



# MARK

Practical, Easy-To-Use Devotionals Made for Families.



# BOOK SUMMARY

..... **MARK**

# MARK



## SETTING

While the author of this biography didn't give us his name, most people believe that it was written by Mark (also called John Mark). Mark was a close helper of Peter, and Peter was one of Jesus' three closest disciples.

Church history (and other evidence) says that this book is probably Peter's eyewitness account of Jesus' life that Mark wrote down.

The book was partly written for people who weren't of Jewish background. *Why does it matter if you are of Jewish background?* If you were Jewish in the first century, then you knew the Old Testament story, which contained the chapters of God's history with His people before Jesus' arrival. Those who didn't know the Old Testament story would need some background to get the full picture. But those who already knew the Old Testament needed something, too! They needed help to see how their expectations about God's Rescuer were different than what God had planned!

Mark likely wrote this letter in the mid to late 50's AD. By standards of ancient writing, that's very close to the death of Jesus.

Mark's style of storytelling is fast-paced, simple, and straightforward. You'll often hear him use the word "immediately" as he moves us from one scene to the next.

Mark's gospel is the shortest of the four gospels.

Note:

Some Bibles include a longer ending (Mark 16:9-20). Many scholars believe this ending was added later because many of the earliest manuscripts (hand-copies of Mark's gospel) didn't have it. We can still learn something from those verses, just with an extra bit of caution and curiosity. We can also give thanks, knowing that God has raised up scholars who spend their whole lives making sure that the Bible we have is faithful to what was originally written! They're very careful to let us know if there's an important question about something. Possible additions like this are *EXTREMELY* rare in the Bible. It's been handed down with great care for thousands of years— all the way to you. You can trust it fully!



# MARK



## OVERVIEW

In this biography of Jesus, Mark focuses on Jesus as the suffering servant—the one who lays down His life to save His people. He also shows us how Jesus is the true King over everything!



# MARK



## THEMES

One way to tell what's most important in a story is to see where the writer spends his time. *Mark spends over one-third of his biography of Jesus on the week leading up to His death.* He really wants us to pay attention when it comes to Jesus' death and resurrection.

Mark repeats a few important phrases in his book. For one, he often calls Jesus the "Son of God" (ten times). In the Old Testament, this phrase was often used to speak of Israel's king. Mark shows us that Jesus is the real King over everything!

Mark's stories show us Jesus' true authority. He rules over sickness and death, so He heals people and even brings someone dead back to life (He also rises from the dead Himself!). He has authority over evil, so He casts out demons that were hurting people. He even has control of nature, so He walks on water and calms a storm.

There's a second reference for the "son of God" though. In the Old Testament, there are a few

times when God called the people of Israel His son (His beloved child). Not only is Jesus the true High King, but He's also the fulfillment of all that God meant for the people of Israel to be and do. He called them to be a light to all the nations (so everyone could see what God is like), and to be the family of God who would love and welcome people. Jesus perfectly fills that mission.

We hear Jesus refer to Himself eight times in Mark as "the Son of Man." This phrase points back to the Old Testament when the prophet Daniel had a vision and saw a heavenly being full of glory.

As you read through Mark, watch for Jesus to show people how His kind of power and Kingship is different from what they expect, and what it means for them to follow Him. He also shows them how part of fulfilling His mission means suffering.

## HOW TO USE

How will you respond to King Jesus? Will you believe Him and become part of His Kingdom and family? It's the best place to be! All who are willing to come to Him will be loved and welcomed!





# READING PLAN

..... **MARK**

# MARK



## FAMILY READING PLAN

our family name

### ○ Chapter 1

John Prepares The Way, And Jesus Comes To His People

### ○ Chapter 2

Jesus Shows His Power And Kindness

### ○ Chapter 3

Jesus Heals, And The People In Power Are Unhappy

### ○ Chapter 4

Jesus Teaches The People With His Stories And His Actions

### ○ Chapter 5

Jesus Comes To Set The Captives Free!

### ○ Chapter 6

The Cruel Power Of Men, And The [Bigger!] Power Of Jesus

### ○ Chapter 7

Jesus Calls For Pure Hearts And Carries Out His Healing Work

### ○ Chapter 8

Jesus: Full Of Power, Willing To Suffer

### ○ Chapter 9

Jesus Shows His Identity, Predicts His Death, And Warns About Sin

### ○ Chapter 10

Greatness Through Smallness And Service

### ○ Chapter 11

The King Arrives!

