDS



AUTHOR
"JOHN" MARK



THEME
KINGDOM OF GOD

MARK 1-2	MARK 3-15	MARK 3-15	MARK 3-15	MARK 15-16
Mark's Introduction	Jesus' Teaching Unique to Mark	Prophecies of Christ Unique to Mark	Prophecies of Christ Unique to Mark	Death, Resurrection and Ascension Details in Mark
Mark begins with fulfillment of OT prophecies in the message of John the Baptist. But, John does not account for Jesus birth or early years.	Mark includes two original parables including the parable of the seed growing in secret, and the parable of the door keeper.	Fifteen miracles are recounted in Mark. Three are unique to Mark: healing of the deaf-mute man in decapolis, blind man in Bethsaida, demon possessed boy. Mark also tells of Jesus' calming the storm	Mark records calling Simon Peter and Andrew to be fishers of men, Jesus names James and John sons of Thunder, and power leaves Jesus healing a woman of a hemorrhage.	Young man flees the arrest of Jesus naked, Pilate inquires whether Jesus is dead, the last 12 verses (Mark 16:9-20) are not found in the oldest manuscripts and were likely added much later.
<p><u>MARK'S STYLE</u></p> <p><i>The style of Mark's gospel is unique. Compared with Matthew and Luke, who report lengthy sections of Jesus' teaching, and compared with John, who provides more substantial and explicit theological interpretation, Mark wrote a vivid, action-packed narrative. One way he does this is by using the word "immediately" over 35 times.</i></p>				

KEY VERSES

- This is the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God. (Mark 1:1)
- Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. (Mark 8:34)
- For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve. (Mark 10:45)
- And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!" (Mark 15:39)

MAP OF JESUS' TRAVELS IN MARK'S GOSPEL



▲ Mt Hermon

† Caesarea-Philippi

PHOENICIA

GAULANITIS

† Tyre

Lake Huleh

Great Sea
Mediterranean Sea

Chorazin †

† Bethsaida

Capernaum †

Cana †

Gennesaret †

Sea of Galilee

GERASENES

Nazareth †

▲ Mt Tabor

Yarmouk River

† Nain

Jezreel Valley †

DECAPOLIS

SAMARIA

Jordan River

† Sychar

Jabbok River

PEREA

Emmaus †

Mt of Olives

Jericho †

Jerusalem †

† Bethany

JUDEA

Bethlehem †

Dead Sea

Stops of Jesus during his ministry †

Mountains or ranges ▲

MAP KEY



Jesus is said to have never traveled far from his hometown. All 41 miracles recorded in the Gospels occurred in this land mass, just a little over 90 miles in length. For some miracles, placement is uncertain, but it's clear enough to name 22 locations among 35 of these miracles, which are below.

Mapping all the footsteps of Jesus does not provide a great visual, as He was always on the go and the intersecting and overlapping lines would be too overwhelming to process. But the Book of John tells us that wherever He went, He healed, delivered, fed, and at times He even commanded nature.

Here is a visual of the known places where Jesus performed miracles. Find a place on the map, then look at this alphabetized list below to see what happened there. Or, find a favorite miracle below, then look on the map to see where it happened.

