

The Gospel Account of Jesus' Life by John Mark



Reading the Gospel book of Mark is a great place to take your next steps in following Jesus. It is the most concise Gospel account with only 16 chapters.

Here is a suggested approach for reading the Gospel of Mark.

- 1. Begin with a prayer asking God's Spirit to help you understand and apply what you learn from reading about Jesus' life.
- 2. Read one chapter a day. In just over two weeks you will have a much fuller picture and understanding of Jesus' life and ministry. Or, alternatively you could read 4 chapters a week and be completed in a month.
- 3. Using an NIV Study Bible will help with bringing important context and understanding with potentially difficult to understand passages.
- 4.You need to set aside 30 minutes. You can find this time by setting your morning wake up alarm 30 minutes earlier. After completing the book of Mark you can assess if this has been worth your time.
- 5.Read the complete chapter first. If you like to hear it and see it at the same time use <u>The Bible App</u> or go online to listen for free. Each chapter takes approximately 5 minutes to read and listen to.
- 6. Take the next 25 minutes to answer the questions from the Study Guide provided. This guide will help you make important observations so that you can summarize and apply the chapter to your life.

INTRODUCTION

Author: John Mark a close friend of the apostle Peter. John Mark's mother's home was used for church gatherings in Jerusalem (Acts 12:12).

Date: 50's or early 60's AD. This gospel account could have been a possible source for Matthew and Luke.

Audience: Mostly gentile believers suffering from persecution in Rome.

MARK – CHAPTER 1

JOHN THE BAPTIST PREPARES THE WAY

The good news about Jesus the *Messiah, Son of God (v.1) was prepared by a messenger who appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (v.4). What was this messenger's name?

- (v.4) John the _____

John the Baptist said, "I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." (v.8) To who is John the Baptist referring will baptize them with the Holy Spirit?

- (v.8)

*NOTE: Messiah (anointed one) is referred to in the Old Testament as the ideal king empowered by God to rescue his people from their enemies and establish a righteous kingdom.

THE BAPTISM AND TESTING OF JESUS

Who baptized Jesus in the Jordan river?

- (v.9)

Where did the voice come from that said, "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."?

- (v.11)

How many days in the wilderness was Jesus being tempted by Satan?

- (v.13)

JESUS ANNOUNCES THE GOOD NEWS

After John the Baptist was put in prison, Jesus began proclaiming the good news of God in Galilee. What two responses did Jesus say were appropriate when hearing the good news of God?

- (v.15)

JESUS CALLS HIS FIRST DISCIPLES

When Simon and Andrew heard Jesus instruct them to, "Come, follow me and I will send you out to fish for people." What was the brothers response?

- (v.18)

The sons of Zebedee, James and John were also called by Jesus to follow him. What 2 words described their response to Jesus' call?

- (v. 20)

JESUS DRIVES OUT AN IMPURE SPIRIT

People were amazed at Jesus' teaching because it was described by what qualitative difference from the teachers of the law?

- (v.22)

There was a man in the synagogue where Jesus was teaching that had an impure spirit. Jesus sternly told the spirit to "Come out of him!" and the impure spirit obeyed Jesus. This again amazed the people with Jesus' authority and they began quickly to spread the news about him throughout what region?

- (v.28)

JESUS HEALS MANY

After a morning of teaching in the synagogue, (very likely in the afternoon) Jesus went to Simon's mother-in-laws home where she was in bed afflicted with a fever. After Jesus healed Simon's mother-in-law what did she begin to do?

- (v.31)

That evening after sunset, the whole town gathered at the door with the sick and demon possessed. What did Jesus do for many of them?

- (v.34)

Was this a long day? How late do you think Jesus was up caring for and helping the needy?

JESUS PRAYS IN A SOLITARY PLACE

How early in the morning did Jesus get up after this previously full day of ministry? Where did Jesus go? And, what was Jesus up so early in the morning doing?

- (v.35)

Simon and his companions went looking for Jesus, when they found him, they exclaimed, "Everyone is looking for you!" Why do you think "Everyone" was looking for Jesus? (HINT: What was he doing the previous day?)

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Though Jesus was very popular with the crowd at this time, he said, "Let us go somewhere else ... so I can preach there also." **HINT: Is it possible that Jesus by spending solitude time in prayer, that he was able to avoid the "compelling call of the crowd" to stay "on mission" with God the Father's promptings/ leadings/direction to "go somewhere else..."?

- (v.38)

JESUS HEALS A MAN WITH LEPROSY

When Jesus healed a man with leprosy he gave him instructions to "show yourself to the priest." This was to be a testimony to the religious leaders. What did the healed man with leprosy do instead? And, what was the result?

- (v.45)

QUESTIONS

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SUMMARIZE

What are your observations or anything else from this chapter that was "striking" to you. You don't need to make something up. Be brief. Just one or two sentences is fine.

APPLY

What is a "So, what?" or "Now, what?" personal action step for your life? Write it down. Do it. Live it. Be it.

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- Sin to be confessed
- Relationship to be reconciled
- Model of Jesus or his follows to be followed
- Instruction to be obeyed
- Truth to be lived

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TELL

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MEMORY VERSE

Mark 1:15 Jesus said, "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

MARK - CHAPTER 2

JESUS FORGIVES AND HEALS A PARALYZED MAN

When Jesus went into the city of Capernaum the crowds were so large that friends of a paralyzed man who desired to get their hurting friend to Jesus had to get really determined and creative. What did they do?

- (v.4)

Instead of healing the paralyzed man, Jesus made a declarative statement upon seeing their faith. What did Jesus declare before he healed the paralyzed man?

- (v.5)

Upon hearing Jesus say this, what were some of the teachers of the law thinking to themselves?

- (v.7)

Jesus knew what the teachers of the law were thinking so he asked them, "Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk?' What do you think is the greater "healing" we need: having our sins forgiven or having a physical affliction healed?

-

What did Jesus do to show that he had the authority to forgive sins?