### ○ Chapter 12

Jesus' Kingly Wisdom

### ○ Chapter 13

Insight And Instructions: A Word Of Warning About The Future

### ○ Chapter 14

The King Prepares To Give His Life For His People: Arrest

### ○ Chapter 15

The Sacrifice Is Given: Jesus' Trial, Sentence, Execution, Burial

### ○ Chapter 16

Jesus Is Risen!!!





# FAMILY JOURNALS

..... MARK



# CHAPTER 1

# MARK

TODAY'S DATE

## John Prepares The Way, And Jesus Comes To His People

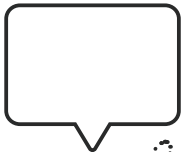
### SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

### FUN FACT

What's up with John the Baptist's weird clothes and snacks? Malachi 3:1, 4:5 promised that before God's Rescuing King (Messiah) came, there would first be a special messenger. This person would be like the Old Testament prophet Elijah. (A prophet is someone who speaks God's words to the people.) 2 Kings 1:8 tells us that Elijah the prophet wore a coat made of animal hair and a leather belt around his waist! John's weird clothes are a signal that he's the new "Elijah." He's the prophet preparing the way for Jesus! His strange (to us) food choices were one of the ways people recognized his commitment to God's commandments (Leviticus 11:21-22).

### WHAT STOOD OUT

### FAV WORDS



### A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

This story inspired me to...

### WORTH A NOTE

Did you notice that even Jesus needed time alone to be with His Father in prayer (v. 35)?



Jesus Shows His Power And Kindness

SUMMARY (write or draw)

Large empty box for writing or drawing a summary.

WHAT STOOD OUT

Three circles: the first and third are dotted lines, the middle one is a solid line.

FAV WORDS

Decorative horizontal line with speech bubble icons on either side.

A place for thoughts (write or draw)

This story inspired me to...

FIND

In the culture of Jesus' day, eating with someone wasn't just about sharing food. It was usually a way to show acceptance! Jesus chose to eat with people who were "sinners." (When the Bible uses that word, it often means people whose hearts haven't yet been changed by God.) In v. 17, Jesus shared why He loved, served, and delighted in "sinners." Can you find it (Hint: vs. 13-17)? All of us are sinners by nature, and that means all of us qualify as people Jesus can save!

BACKSTORY

The Sabbath is a day of rest set apart to enjoy God and His people (Exodus 31:14-16). The Pharisees had made a lot of extra rules about keeping the Sabbath. What the disciples were doing was perfectly ok according to God (Deuteronomy 23:25)!



# CHAPTER 3

# MARK

TODAY'S DATE

## Jesus Heals, And The People In Power Are Unhappy

### SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

### WHAT STOOD OUT

### FAV WORDS

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### RESPONSE

(vs. 1-6) The synagogue was a place where Jewish people could gather together, worship God, and learn about His word (just the Old Testament at that time). It was similar in many ways to church. On this day in the synagogue, something shocking was about to happen! Who needed help (v. 1)? The Pharisees are the people verse 2 is referring to—what are they watching for? What does Jesus do for the man? How does Jesus feel (v. 5)? How do you feel when you read this story? What does this story show you about Jesus? Write about it in *A Place For Your Thoughts*.

### A NOTE

WORTH

(v. 11) Even though some people didn't believe Jesus, even the evil spirits knew who He was!

### A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

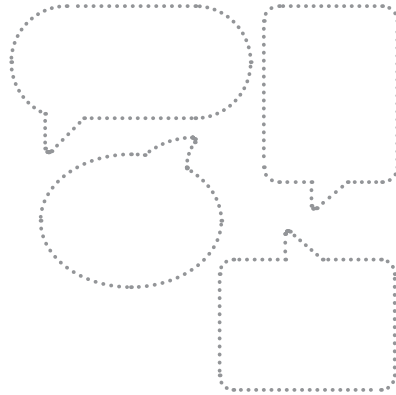
This story inspired me to...



Jesus Teaches The People With His Stories And His Actions

SUMMARY (write or draw)

FAV WORDS



WORTH A NOTE

(vs. 35-41) What do you find out about Jesus that could help you when you're feeling scared? Write about it in A Place For Your Thoughts.