- **Bethany:** raised Lazarus from the dead (third resurrection of a dead person).
- **Bethlehem:** place of the virgin birth
- **Bethsaida:** fed a multitude (second time), healed a blind man with his spit, walked on water.
- **Caesarea-Philippi:** where Peter first recognized Jesus as the Messiah via help from the Holy Spirit
- **Cana:** Jesus' first miracle of changing water to wine at a wedding; healed royal official's child.
- **Chorazin:** the city was prophesied against by Jesus, along with Bethsaida, for being unrepentant
- **Capernaum:** (outskirts) fed a multitude for the first time; healed many sick; healed a woman with long-term bleeding; raised Jairus' daughter (second resurrection of a dead person).
- **Decapolis Region:** healed a deaf-mute man by spitting and touching his tongue.
- **Emmaus:** appeared to two disciples after His Resurrection.
- **Gennesaret:** healed many by allowing them to simply touch his garment; the first miraculous catch of fish.
- **Gerasenes Region:** healed the demoniac possessed by "legion".
- **Jericho:** healed Bartimaeus, a blind man.
- **Jerusalem:** healed a man at Bethesda's pool, healed a man born blind, appeared to Mary Magdalene and some disciples after the Resurrection.
- **Jezeel Valley:** healed 10 lepers.
- **Mount of Olives:** possible site of the Ascension.
- **Mount Tabor:** possible site of the Transfiguration; healed a boy with epilepsy.
- **Nain:** first resurrection of a dead person: a widow's son.
- **Nazareth:** hometown of Jesus; very few miracles performed, because the people knew His family and felt He was not credible.
- **Perea Region:** healed a crippled woman and a man with dropsy.
- **Sea of Galilee:** calmed the storm, second miraculous catch of fish.
- **Sychar:** where the woman at the well met with Jesus and he told her all about her life
- **Tyre:** healed a gentile's daughter.

WEEK 1 | Jan. 22-26

- Mon **Make Way for Jesus** Mark 1:1-13
Who prepared the way for the Lord in your life?
- Tues **Jesus Begins His Ministry** Mark 1:14-20
What can you learn from the response of the early disciples?
- Wed **Jesus Heals** Mark 1:21-34
What does this passage reveal about Jesus and the Kingdom?
- Thur **This Is Why I Came** Mark 1:35-45
What was Jesus' purpose and how did he prepare?
- Fri **Like Nothing Ever Seen** Mark 2:1-12
Where do you need to hear Jesus' words of forgiveness today?

WEEK 2 | Jan. 29-Feb. 2

- Mon **A Party for Sinners** Mark 2:13-17
Who do you need to invite to Jesus' party for sinners?
- Tues **Questions for Jesus** Mark 2:18-3:6
How does Jesus' view of rules and tradition encourage or challenge you?
- Wed **Recognized by Demons** Mark 3:7-12
What is the difference between what the crowds saw, and the demons saw in Jesus?
- Thur **Misunderstanding Jesus** Mark 3:13-30
How has your understanding of Jesus changed over time?
- Fri **Jesus' True Family** Mark 3:31-35
What is the basis for being part of Jesus' family?

WEEK 3 | Feb. 5-9

- Mon **The Sower** Mark 4:1-20
Which soil best describes the condition of your hearts right now?
- Tues **Lamps and Seeds** Mark 4:21-34
What evidence of growth have you seen in your spiritual life this past year?
- Wed **To the Other Side** Mark 4:35-41
How do you react to Jesus when it seems he is asleep on your journey?
- Thur **Jesus and Legion** Mark 5:1-20
How does Jesus bring peace amidst the conflicting voices in your life?
- Fri **Over Sickness and Death** Mark 5:21-43
How likely are you to seek other solutions before going to God?

WEEK 4 | Feb. 12-16

- Mon **Not in This Town** Mark 6:1-6
How does familiarity with Jesus affect your view of Him?
- Tues **Sending Disciples** Mark 6:7-13
How is the disciple's mission here your mission?
- Wed **A Deadly Birthday** Mark 6:14-29
How does Herod's kingdom differ from Jesus' Kingdom?
- Thur **Fish and Loaves** Mark 6:30-44
To whom do you need to show compassion today?
- Fri **Walking on Water** Mark 6:45-52
In what situation do you need to hear Jesus say, "Don't be afraid?"

WEEK 5 | Feb. 19-23

- Mon **Made Well** Mark 6:53-56
How does the people's zeal to be with Jesus encourage or challenge you?
- Tues **Religious Obstacles** Mark 7:1-13
In what ways do you see hypocrisy in your own life?
- Wed **Inside Out** Mark 7:14-23
What in Jesus' list of things that come from the heart do you struggle with?
- Thur **Foreign Faith** Mark 7:24-30
What message is Jesus giving by healing the woman's daughter?
- Fri **The Deaf Hear** Mark 7:31-37
What has Jesus done for you that amazes you?