- (v.10-12)

When Jesus healed the paralyzed man everyone was amazed and praised God saying, what?

- (v.12)

JESUS CALLS LEVI AND EATS WITH SINNERS

What two things did Levi (aka Matthew) the tax collector do when Jesus told him to "Follow me."?

- (v.14)

When the Pharisees saw Jesus eating with Levi other tax collectors and sinners, what did they ask Jesus' disciples?

- (v.16)

Jesus said, "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." What do you think Jesus meant by this statement?

-

JESUS QUESTIONED ABOUT FASTING

Jesus (the bridegroom) was asked why his disciples were not fasting when the Pharisees and John the Baptist's disciples were fasting. Jesus said there would come a time when his disciples would fast. When would that time be?

- (v.20)

Why can't new wine be poured into old wineskins?

- (v.22)

JESUS IS LORD OF THE SABBATH

The Pharisees zealous commitment to keeping the laws of the Sabbath, missed the whole point. Jesus said that he (the Son of Man) is Lord of the Sabbath. Jesus also said in verse 27, "The Sabbath was made for man ... (fill-in the rest).

- (v.27) ... not _____

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MARK - CHAPTER 3

JESUS HEALS ON THE SABBATH

Jesus was in the synagogue on the Sabbath when he encountered a man with a shriveled hand. The Pharisees were watching closely to see if Jesus would heal on the Sabbath. What question did Jesus ask of those who were watching and what was their response in v.4?

- (v.4)

Jesus was "deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts." After he healed the man's hand, what was the Pharisees response to this healing?

- (v.6)

CROWDS FOLLOW JESUS

Large crowds from Galilee and many people from Judea and the surrounding regions came to follow and see Jesus. He was by a lake (the Sea of Galilee) and he had a unique strategy for keeping the crowd from crowding him. What was that strategy?

- (v.9)

Those with diseases were pushing forward to touch him because many were being healed. What was the response of those afflicted with impure spirits when they encountered Jesus and what did they cry out?

- (v.11)

JESUS APPOINTS THE TWELVE

What were the names of the 12 Jesus called, appointed and sent out to preach with authority?

- (v.16-19)

JESUS ACCUSED BY HIS FAMILY AND BY TEACHERS OF THE LAW

At this time in Jesus' ministry his family came to see him. What did Jesus' family say about him?

- (v.21)

The teachers of the law said that Jesus was driving out demons by being possessed by the prince of demons. How did Jesus respond to this accusation?

- (v.23-26)

According to Jesus what sin offense can never be forgiven and is an eternal sin?

- (v.29)

Jesus' mother and brothers arrived on the scene asking for audience with Jesus. Jesus said that his family included all people who showed this quality?

- (v.35)

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MARK - CHAPTER 4

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

Jesus goes to teach by the lake again and the crowd was again so large that he needed to get into a boat again so that he could sit and teach them. Jesus told them a parable about a farmer who sowed seed that fell on four different types of soil. What happened to the seed on each type of soil?

- PATH (v.4)
- ROCKY (v.5,6)
- THORNS (v.7)
- GOOD (v.8)

What do you think Jesus meant by this statement in v. 9 "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."?

-

Jesus explains the parable of the seed and the soils in v.13-20. Write out the answers Jesus gives to the following questions.

- (v.14) The SEED that the farmer sows actually is = the _____
- (v.15) The soil of the PATH = people who what?
- (v.16,17) The ROCKY soil = people who what?
- (v.18,19) The THORNY soil = people who what?
- (v.20) The GOOD soil = people who what?

A LAMP ON A STAND

A lamp brings light. We don't put a lamp under a bowl, we put it on stand. What is the purpose of a lamp?

- (v.22)

What will happen if we use what we hear?

- (v.24)

THE PARABLE OF THE GROWING SEED

What does the parable of the growing seed in v.26-29 teach about the kingdom of God moving from seed scattered on the ground to ripe, ready for harvest grain?

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THE PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED

What does the parable of the mustard seed in v.30-32 teach about the kingdom of God?

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JESUS CALMS THE STORM

What was Jesus doing in the stern of the boat while a furious squall came up nearly swamping the boat?

- (v.38)

Jesus got up and rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" And, it became completely calm. He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" The disciples started in fear of the storm but then they became terrified of Jesus after this miracle. What did they ask each other?

- (v.41)

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MARK - CHAPTER 5

JESUS RESTORES A DEMON-POSSESSED MAN

A man enslaved with an impure spirit lived among the tombs. This man could not be controlled by others and he would injure himself continually. When he came in contact with Jesus he fell on his knees and acknowledged that Jesus was the Son of the Most High God. Jesus instructed the impure spirit to come out of the man. When Jesus asked, "What is your name?" what was the response?

- (v.9)

Jesus gave permission for the impure spirits to go into a herd of about two thousand pigs. What happened to these pigs?

- (v.13)

Those tending the pigs reported what happened to the people from the town and countryside. What was their response when they saw Jesus and the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons sitting there, dressed and in his right mind?

- (v.15,17)

As Jesus was getting into the boat to leave the man who had been demonpossessed begged to go with Jesus. What was Jesus' instructions to this man?

- (v.19)

What was the response of those who heard the testimony of what Jesus had done for this demon-possessed man as he shared the story with people from his home area?

- (v.20)

JESUS RAISES A DEAD GIRL AND HEALS A SICK WOMAN

What was the name of the synagogue leader who pleaded with Jesus to come and heal his little daughter who was dying?

- (v.22)

Jesus, on his way to helping Jairus' little daughter, came across a women who had been ill for twelve years. She sought treatment from many doctors, spent

all she had and she only got worse. She heard of Jesus' healing power and came up from behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak. Why did she do this?

- (v.28)

What happened when she touched Jesus clothes?

