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Mark

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST,
SON OF GOD AND
SON OF MAN

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MARK

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST, SON OF GOD AND SON OF MAN

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PAGE	LESSONS
1	LESSON ONE: Mark 1
17	LESSON TWO: Mark 2–3
31	LESSON THREE: Mark 4–5
43	LESSON FOUR: Mark 6–7
53	LESSON FIVE: Mark 8–9
67	LESSON SIX: Mark 10–11
81	LESSON SEVEN: Mark 12–13
91	LESSON EIGHT: Mark 14
103	LESSON NINE: Mark 15–16
 APPENDIX	
116	Explanations of the New American Standard Bible Text Format
117	Mark Observation Worksheets
181	Mark at a Glance
183	Israel in the Time of Christ
185	Parables
187	How to Do a Chapter Study

HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY; ARTHUR, DAVID; DE LACY, PETE

How to Study Your Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1994/2010

The New Inductive Study Bible—New American Standard Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2000

Greek Word Study Tools

RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

WALVOORD, JOHN F.; ZUCK, ROY B., EDS.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures

Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1983-c1985

BROOKS, JAMES A.

The New American Commentary: Mark

Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman & Holman Publishers, Volume 23, 1991

RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE

Logos Bible Software

Powerful search engines and up to 4,000 electronic Bible study resources (commentaries, lexicons, Bible dictionaries etc.) make it fast and easy to do simple and complex searches of multiple sources, then pull materials together for orderly presentation—excellent for word and topical studies based on English or original Hebrew and Greek. Available at www.logos.com.

LESSON ONE Chapter One

THIS LESSON INCORPORATES The following located in the Appendix:
Observation Worksheet of Mark 1
“Mark at a Glance”
“Israel in the Time of Christ”
Cross-references
Word study

Have you ever wondered what it was like to walk with Jesus? Where did Jesus go? How did Jesus interact with the people?

DAY ONE

Welcome to the Gospel of Mark.

Although we are not going to do a comparative study of the Gospels and our focus will be Mark, we think it might help you to better appreciate the Gospel of Mark if you take this first hour of study to see how the other Gospels begin and then compare them with what Mark wrote. We believe you’ll enjoy it and find it an interesting way to start.

Since this is God’s Word and the indwelling Holy Spirit is our helper and teacher, you should develop the habit of beginning each day’s study seeking God’s understanding. Also, because this is God’s Word, you must handle it accurately. Second Timothy 2:15 says, “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”

As you study Mark, be sure not to read commentaries until instructed to in the lesson. We want you to first have the joy of discovering truth for yourself!

c. Summarize what is in Luke 1:26-56.

d. Now read Luke 1:57-80. What are the main points in these verses?

3. The Gospel of John is next. This is rich—different. Don't be in a hurry.

a. Read John 1:1-18. Who are these verses about and how is He described in verses 1-4, 14, 17-18?

b. Who is the main character in Mark 1:1-8, and what is his message?

c. What happened in verses 9-11? What do you learn about Jesus in these verses?

That's it for today! However, before you put away your workbook, think about what Mark covers in the first eleven verses of his gospel! Mark is movin'—and for the rest of the week we are going to move with him through Mark 1. It's quite a chapter. In fact, you may want to read it aloud before you call it a day!

DAY TWO

1. Your assignment today is to begin observing Mark 1. Notice we said “begin”; observation is a process. Usually, the more you read the text the more you see! Don't be in a hurry—God is speaking. These words are God-breathed, spirit and life! Treasure them.

When studying a book, observation always comes first. So you begin by asking the 5 Ws and H of the text: *who, what, when, where, why, and how* and see what the text says. Answering these questions is a process—one insight upon another, precept upon precept.

We'll begin by focusing on the gospel, Jesus, and where the events of chapter 1 take place.

Read Mark chapter 1 and color and/or mark with a symbol (whichever you prefer) the following. Using colors makes your markings easy to see.

a. *gospel*.* “Gospel” means good news; this is “what” Mark is about.

- b. *Jesus Christ*,* including pronouns and synonyms such as “Son.” This is the most important “who” since Mark is the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- c. *Holy Spirit*,* including pronouns
- d. everything that tells you “where” something occurred,* including significant places such as a synagogue or a secluded place, which helps you get the setting of the event.

*Indicates words with suggested markings on the back cover of your workbook.

2. Now that you have marked these four things, read the text again. This time look for every bold verse number. This indicates a new paragraph. Mark 1 has a lot of paragraphs.
 - a. Using a pencil, draw a line in the margin of your Observation Worksheet where each paragraph begins. Then, using words from the text, summarize in as few words as possible what is covered in each paragraph and who is involved. A pencil is a good choice—you can erase and rewrite anything you want to change.
 - b. If you see any other predominant key repeated words, feel free to mark them in a distinctive way. A key word is an important, repeated word that helps you unlock the subject or meaning of the text. The writer uses them to accomplish his purpose in writing.
 - c. You didn’t mark those “wheres” just to mark them! In the Appendix, you will find a map, “Israel in the Time of Christ.” Find the location of the event of each paragraph and also write it in the margin of your Observation Worksheet.