Empty rectangular box for writing thoughts.

A place for thoughts (write or draw)

WHAT STOOD OUT

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This story inspired me to...

Three horizontal dotted lines for writing an inspired response.

FIND

Jesus starts His parable (v. 3) with the word, "Listen!" He then tells a story He really wants EVERYONE to hear! What are the four kinds of soil in Jesus' parable? What happens to the seed/the plant in each one? In verse 11, Mark is quoting from the Old Testament. God had used the prophet, Isaiah, to deliver messages to His people so that only those with willing hearts would "hear" (understand). Jesus was doing something similar. God makes sure that people who want to hear Him do. Those who don't want to "hear" Him won't. What is the meaning of each soil (vs. 13-20)?



# CHAPTER 5

# MARK

TODAY'S DATE

Jesus Comes To Set The Captives Free!

## SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

HIGHLIGHT

Here we see Jesus do what only God can do! At the end of Chapter 4, He showed His total power over nature. Now He shows His complete power over evil! Back in 3:22-27, Jesus compared Satan to a strong man and said that He had come to plunder (take away) what was in his clutches! Now we see Jesus DO IT in chapter 5! He restored someone that no one else could!

## WHAT STOOD OUT

## FAV WORDS



A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

This story inspired me to...

## FIND

Jesus healed (or freed) three people in chapter 5. Can you find them? What did Jesus do for each one? (Note: The New Testament often speaks of physical death as "sleep." This highlights the fact that it's temporary! All who belong to Jesus will be raised like Him one day!)



## The Cruel Power Of Men, And The [Bigger!] Power Of Jesus

**SUMMARY** *(write or draw)*

### WHAT STOOD OUT

### FAV WORDS









### WORTH A NOTE

(vs. 14-29) We are likely to feel sad and even scared as we read about what happened to John the Baptist. What Herod did to him was very wrong. God wants us to know that He takes suffering in this life very seriously. He says that those who share His suffering (for His cause—like John!) will also one day share in His glory. God intends to repay every wrong done—to give blessing where there has been pain. In many parts of the world, following Jesus still comes with a high cost—sometimes danger and even death. We can pray for and support our brothers and sisters in Christ who daily face danger.

### RESPONSE

How did Jesus feel when He saw the people? (v. 34) What two things did it move Jesus to do? Why do you think Jesus fed them both physically and spiritually?

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

This story inspired me to...



## Jesus Calls For Pure Hearts And Carries Out His Healing Work

### **SUMMARY** *(write or draw)*

### **WHAT STOOD OUT**

### **FAV WORDS**

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### **BACKSTORY**

In the Old Testament, when God brought His people out of the land of Egypt in a miraculous way and called them into His family, He said something very important, "Be holy as I am holy" (Lev. 11:45). To be holy is to love what God loves and to live as He does—in goodness and love. Jesus is showing that holiness is a matter of the heart—not just following rules! He came to give us new hearts of holiness like His. (Holiness also leads to real joy!)

### **FACT**

### **FUN**

Jesus performs both healing miracles in "Gentile" territory (a Gentile was someone who wasn't part of the family of Israel). Jesus is showing that He came to save and restore ALL kinds of people from all over the world!

### **A place for thoughts** *(write or draw)*

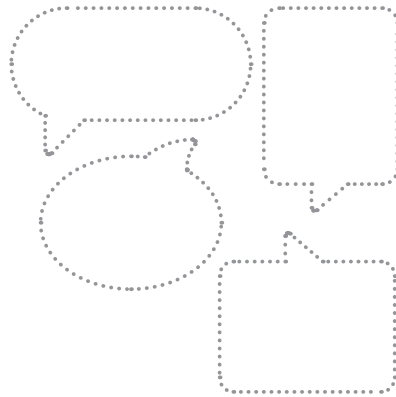
### **This story inspired me to...**



## Jesus: Full Of Power, Willing To Suffer

### **SUMMARY** *(write or draw)*

### **FAV WORDS**



### **RESPONSE**

(vs. 34-38) In what ways do you think God might be asking you to give up your way and follow His? Write about it in *A Place For Your Thoughts*.