- (v.29)

Jesus realized that healing power had gone out from him and he turned around and asked the crowd, "Who touched my clothes?" His disciples thought that was such a strange question because he was in a large crowd and many were bumping into each other trying to get near him. Jesus kept looking and the healed woman fell at Jesus' feet and told him the whole truth. What did Jesus say in response to her?

- (v.34)

While all of this was happening some people came from Jairus' home with news that his daughter had died. What was Jesus' response to Jairus?

- (v.36)

Only three disciples were allowed to follow Jesus into the home of Jairus. Who were these three disciples?

- (v.37)

What was the response of the people in Jairus home when Jesus said the child is not dead but asleep?

- (v.40)

Jesus made the crowd of people leave as he took the child's father (Jairus), mother and his three disciples (Peter, James and John) with him into the room where the child was. What did Jesus do and say to the little girl?

- (v.41)

Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around. How old was she? And, what was the response of her parents and the disciples?

- (v.42)

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MARK - CHAPTER 6

A PROPHET WITHOUT HONOR

Jesus went to his hometown with his disciples and began to teach on the Sabbath. His hometown crowd was skeptical and asked six questions. What were those questions?

- (v.2,3)

Why do you think this hometown crowd took offense at Jesus?

_

Jesus said, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home." He went on to do few miracles and healings in his hometown. He was amazed at one thing in his hometown. What was it?

- (v.6)

JESUS SENDS OUT THE TWELVE

Jesus sent out his disciples two by two with authority over impure spirits. If a place did not welcome or listen to them Jesus told his disciples to do this act as a testimony against them. What was this action?

- (v.11)

What did Jesus' disciples preach that people should do as they drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them?

- (v.12)

JOHN THE BAPTIST BEHEADED

Jesus' reputation began to grow. Some thought Jesus was a second coming of Elijah or another prophet from long ago. King Herod was concerned that Jesus was John the Baptist raised from the dead. List all that we learn about King Herod in this passage.

- Who was King Herod married to, what was the relationship and what was her name? $(\nu.17)$

- What did John the Baptist say about this relationship to Herod? (v.18)

- Herodias nursed a grudge against John the Baptist and wanted him killed, but, what did King Herod do? (v.19,20)

- In your own words, describe the events that happened on King Herod's birthday recorded in (v.21-29)

Do you think that King Herod felt pressure to do something he didn't want to do because he feared embarrassment in front of his friends and guests?

- (v.26)

JESUS FEEDS THE FIVE THOUSAND

The apostles came back and reported on their experiences doing what Jesus had sent them out to do (v.30). Because they were so tired from doing ministry, what did Jesus do next with his disciples after hearing their report?

- (v.31,32)

What did Jesus feel and do when he saw the large crowd?

- (v.34)

Jesus' disciples noticed that it was getting late and they were in such a remote place that they suggested that Jesus release the people so that they could get back to some villages to get something to eat. But, what did Jesus say to his disciples and what was their response?

- (v.37)

Jesus then asked his disciples, "How many loaves do you have?" And, what was their response?

- (v.38)

Jesus took the 5 loaves and 2 fish and looked up to heaven and gave thanks. He then broke the the loaves and divided the fish to be distributed to the people to eat. In v.42-44 answer the following questions.

- What did all in the crowd do and what was the result? (v.42)

- How many extra baskets were picked up after everyone ate and was satisfied? (v.43)

- What was the number of men who ate? (v.44)

JESUS WALKS ON THE WATER

Following this miraculous feeding of the 5,000 men with 5 loaves and 2 fish, Jesus sent his disciples by boat to go on ahead of him to Bethsaida while he dismissed the crowd. What then did Jesus do?

- (v.46)

Later that night as Jesus was on land and his disciples were in the middle of the lake straining at the oars because the wind was against them.

- What did Jesus do next? (v.48)

- What was his disciples response? (v.49,50)
- What did Jesus say to assure them? (v.50)

When Jesus climbed into the boat ...

- What happened to the wind? (v.51)
- What happened to the disciples? (v.51,52)

What did the crowds do when Jesus' and the disciples boat landed in Gennesaret?

- (v.54,55)

What happened to all who even touched the edge of Jesus' colak?

- (v.56)

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MARK – CHAPTER 7

THAT WHICH DEFILES

According to the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, what was it that made hands "defiled"?

- (v.2)

When the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus why his disciples ate food without the ceremonial washing of hands, Jesus responded with a reference to the prophet Isaiah. Finish his quotation of Isaiah, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: ...

- (v.6b,7)

Jesus went on to say that these Pharisees and teachers of the law were "setting aside the commands of God in order observe there own traditions." What was one example Jesus gave as how they would get around honoring their father and mother?

- (v.11-13)

What did Jesus say actually defiles someone? It's nothing from the "outside coming into them. Rather, ...

- (v.15b)

Jesus was bringing attention to the truth that it wasn't "externals" like food, that defile, it is "internal" heart issues. In your own words summarize how Jesus explained this teaching of truth.

- (v.18-23)

JESUS HONORS A SYROPHOENICIAN WOMAN'S FAITH

A Greek woman born in Syrian Phoenicia had a young daughter who was possessed by an impure spirit. She begged Jesus to drive out the demon from her daughter. What was Jesus' response?

- (v.27)

What was the woman's response to Jesus' inference that his first priority was to bring food / teaching to his children / disciples?

- (v.28)

Jesus was so impressed with this woman's persistent faith that he told her that the demon had left her daughter. Jesus didn't even have to be present physically to work a miracle. His word was enough. What did the woman find when she went home to her daughter?

- (v.30)

JESUS HEALS A DEAF AND MUTE MAN

Jesus went into the region of the Decapolis and some people brought a man who was deaf and could hardly speak. They begged Jesus for help. Describe what Jesus did and said to the man and what happened to the man in your own words.

- (v.33-35)

Jesus did not desire attention so he instructed people not to tell anyone about the miracle. But, the result was the opposite. The witnesses kept talking about it because they were overwhelmed with amazement.