WEEK 6 | Feb. 26-Mar. 1

- Mon **Food in a Desolate Place** Mark 8:1-10
How are you discovering that Jesus provides for and feeds your soul?
- Tues **Seeking a Sign** Mark 8:11-13
How are you like the Pharisees in seeking a sign?
- Wed **Hardened** Mark 8:14-21
Are there any areas of your heart that are hardened toward God?
- Thur **Seeing Clearly** Mark 8:22-26
What does this tell you about how you can see more clearly?
- Fri **You Are the Christ** Mark 8:27-30
Who do you say Jesus is?

WEEK 7 | Mar. 4-8

- Mon **Losing Your Life** Mark 8:31-9:1
How do you see your desires and ways in conflict with those of Jesus?
- Tues **Seeing the Glory of Jesus** Mark 9:2-13
When and how have you seen the glory of Jesus in a special way?
- Wed **All Things Are Possible** Mark 9:14-29
In what do you need help to overcome your unbelief?
- Thur **Redefining Success** Mark 9:30-37
How does Jesus' idea of greatness differ from the world's?
- Fri **Peace Now and Forever** Mark 9:38-50
How does cutting off the cause of sin relate to peace in your life?

WEEK 8 | Mar. 11-15

- Mon **Jesus On Marriage** Mark 10:1-12
What can you do to keep your heart soft before God and others?
- Tues **Come as a Child** Mark 10:13-31
Are you more like the child or the rich man in approaching God?
- Wed **Predictions and Posturings** Mark 10:32-45
How do you feel about following the servant's path to greatness?
- Thur **Have Mercy on Me** Mark 10:46-52
Where do you especially need the mercy of Jesus?
- Fri. **The Triumphal Entry** Mark 11:1-11
For what can you shout "hosanna" and bless the Lord today?

WEEK 9 | Mar. 18-22

- Mon **Figs and Faith** Mark 11:12-25
How is your faith producing fruit in your life and others?
- Tues **Authority Challenged** Mark 11:27-33
How does the authority of Christ challenge your way of life?
- Wed **When the Son Arrives** Mark 12:1-12
With whom do you identify most in this parable?
- Thur **Taxes and Death** Mark 12:13-27
How does bearing the image of God affect what you should do with your life?
- Fri **The Great Commandments** Mark 12:28-34
How is obedience to these commandments revealed in your life?

WEEK 10 | Mar.