**A place for thoughts** *(write or draw)*

### **WHAT STOOD OUT**

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**This story inspired me to...**

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### **WORTH A NOTE**

(v. 29) "Messiah" means Savior, Anointed One (chosen and given power by God). The people of Israel had been waiting for God to send a Rescuer, but they didn't really understand that it would be God Himself who came to save them (v. 31)! So far, Mark has shown us scenes that highlight Jesus' authority and power over everything. Now the book shifts to let us see Jesus, the suffering Servant. God used the prophet Isaiah to foretell what this most selfless Servant would be like (Isaiah 53:5-10).





## Jesus Shows His Identity, Predicts His Death, And Warns About Sin

### **SUMMARY** *(write or draw)*

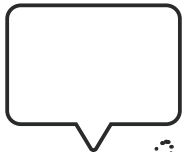
**BACKSTORY**

(vs. 2-12) God is giving Jesus' closest disciples a huge sign about who He is. At God's command in Exodus, Moses went up on a mountain to receive the covenant commandments (covenant is a special relationship contract). God had made Israel His special people. When Moses came down from the mountain (34:29), his face was shining because of God's presence! In this passage, Jesus Himself is the one shining! He IS God's presence with His people! God sent Jesus to make a whole new covenant with His people possible. His death would be the sacrifice that made it possible.

### **WHAT STOOD OUT**

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### **FAV WORDS**



### **A place for thoughts** *(write or draw)*

This story inspired me to...

### **WORTH A NOTE**

(vs. 43-47) Jesus uses "hyperbole"—a way of speaking that creates a vivid picture to get across a strong point. He doesn't mean we should be hurting our bodies. He means that we should be very serious about leaving our sins behind.



## Greatness Through Smallness And Service

**SUMMARY** *(write or draw)*

### WHAT STOOD OUT

### FAV WORDS

### RESPONSE

(vs. 13-16) As you pray today, picture Jesus welcoming you, embracing you, and blessing you. How does it make you feel when you think of Him being so happy to see you? What do you want to say to Jesus? Write about it in *A Place For Your Thoughts*.

### FIND IT

Four times in this chapter, Jesus is called "Son of \_\_\_\_\_." (Look in 32-34, 41-45, and 46-52.) Can you find them? (Fun Facts! "Son of Man" points back to Daniel 7:13-14. "Son of David" is a title for God's rescuer King—the Messiah! This is the first time Jesus is publicly called by that name! If you have time, take a look!)

**A place for thoughts** *(write or draw)*

**This story inspired me to...**



# CHAPTER 11

# MARK

TODAY'S DATE

## The King Arrives!

**SUMMARY** *(write or draw)*

**WHAT STOOD OUT**

**FAV WORDS**

**BACKSTORY**

“Hosanna” means “Lord, save us!” What the crowd shouts comes from Psalm 118. It was a song of thanks to God for His help in rescuing them, and it looked forward to the time that God’s King (the Messiah) would reign forever and ever and put everything right!

**FACT**  
**FUN**

**A place for thoughts** *(write or draw)*

(vs. 1-7) Look up Zechariah 9:9. It’s a prophecy of God’s Messiah (the Rescuer King)! What do you see?

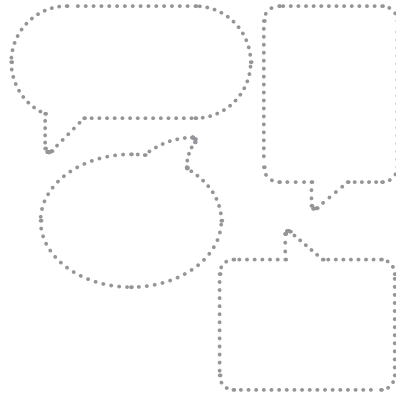
**This story inspired me to...**



## Jesus' Kingly Wisdom

### **SUMMARY** *(write or draw)*

### **FAV WORDS**



### **FIND IT**

(vs. 28-30) What are the two greatest commands of God (the first one quotes Deuteronomy 6:4)? Ask God to show you how you can love Him and others today.

### **A place for thoughts** *(write or draw)*

### **WHAT STOOD OUT**

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### **This story inspired me to...**

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### **RESPONSE**

(vs. 41-43) Whose gift was Jesus most awed by? What does this story tell you about how God wants us to live our lives? Write about it in A Place For Your Thoughts. Is there anything that God is calling you to surrender to Him or anything He's stirring you to do? It's not that we have to do great or big things for God, but that He longs for us to serve Him with ALL that we have and all that we are. Anyone anywhere of any age can serve Jesus!