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MARK - CHAPTER 8

JESUS FEEDS THE FOUR THOUSAND

Another large crowd gathered around Jesus and they had been listening to Jesus for three days without eating. Jesus had compassion on them and didn't want to send them home without food because they could collapse on the way because some had come from a long distance. When his disciples heard of Jesus' desire to feed the crowd, what was their response?

- (v.4)

What question did Jesus ask of his disciples in response?

- (v.5)

The disciples said that they had seven loaves of bread. Do you think the disciples at this point had a deja vu recollection to their experience with Jesus in a similar situation in Mark 6:38-44?

-

Jesus then took the seven loaves and bread and a few small fish, gave thanks broke the bread and had his disciples distribute the food to the crowd. What did the people do with the food and what was the result?

- (v.8)

How many basketfuls of left over food did Jesus disciples pick up after the crowd ate and were satisfied?

- (v.8)

About how many were in the crowd who ate and were satisfied?

- (v.9)

After Jesus fed the 4,000, he went by boat with his disciples to the region of Dalmanutha. The Pharisees tested Jesus by asking for a sign from heaven. "Jesus sighed deeply..." Do you sense any, "have you not been paying any attention" in Jesus' response?

Gospel of Mark | Study Guide | ROUGH DRAFT

THE YEAST OF THE PHARISEES AND HEROD

Jesus turns to a conversation with his disciples and you can almost see him again, "sighing deeply" when the disciples think that Jesus is referring to physical bread when he warns them to "Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod." Jesus is referring to yeast as a symbol for evil and corruption and how even just a small portion can effect every part of us. After having his disciples recall how many basketfuls of leftovers there were with the feeding of the 5,000 and the feeding of the 4,000, Jesus asks them one more question, what was it?

- (v.21)

JESUS HEALS A BLIND MAN AT BETHSAIDA

This healing of the blind man at Bethsaida is unique in Jesus' healing ministry. The second "laying on of hands for healing" may symbolize that the disciples' spiritual sight is gradually increasing. How did the blind man describe what people looked like after Jesus' first laying on of hands?

- (v.24)

How is his sight described after the second laying on of hands?

- (v.25)

PETER DECLARES THAT JESUS IS THE MESSIAH

What were Jesus' disciples response to his question, "Who do people say I am?"

- (v.28)

How did Peter answer Jesus' follow up questions, "But what about you?" "Who do you say I am?"

- (v.29)

JESUS PREDICTS HIS DEATH

Jesus was very specific about what would happen to him (the Son of Man) upon suffering and being rejected by the elders, the chief priest and the teachers of the law. What did Jesus say must happen and its result three days latter?

- (v.31)

Upon hearing Jesus speaking about his impending suffering and death, Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke him. What was Jesus' response to Peter's rebuke?

- (v.33)

When we are focused and consumed with "human concerns" instead of the "concerns of God", by whose influence are we being swayed?

- (v.33)

Read aloud what Jesus said in verses 34-38.

*NOTE: verse 34 speaks of true followers of Jesus taking up our cross and following him. This is prior to Jesus' own crucifixion, so it is implying how Jesus will be killed. When it comes to "saving and losing life", Jesus is teaching that physical life may be saved by denying Jesus, but eternal life will be lost. Conversely, discipleship may result in the loss of physical life, but that loss is insignificant when compared with gaining eternal life.

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MEMORY VERSE

Mark 5:36 Jesus told him, "Don't be afraid; just believe."

MARK - CHAPTER 9

THE WAY OF THE CROSS & THE TRANSFIGURATION

Jesus took three disciples and led them up a high mountain where they were alone. Who were the three disciples?

- (v.2)

Jesus was transfigured (seen in his glorified state) before Peter, James and John. Describe how Jesus looked.

- (v.3)

What other two historical figures appeared with Jesus on the high mountain and were talking with him?

- (v.4)

Peter was so frightened and in awe about what he was seeing that he suggested building shelters for Jesus, Moses and Elijah because this was such an amazingly good experience. Then a cloud appeared and covered them and a voice came from the cloud. What did this voice say?

- (v.7)

Immediately following hearing this voice there was a sudden change and as they looked around they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus. What did Jesus instruct Peter, James and John NOT to do until the Son of Man had risen from the dead?

- (v.9)

They did keep this matter to themselves. But, what did they discuss among themselves?

- (v.10)

Jesus' disciples asked this important question, "Why do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?" Jesus affirmed that Elijah does come first and in verse 13 he affirms Elijah has actually, what?

- (v.13)

*NOTE: Luke 1:17 tells us that John the Baptist was not Elijah returning in the flesh but that he functioned like that Old Testament preacher of repentance. This coming of John the Baptist in "the spirit and power of Elijah" fulfilled the Old Testament prophecy of Malachi 4:5.

JESUS HEALS A BOY POSSESSED BY AN IMPURE SPIRIT

When Jesus, Peter, James and John returned to the other disciples there was a large crowd around them arguing with the teachers of law. A father had brought his son who was so enslaved by an impure spirit that his son was robbed of his speech and had behaviors that were debilitating. This caring father brought his son to Jesus' disciples who were unable to help this father or his son.

What was Jesus response to this situation?

- (v.19)

The boy was brought to Jesus. The boy's father pleaded with Jesus saying, "... if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us." What was Jesus' response to the father?

- (v.23)

What was the father's response to Jesus' challenge?

- (v.24)

Upon hearing the father's declaration of belief and trust, Jesus delivered the boy for his enslavement to an impure spirit.

Following Jesus' healing of the boy, the disciples asked Jesus privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" What was Jesus' response to this question from his disciples?

- (v.29)

JESUS PREDICTS HIS DEATH A SECOND TIME

Jesus again retreated from the crowds to have some private time with his disciples so that he could teach them. Jesus for a second time says in very unambiguous terms that, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise." How did the disciples respond?

- (v.32)

The next topic Jesus addresses with his disciples revolves around the topic of personal greatness as defined by servant leadership. Write down Jesus' profound teaching on this topic of greatness from verse 35.