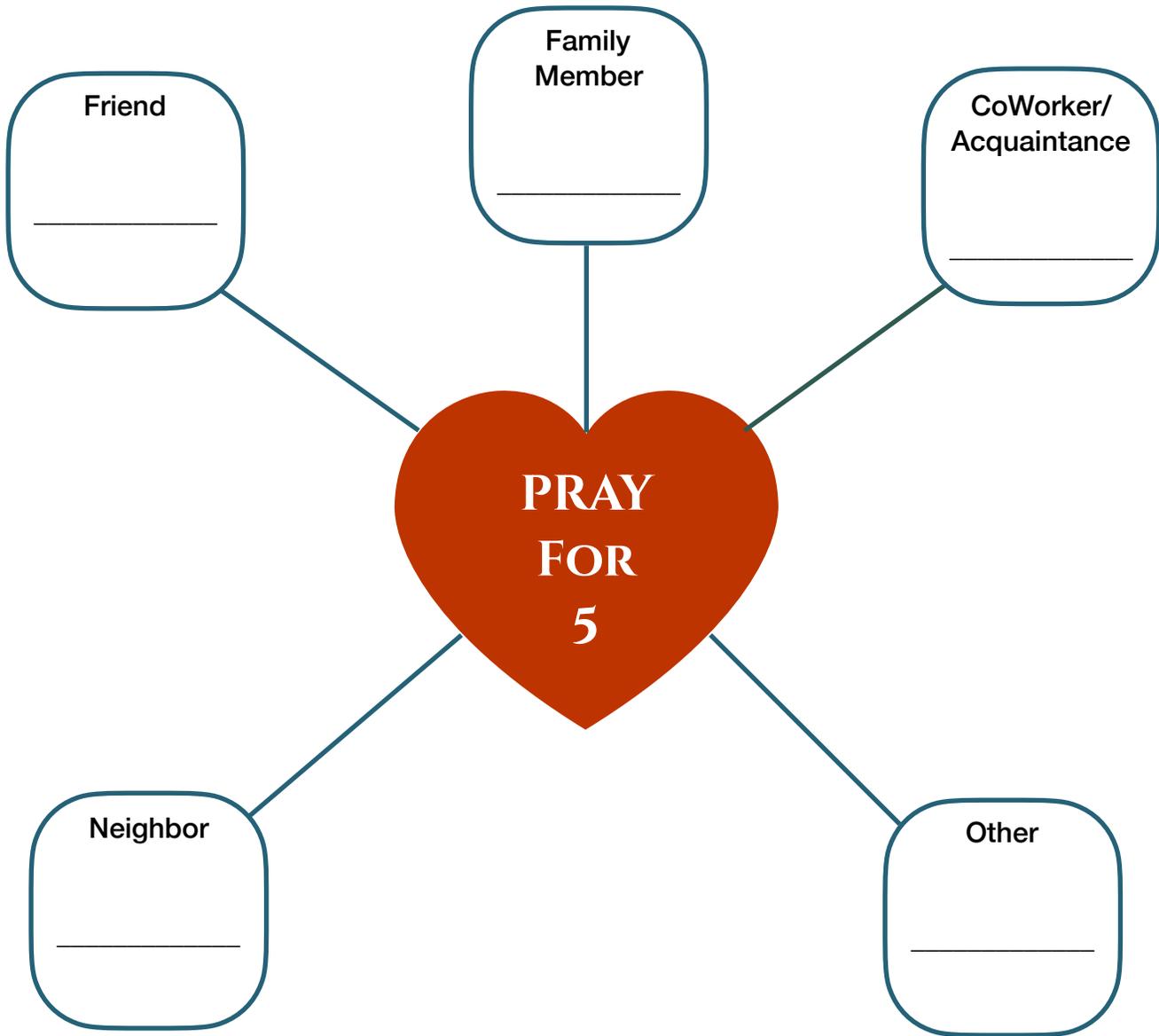
- Mon **Beware of Scribes** Mark 12:35-40
How are you tempted toward performance-based religion?
- Tues **Humble Offerings** Mark 12:41-44
What small thing can you offer to God for His great purposes?
- Wed **End of the Age** Mark 13:1-23
How do you find encouragement in these gloomy verses?
- Thur **Stay Awake** Mark 13:24-37
In what ways can you stay awake and alert for the coming of Christ?
- Fri **Price Tags** Mark 14:1-11
How can you demonstrate the worth of Jesus in your words and deeds?

WEEK 11 | Mar 25-29

- Mon **Bittersweet Supper** Mark 14:12-25
What profound new meaning does Jesus give to the Passover bread and cup?
- Tues **You Will Deny Me** Mark 14:26-31
How do you feel knowing that Jesus knows your weakness and failures?
- Wed **Garden Prayers** Mark 14:32-42
How can this story impact the way you pray?
- Thur **And They All Left Him** Mark 14:43-52
How do the various characters respond to the situation? How would you?
- Fri **Gentle and True** Mark 14:53-65
What can we learn from Jesus about how to respond to unbelievers?

WEEK 12 | Apr 1-5

- Mon **The Rooster Crows** Mark 14:66-72
When have you felt your failures disqualified you from serving Jesus?
- Tues **Barabbas Set Free** Mark 15:1-15
How is the story of Barabbas your story?
- Wed **The Crucified King** Mark 15:16-32
How has Jesus' death torn the "curtain" between you and God?
- Thur **Dead and Buried** Mark 15:33-47
What does the manner of Jesus' death and burial tell us about God's Kingdom?
- Fri **Fear and Following** Mark 16:1-8
How has the Gospel of Mark affected how you follow Jesus?