## Insight And Instructions: A Word Of Warning About The Future

### **SUMMARY** *(write or draw)*

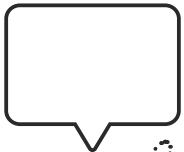
**WORTH A NOTE**

Jesus never talks about future things without a present point. He wanted his disciples to understand what would happen in the days ahead. It was a way of giving them comfort, help, instruction, and also a warning. What does He want them to do with what He just said (vs. 32-25)? We're to follow that commandment also!

### **WHAT STOOD OUT**

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### **FAV WORDS**



### **A place for thoughts** *(write or draw)*

This story inspired me to...

### **HISTORY**

The Romans destroyed the temple in Jerusalem in A.D. 70 in a horribly violent attack and siege. It's possible that Jesus is talking about that event in the early part of chapter 13. After that, He seems to weave it into a message about His future return—"the second coming"—when He comes to reign as King forever!



## The King Prepares To Give His Life For His People: Arrest

**SUMMARY** *(write or draw)*

### WHAT STOOD OUT

### FAV WORDS









### HISTORY

(v. 44) A kiss was a normal way for a disciple to greet his rabbi (a special Jewish teacher). It wasn't anything romantic, but a common sign of welcome and connection.

### RESPONSE

(vs. 27-31) Peter (who was one of the boldest disciples) made a big promise. What was it? How did Jesus respond (v. 30)? Turn to vs. 66-72 to find out what happened by the next morning. What did Peter do, and why? How does this story make you feel? This isn't the end of Peter's story. The gospel of John shows us how Jesus gently restored and forgave Peter. All human beings fail. Jesus is kinder than any human we know. He's the only perfect Hero.

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

This story inspired me to...



## The Sacrifice Is Given: Jesus' Trial, Sentence, Execution, Burial

### **SUMMARY** *(write or draw)*

### **WHAT STOOD OUT**

### **FAV WORDS**

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### **WORTH A NOTE**

(v. 33) Darkness may have been a way that God showed the people that His judgment had come. (You can look at Exodus 10:22 for another time God did that). The penalty for refusing to love or serve the only true God, our Father, had arrived. Death was the only right penalty. Jesus was taking the full wrath (anger/punishment for the sake of justice) in our place. The darkness could also be a way that God helped people feel His grief for His Son (Amos 8:9-10).

### **STORY**

**BACK** (v. 38) In the temple, the place where God met with people was called the Holy of Holies (or the Most Holy Place). It was in the middle of the temple. Only one person (the high priest) could go in once a year to meet with God and receive His forgiveness for the people. Now the curtain barring the way to that place had been torn in two! Jesus and God were saying that ALL who trust in the sacrifice of Jesus are welcome in His presence! FOREVER.

### **A place for thoughts** *(write or draw)*

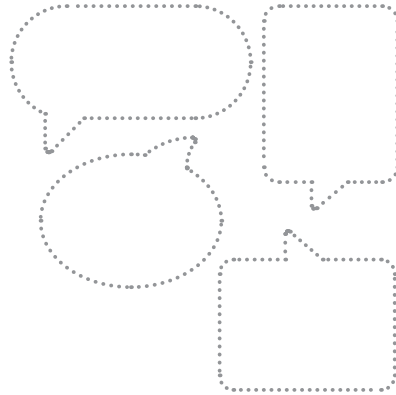
### **This story inspired me to...**



Jesus Is Risen!!!

**SUMMARY** *(write or draw)*

**FAV WORDS**



**FUN FACT**

(vs. 6-7) Who does the angel specifically say the women should tell about Jesus' rising from the dead? Why do you think the Lord wanted him (especially) to hear the good news? God is so kind, and He knows when our conscience will be hurt because of our sin. He does all He can heal us and restore us to Himself.

**A place for thoughts** *(write or draw)*

**WHAT STOOD OUT**

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**This story inspired me to...**

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**FIND IT**

(v. 4) Matthew's gospel tells us clearly that it was an angel. Mark describes him as a young man. In our culture, some people think that humans become angels when they die. The Bible tells us that angels are God's special messengers and servants. They're something completely different than people! God sometimes allows them to seem like people to accomplish a certain purpose.