- (v.35)

Jesus then takes a little child into his arms and makes a powerful statement of the worth and value of young children. Read that statement audibly from verse 37.

WHOEVER IS NOT AGAINST US IS FOR US

Jesus then teaches that even small acts of servanthood and kindness will be remembered by God.

CAUSING TO STUMBLE

Describe in your own words the warning Jesus gives to anyone who causes a little one to stumble.

- (v.42)

Jesus then uses exaggeration to get his point across about how serious we should be about avoiding hell. In your own words describe how serious we should be when dealing with sin in our lives that makes us stumble in our walk with God.

- (v.43-48)

Salt is a preservative and flavoring agent. When following Jesus we are to express these qualities to others because they will bring peace.

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MEMORY VERSE

Mark 9:35 Jesus called the twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all."

MARK – CHAPTER 10

DIVORCE

Jesus was asked about the lawfulness of divorce. Jesus said that Moses permitted divorce because your hearts were ______. (v.5)

So, divorce was permitted because of the hard hearts of men and women but this was not God's creation design. In your own words, what was God's creation design for marriage?

- (v.6-9)

THE LITTLE CHILDREN AND JESUS

People were bringing little children to Jesus. And Jesus would take them into his arms, place his hands on them and bless them. When Jesus' disciples tried to hinder this love and blessing of little children, what did Jesus say?

- (v.14,15)

What do you think Jesus meant by saying, "Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."?

-

THE RICH AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD

A wealthy man came up to Jesus and asked an important question, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus started listing God's commandments and then he was interrupted by the wealthy man who claimed that he had kept all of these since he was a boy. Jesus then got to the heart of this wealthy man's values and priorities. What did Jesus ask this wealthy man to do?

- (v.21)

When Jesus challenged the wealthy man to demonstrate his values and priorities by choosing between earthly and heavenly treasure; this wealthy man's "god of money" was exposed as his priority. What did Jesus say next to his disciples?

- (v.23)

Jesus' disciples were even more amazed at these words and asked this question of Jesus ...?

- (v.26)

What was Jesus' response to the disciples question?

- (v.27)

Peter then asks the question everyone else wanted to know but were too afraid to ask. Peter shows the contrast between the disciples and this wealthy man. Peter says in essence, "We are not like that wealthy man. We have left everything to follow you. So, what are the benefits of leaving everything and following you?"

Jesus answers Peter's question with 2 benefits and a difficult reality.

Benefit 1 = Those who leave family for Jesus and the gospel *will receive 100 times as much family in the present earthly life.*

Difficult Reality = Along with persecutions

Benefit 2 = And, *in the age to come,* those who are willing to leave all to follow Jesus *will receive eternal life.*

JESUS PREDICTS HIS DEATH A THIRD TIME

Jesus for a third time took his twelve disciples aside to tell them what was going to happen to him. After being delivered to the chief priests and the teachers of the law, Jesus would be condemned to death and would be handed over to the Gentiles. What would the Gentiles at this time do to Jesus? And what would happen three days later?

- (v.34)

THE REQUEST OF JAMES AND JOHN

In light of what Jesus just predicted in regard to his death, what do you think of James' and John's request?

- (v.34-40)

Following this interaction we have the account that the other disciples were indignant with James and John. We don't know if it was for James' and John's insensitivity to the moment. Or, if they beat the other disciples to the punch.

Jesus then gave them and extremely important lesson on leadership. He said the Gentiles' rulers used their authority to "lord it over" those beneath them. Jesus then said we need to be different. If we want to be great we have to be the servant and slave of all. Jesus is our model for this type of servant leadership. Write out verse 45.

- (v.45)

BLIND BARTIMAEUS RECEIVES HIS SIGHT

As Jesus was leaving Jericho with a large crowd a blind man, Bartimaeus shouted out to Jesus saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many in the crowd were rebuking the blind man but he shouted all the louder.

In your own words, what did Jesus do and say next?

- (v.49-52)
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MARK - CHAPTER 11

JESUS COMES TO JERUSALEM AS KING

Jesus sent two disciples on ahead of him as they were about to enter into Jerusalem. He gave these two disciples instructions to go to the village that was just ahead of them. Just as they were entering this village they would find a colt that had never been ridden. They were to untie it and when asked, "Why are you doing this?" They were to respond, "The Lord needs it and will send it back shortly." It happened just as Jesus described.

What did the many people do and say as Jesus came riding that colt?

- (v.8-10)

JESUS CURSES A FIG TREE AND CLEARS THE TEMPLE COURTS

Jesus saw a fig tree when he was hungry that was not bearing fruit and he said, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." This is this only recorded destructive miracle in the life and ministry of Jesus. It does show his authority to punish with judgment the unfruitful.

On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple courts and proceeded to drive out money changers. What was Jesus condemnation for those merchandising inside of the temple courts?

- (v.17)

After this proclamation the chief priests and teachers of the law began to look for a way to kill Jesus. What was their fear of Jesus?

- (v.18)

The following morning Peter noticed that the fig tree that Jesus had cursed the day earlier had withered from its roots. Jesus spoke to this observation with some teaching on the importance of faith and prayer.

Who did Jesus say we needed to faith in?

- (v.22)

Jesus also describes to important qualities of effective prayer in verse 24. We need to: 1. Ask and 2. Believe

Have you ever just "thought" about your needs instead of asking of God?

Have you ever doubted the power of God to be able to do what you have asked?

In verse 25 Jesus identifies a hinderance to our prayers. What is that hinderance and what does it take to remove it?

- (v.25)

THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS QUESTIONED

When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem and was walking in the temple courts the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders came to Jesus and asked, "Who gave you the authority to do these things?"

What was Jesus' response?

- (v.29,30)

Why wouldn't the chief priests, the teachers of the law or the elders answer Jesus' question, "John's baptism-was it from heaven, or of human origin?"