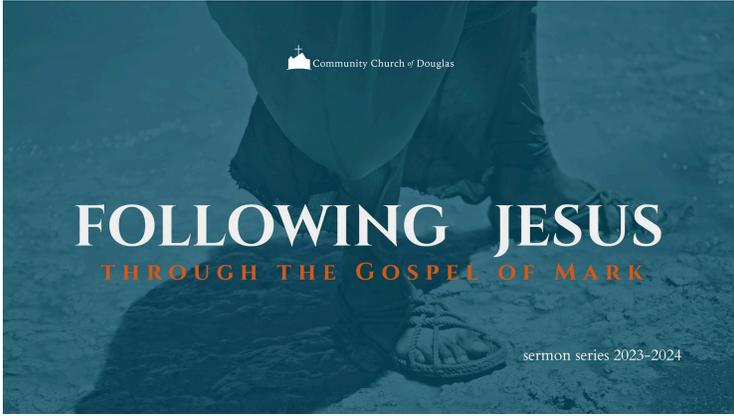
Choose five people you would regularly like to pray for and write their names down onto a list. If you're not sure who to pray for, ask God to guide you as you choose. Once you have settled on 5 names, commit to praying for them regularly and praying the following:

Lord, I pray that you will lead _____ to a saving (or deeper) relationship with you. Thank you that you love them. I pray that you would break into their life and show them your love, grace and peace. Show me how you want me to share your love with them. Amen.

1. FIVE STONES: Find five small stones (light coloured ones are best) and write each of the people on your list onto each of the stones. Place them on your desk, bedside table or fireplace as a reminder to pray

2. PRAYER ALERT: Add your list of five people to the alerts section of your phone and set reminders to pray for them. You could choose one name per day, or pray for all five across your day. Remember to set alerts for a suitable time where you can stop to pray for your list.

5. POST-IT NOTES: Use five post-it notes and write one name onto each. Stick them onto your mirror, above your bed or somewhere that you'll see them regularly and will be reminded to pray.



Spring 2024

FOLLOWING JESUS

THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF MARK

January - April

Date	Text	Sermon Title	Themes
January 7, 2024	Matt 2:13-23	Make Room.. to Go	Epiphany, following Jesus, leaving thing behind, Kingdom allegiance
January 14, 2024 New Year Brunch	Mark 1:16-23	Follow Me Children's Message	Disciples of Jesus, speak, act, forgive, and pray like Jesus
January 21, 2024	Mark 8:27-9:1	Who Is He?	Jesus the Messiah, Jesus the King, Who is Jesus for me?
January 28, 2024	Mark 9:2-12	Behold	Transfiguration, worship, revelation, Jesus encounters
February 4, 2024	Mark 9:14-29	Believe	Faith, imperfect faith, spiritual battle, spiritual disciplines
February 11, 2024	Mark 9:42-50	Enter	Righteousness, sin, narrow way, grace, and forgiveness.
February 18, 2024	Mark 10:1-12	Joined	Marriage, covenant, faithfulness, restoration,

FOLLOWING JESUS

THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF MARK

sermon series 2023-2024

Spring 2024

FOLLOWING JESUS

THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF MARK

January - April

Date	Text	Sermon Title	Themes
February 25, 2024	Mark 10:13-16	Receive	Childlike faith, simplicity, trust, parent-child relationship with God, Kingdom of God
March 3, 2024	Mark 10:17-31	Detach	Riches, wealth, surrender, my kingdom vs God's kingdom.
March 10, 2024	Mark 10:32-25	Serve	Servant leadership, serve like Jesus, humility, selflessness
March 17, 2024	Mark 10:46-52	Plead	Prayer of desperation, foolish discipleship, 100% trust in God
March 24, 2024 (Palm Sunday)	Mark 11:1-11	Praise	True worship, praising God, celebrating God
March 31, 2024 (Easter Sunday)	Mark 16:1-8	No Grave	Resurrection, no gravestone can block the resurrection power of Christ.
April 7, 2023 (Sunday After Easter)	Mark 16:9-20	Go	Discipleship, mission, kingdom ministry, great commission.