- (v.31,32)

Because the chief priests, the teachers of the law or the elders, were not honest seekers of God and the truth about Jesus' authority, demonstrated by their unwillingness to answer Jesus' question about John the Baptist, Jesus did not answer their insincere question.

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MARK - CHAPTER 12

THE PARABLE OF THE TENANTS

What happened at harvest time when the owner of a vineyard sent a servant to the tenants to collect from them some of the fruit of the vineyard?

- (v.3)

When the owner of the vineyard sent a second servant to collect what happened to that servant?

- (v.4)

When the owner of the vineyard sent a third and then many others, how were they treated by the tenants?

- (v.5)

When the owner of the vineyard finally sent his son, whom he loved, how did the tenants treat him?

- (v.7,8)

What will the owner of the vineyard do to those tenants who killed his servants and son?

- (v.9)

What did the chief priests, teachers of the law and elders look to do as a response to this parable that Jesus told? And, why was this response?

- (v.12)

PAYING THE IMPERIAL TAX TO CAESAR

Some Pharisees and Herodians were sent to Jesus seeking to "catch him in his words"; in other words, they were seeking to trap Jesus. What was their "trap" question and how was it a trap? (*HINT: What would they have done if Jesus answered "yes" or "no"?)

- (v.14,15)

Jesus asked them to bring a coin to him. He then asked his hypocrite questioners, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?" To which they

responded, "Caesars." Then Jesus instructed, "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." What was the response to Jesus' words?

- (v.17)

MARRIAGE AT THE RESURRECTION

Summarize the Sadducees hypothetical question they asked Jesus about marriage relationships after the resurrection.

- (v.18-23)

Jesus said the Sadducees were in error on this topic for two reasons. What were those reasons Jesus identified in his response in verse 24?

- (v.24)

The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection (cf. v.18) and Jesus said they were "badly mistaken." (v.27) Because, God himself said to Moses in the burning bush that, "I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Jesus said that God is not God of the dead but of the

- (v.27)

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

Because the Pharisees and Sadducees had running debates on Scripture topics, one of the teachers of the law (a Pharisee) loved Jesus' answer to the Sadducees about the resurrection, so he asked Jesus another question. "Of all of the commandments, which is the most important?" What was Jesus' response?

- (v.29-31)

Upon hearing Jesus' response this one teacher of the law said to Jesus, "Well said, teacher." And then he went on to agree with Jesus' assessment of the most important commandments ... with a final statement "loving God and people is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices." What was Jesus' response to this assessment?

- (v.34)

WHOSE SON IS THE MESSIAH?

Jesus clears up some understanding regarding the Messiah while teaching in the temple courts. He quotes David from Psalm 110:1 and shows that the

Messiah was more than a mere descendant of David, the Messiah was David's Lord.

What was the large crowds response to this teaching?

- (v.37)

WARNING AGAINST THE TEACHERS OF THE LAW

Jesus said in essence, "beware of the teachers of the law - who dress to be noticed; who desire the perks of notoriety; and who put on a show with their lengthy prayers." They do all this while devouring the homes of widows.

What did Jesus say would happen to these men?

- (v.40)

THE WIDOW'S OFFERING

Here are some observations about the widow's offering. 1. Jesus cares what we give in the offering. He is watching. 2. Amount does not matter to Jesus. We are all on a level playing field when it comes to giving. Jesus values percentage over amount.

How does this Scripture passage teach that percentage is more important than amount to Jesus?

- (v.43,44)

According to this passage, can you be too poor to give?

-

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MEMORY VERSE

MARK - CHAPTER 13

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE AND SIGNS OF THE END TIMES

As they were leaving the temple one disciple commented to Jesus about the magnificent buildings and the massive stones.

According to Josephus (Antiquities 15.11.3) these massive stones were white and some of them were 37 feet in length and 12 feet high and 18 feet wide.

With this as background, why would what Jesus said in response be noteworthy?

- (v.2)

Now having walked over to the Mount of Olives, they turn back and overlook the temple they had just left. Peter, James, John and Andrew come to Jesus privately and ask when all of this destruction of the temple will happen.

Jesus' first warning is to watch out for deception. What will many claim?

- (v.6)

Jesus informs us that there will be wars, nation unrest, earthquakes and famines. The word picture Jesus gives is that these events are "the beginning of birth _________.

- (v.8)

Jesus does not withhold difficult information from his disciples. To summarize what Jesus' followers will experience on account of following him: they will be flogged, you will be witnesses before governors and kings, you will be arrested and brought to trial, the gospel must first be preached to all nations, family will betray and rebel against each other, everyone will hate you on account of Jesus.

Who will be saved?

- (v.13)

The "abomination that causes desolation" is literally the detestable thing causing the desolation of the holy place. This has a historical reference to

168 BC when Antiochus Epiphanes constructed a pagan altar to Zeus on the sacred altar in the temple of Jerusalem. But there is likely two more stages in the progressive fulfillment of the predictions of Daniel (11:31) and Mark.

1. The Roman destruction of the temple in AD 70.

2. A still future setting up of an image of the antichrist in Jerusalem. (2 Thessalonians 2:4)

During these days there will be	unequaled
If the Lord had not cut short those days,survive. (v.20)	would
False messiahs and prophets will appear and perform and to deceive. (v.22)	
During this time followers of Jesus are urged by Jesus to be "on your guard." (v.23)	
Following these days of distress the "Son of Man" (Jesus' most himself used 81 times) will be seen coming in clouds with great and	

Write out Jesus' promise regarding his words.

- (v.31)

THE DAY AND HOUR UNKNOWN

Who does not know and who does know the day and hour of these things to come?

- (v.32)

Because only the Father knows the timing of these things we are all urged to be on high alert. The words "be on your guard", "be alert" and "keep watch" show the importance of this posture of alertness.

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MEMORY VERSE

MARK – CHAPTER 14

JESUS ANOINTED AT BETHANY

What were the chief priests and the teachers of the law scheming to do to Jesus with the Passover Festival only two days away; but decided to hold off of for fear that the people would riot?

- (v.1)

While Jesus was in Bethany at the home of Simon the Leper a woman gave an extravagant gift expressing her devotion to Christ. In John's gospel account of this event, Judas Iscariot is named as the who who harshly denounced this offering as wasteful (John 12:4).

How does Jesus respond to Judas' rebuke of this woman's generous gift?

- (v.6-8)

Over two thousand years after this beautiful act that prepared Christ's body for burial, we are still telling this story. Jesus was right. (v.9)

Who did Judas Iscariot go to in order to betray Jesus to them?

- (v.10)

What was the response and promise to Judas Iscariot from the chief priests in exchange for his betrayal?

- (v.11)

THE LAST SUPPER

Jesus gave two of his disciples specific instructions for finding the place where they would celebrate the Passover meal together. All of these details are found in verses 13-15. How did Jesus' disciples find things as they went into the city?

- (v.16)

At this last passover supper with his disciples, Jesus tells them that one of them will betray him. What statement does Jesus make about this man who will betray the Son of Man (aka Jesus)?

- (v.21)

Jesus then took and bread and said, "Take it; this is my body" and he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it to his disciples saying, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many."

What did Jesus and the disciples sing and where did they go after observing this Passover meal together?

- (v.26)

JESUS PREDICTS PETER'S DENIAL

Jesus quotes the Old Testament prophecy that the followers of the Messiah would scatter when "the shepherd" was "struck" (killed). (Zechariah 13:7)

Verse 28 is an amazing clear personal prediction of Jesus' resurrection. (NOTE: before his arrest and crucifixion) Where did Jesus say he would meet his disciples after his resurrection?

- (v.28)

Peter proudly asserts that if all others fall away, he will not. How did Jesus respond to Peter's promised loyalty?

- (v.30)

Peter and all the other disciples said that they would die with Jesus and never disown him. (v.31)

GETHSEMANE

Gethsemane is a garden on the lower slopes of the Mount of Olives. Jesus takes his disciples here and becomes deeply distressed and troubled. With what did Jesus say his soul was overwhelmed?

- (v.34)

What was Jesus' prayer to his "Abba (Daddy - expressive of an especially close relationship) Father"?

- (v.36)

NOTE: You and I are not the only ones to make requests of God; and not get what we requested. We need to have the humility of Christ when we request. Submitting our wills to the will of God. Remember, Jesus had a prayer request that did not get answered as he wished.

When Jesus returned to his disciples after this intense time in prayer, he found them sleeping. He warns them about the importance of watching and praying so that they don't fall into temptation. Jesus goes for another round of prayer and returns again to find his disciples sleeping.

This time Jesus says, "Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man (again a reference to himself) is delivered into the hands of sinners. Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

JESUS ARRESTED

Judas, one of Jesus' closest followers, "one of the Twelve" comes with a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders.

What was Judas the betrayers signal for identifying Jesus to those who would arrest Jesus?

- (v.44,45)

The greeting with "a kiss" was a particularly grievous betrayal for it was a cultural sign of respect for a Rabbi (teacher). In the Gospel account of Luke (Luke 22:48) Jesus is recorded having this question expressing the depth of disappointment with Judas' betrayal. Jesus asked, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

Verse 47 gives us the account that in the midst of this mayhem of Jesus' arrest someone "standing near Jesus drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest cutting off his ear." In John's gospel account (John 18:10) we are told that it was Peter who drew his sword and cut off Malchus' ear. In Luke's gospel account (Luke 22:51) we are given additional information that Jesus touched this man's ear and healed him.

After this arrest, who deserted Jesus and fled?

- (v.50)

In verses 51 and 52 we are told of another young man who was following Jesus but when seized he fled naked leaving his garment behind. Many bible scholars believe that the author of the gospel account, John Mark, is that unidentified young man.

JESUS BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN

Jesus is taken before the high priest, chief priests, the elders and the teachers of the law including the whole Sanhedrin. This was the high court of the Jews and numbered 71 people. They were looking for evidence to put Jesus to death. What kind of evidence did they find for putting Jesus to death?

- (v.55-59)

Jesus then remained silent and gave no answer regarding these false charges (v.61).

When asked by the high priest, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" How did Jesus respond?

- (v.62)

The high priest tore his robes and declared Jesus' response as blasphemy and Jesus was condemned to death.

What did some do next to Jesus including the guards?

- (v.65)

PETER DISOWNS JESUS

While Jesus was being beaten in the upstairs room of Caiaphas the high priests house, Peter was below in the courtyard disowning his association to Christ. Peter is identified and asked on three different occasions regarding his followership of Jesus and each time he denied it.

On the third occasion describe how Peter responded to the assertion from those standing near him that, "Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean."

- (v.71)

Immediately after this third denial the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered what Jesus had spoken to him. (Mark 14:30) What was it that Peter remembered Jesus saying and how did Peter respond upon this remembrance?

- (v.72)

QUESTIONS

What questions do I still have about this chapter?

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SUMMARIZE

What are your observations or anything else from this chapter that was "striking" to you. You don't need to make something up. Be brief. Just one or two sentences is fine.

APPLY

What is a "So, what?" or "Now, what?" personal action step for your life? Write it down. Do it. Live it. Be it.

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MEMORY VERSE

MARK – CHAPTER 15

JESUS BEFORE PILATE

Very early in the morning the Sanhedrin bring Jesus before the Roman governor - Pilate. Pilate is amazed at Jesus' unwillingness to defend himself because according to Roman law Pilate would have to pronounce against him. It was the custom at the Festival of Unleavened Bread (Passover) to release a prisoner whom the people requested.

Pilate knew it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. (v.10) So, in order give them a hard time, Pilate asked, "Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews (aka Jesus)?"

Who did the chief priests stir up the crowd to have released instead of Jesus?

- (v.11)

And Barabbas was a murderer (v.7)

What was shouted when Pilate asked, "What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews (aka Jesus)?"

- (v.13)

After hearing their reply Pilate said, "Why? What crime has he (Jesus) committed?" Inferring that he had no grounds for ordering a capital punishment. But the crowd shouted louder, "Crucify him!"

Pilate had Barabbas released, Jesus flogged and handed over to be crucified because he wanted to ______ . (v.15)

THE SOLDIERS MOCK JESUS

What did the soldiers call out to Jesus after leading him into the palace dressing him in a purple robe and setting a twisted crown of thorns on his head?

- (v.18)

How many times did the soldiers strike Jesus on the head with a staff and spit on him?

- (v.19)

The soldiers then mocked Jesus by falling on their knees in false homage. Then they removed the purple robe and put Jesus' own clothes back on him. And they led him out to be crucified.

THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS

What was the name of the man who was forced to carry Jesus' cross after Jesus could carry it no further (John 19:17)?

- (v.21)

What does Golgotha mean?

- (v.22)

They offered Jesus wine mixed with myrrh, which was to deaden pain, but Jesus did not take it. Those who crucified Jesus divided up his clothes and cast lots to see who would get what.

What time was Jesus crucified?

- (v.25)

Jesus was crucified between two rebels and a written notice of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews."

Passers by as well as the chief priests and teachers of the law all mocked and hurled insults at Jesus. Even those who were crucified with Jesus joined in the mockery. What types of things did they say?

- (v.29-32)

THE DEATH OF JESUS

Darkness came over the whole land at noon. How long did it remain dark?

- (v.33)

What did Jesus cry out at three in the afternoon?

- (v.34)

The bystanders mistook the first words of Jesus' cry "Eloi, Eloi" to be a cry for Elijah. The language Jesus was speaking in for this cry was Aramaic.

With another loud cry Jesus breathed his last.

The temple curtain that separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place was torn from top to bottom at this moment. The tearing of the curtain indicated that Christ had entered heaven itself for us so that we too may now enter God's presence. At the beginning of Mark's gospel heaven was "torn" open (1:10), and the Father declared that Jesus was his Son (1:11). Now at the end, the temple curtain is "torn," and the centurion declares that Jesus is the Son of God. - **"Surely this man was the Son of God." (v.39)**

The centurion is a commander of 100 men in the Roman army.

What were the names of some of the women who were watching this at a distance?

- (v.40,41)

THE BURIAL OF JESUS

Preparation Day is Friday and it is late in the afternoon and there was an urgency to get Jesus' body down from the cross by sundown, which was the beginning of the Sabbath. Joseph of Arimathea boldly asked Pilate to have Jesus' body released to him.

What was Pilate's response to this request?

- (v.44,45)

Joseph wrapped Jesus' body in a linen cloth and placed him in a tomb that was cut out of rock. Then Joseph rolled a stone against the entrance.

Who saw where Joseph laid Jesus' body?

- (v.47)

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MEMORY VERSE

MARK – CHAPTER 16

JESUS HAS RISEN

The two Marys and Salome were able to make purchases after the Sabbath was over at 6:00pm on Saturday. They purchased these spices not for purposes of embalmment, but as an act of devotion and love. These women at sunrise on Sunday morning were on their way to the tomb when they asked each other a question.

What was that question?

- (v.3)

When they reached the tomb the stone had been rolled away and they saw a young man dressed in a white robe who said to the startled women, "Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus who was crucified."

Then, what declaration did the young man make?

- (v.6)

Following the declaration that "Jesus is risen!" The women are urged to go and tell Jesus' disciples and Peter (the one who recently disowned Jesus), that Jesus would be meeting them in Galilee, just as Jesus had told them prior to his death. (Mark 14:28)

*NOTE: What do we make of Mark 16:9-20? Most scholars agree the Mark's original Gospel account ended at verse 8. They come to this conclusion because the earliest manuscripts and some other ancient witnesses do not have verses 9-20. Also, the style and vocabulary are different from the rest of Mark's account. So, why is it in here? It was probably an attempt from later scribes to provide a fuller resurrection ending. IMPORTANT CLARIFICATION: This does not mean that what is contained in this ending is made up. Most of these details do appear in the other gospel accounts of Matthew, Luke and John. It only means that they were probably not in Mark's original. It is also worthy of consideration that God in his sovereignty allowed these portions to be added and kept.

What initially happened to these who heard from Mary Magdalene that Jesus was alive?

- (v.11)

When the resurrected Jesus appeared to two others while walking in the country (cf. Luke 24:13-35) they returned to report it to the rest of Jesus' followers. But, what was there response to this news?

- (v.13)

Jesus then appeared to the Eleven (because Judas had committed suicide cf. Matthew 27:5) and rebuked them for their refusal to believe the testimony of those who had seen him after he had risen.

What was Jesus' charge to them in verse 15?

- (v.15)

Those who believe the gospel are saved. What happens to those who do not believe the gospel?

- (v.16)

The signs that will accompany those who believe include (v.17,18):

- driving out demons (i.e. Paul and Silas demonstrated this sign in Acts 16:16-18)

- speaking in tongues (i.e. Acts 2:1-41)

- pick up snakes (i.e. Paul shipwrecked on Malta in Acts 28:1-6; However there is not pattern to do likewise. It was unintentional)

- drink deadly poison (there is no occurrence of drinking deadly poison without harm found in the New Testament)

- place hands on the sick and they get well (i.e. Paul's healing of Publius' father in Acts 28:8)

Where did Jesus sit after he was taken up to heaven?

- (v.19)

Where did the disciples go out and preach?

- (v.20)

How did the Lord work with the disciples and confirm his word?

- (v.20)

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MEMORY VERSE

MARK - MEMORY VERSES

Mark 1:15 Jesus said, "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

Mark 5:36 Jesus told him, "Don't be afraid; just believe."

Mark 9:35 Jesus called the twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all."