Well done! You now have a broad view of Mark 1. We’ll continue digging deeper into the text tomorrow.

DAY THREE

1. Today we want to take an even closer look at Mark 1 and do some further marking. So after prayer, read Mark 1:1-14, and in a distinctive way or color, mark references to *John the Baptist* (1:4) including pronouns.

The purpose of marking a key repeated word or repeated references to a person is to make sure you learn all the text tells you about them. Looking at what you marked and then making a list of what you learned helps you get everything God wants you to get—to know!

In light of this, when you finish marking John the Baptist, list below what the text tells you about him.

You've already recorded his message on Day One.

2. Read Mark 1:2. In the Greek, "as it is written" is in the perfect tense which indicates a past completed action that has results continuing into the present.¹ What does the phrase "as it is written" mean in this context?
 - a. What is Mark doing in Mark 1:2-3 and how?
 - b. How does Isaiah 40:1-3 relate to Mark 1:1-3?

¹If you have a *New Inductive Study Bible (NISB)* there's a section in the Appendix that explains Tense, Mood, and Voice of Greek Verbs.

- c. Although here Mark only mentions one prophet by name, Isaiah, let's look at what the last Old Testament prophet Malachi wrote. It may shed additional light on Mark's "quote"—reference to—Isaiah 40:3.

Read Malachi 3:1. Two individuals are mentioned by the LORD of hosts in verse 1: the Lord and His messenger. List what you observe about these two and how they fit with Mark 1:2-3.

3. From all you've observed in Mark 1 about John, answer the following questions:
- Why is John referred to as "the Baptist"?
 - What did the people do when they were baptized by John?
4. Let's take a few minutes to see what we learn from the use of "baptize" in Mark 1:1-11.
- Mark every reference to baptizing. Then list below what you learn from the use of the word.

c. Luke 4:14-19

DAY
FOUR

We trust you are remembering to pray as you begin each day's study.

1. Let's begin the day by taking a closer look at Mark 1:14-15. Read all the questions before you answer them so your answers don't overlap.
 - a. Who are the characters in these verses, and what do you learn about them?

- b. As you read these verses, is there anything that makes them seem especially significant? If so, what? Why?

- c. Remember, good observation seeks answers to the 5 Ws and H. "The time is fulfilled" is a reference to a specific time: "the time," a "when"! You want to mark significant "when" references; even marking time indicators such as *then*, *after*, and others that indicate a timing or order of events can keep you from misinterpreting scripture.

So in light of the importance of “when,” take a few minutes and read Mark 1:1-15. Mark references to time* in verses 9, 13, and 14.

After you mark them, list below what you learn.

- d. According to Mark 1:14-15, what time has been fulfilled and what is the right response? You should already have the answer from your observations. If you don't, pray and go back to the text and see if you missed anything.
-
2. The question that remains is: what is the kingdom of God? If you had no other explanation, what would you assume it is from the text?
 - a. Kingdom—what is a kingdom?
 - b. Whose kingdom?
 - c. So how would you define the kingdom of God?
 - d. (You've already seen this, but just for emphasis . . .) What were those who heard the “gospel of God” to do?

3. And where are you, Beloved, in relation to the kingdom of God? How do you know? Think about it, talk to God about it—maybe write out a prayer.

4. Read Mark 1:16-20.

a. Who are the people mentioned in this segment, and what does the text tell you about them?

b. Where is this happening?

c. Did you notice any important repeated word or words you want to mark? If so, write them down and mark them each in a distinctive way. Then summarize what you learn.

10. Finally for today, let's put two paragraphs together and dig a little deeper into Mark 1:29-34. Read and mark the text. Note the main events.

Think about all you've learned about Jesus. If He called you to follow Him, would you be willing to leave the equivalent of your nets, your father—and follow Him? To become a "fisher of men" wherever He took or sent you? Even if others forbade you to talk of Him?

Why don't you take a minute to pray about all the truths you've discovered for yourself just by studying God's Word this way.

**DAY
FIVE**

1. Welcome to a new day, beloved of God. Begin in prayer and then read Mark 1:35-39 where Jesus begins a new day. See how He begins His day.
 - a. Mark any key words. One that we mark whenever we find it is references to *prayer*,* talking to God about everything and anything. Write down where Jesus prayed.
 - b. Mark *demons* the same way you mark *unclean spirits*. What do you learn?

2. You've marked references to synagogues several times in Mark 1. Now is a good time to look at each place you marked synagogue. Then summarize below what you learn.

6. You've diligently observed the text. You know what it says. Now what can you learn from others? Appreciate and check out your commentaries.

We are truly excited that you are doing this study. May God use every aspect of it to help you know, understand, and live by His eternal Word.

“ ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD’ ” (Matthew 4:4).

MARK 1

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

THE beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER AHEAD OF YOU,
WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY;

3 THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS,

‘MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD,
MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT.’ ”

4 John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

5 And all the country of Judea was going out to him, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.

6 John was clothed with camel’s hair and *wore* a leather belt around his waist, and his diet was locusts and wild honey.

7 And he was preaching, and saying, “After me One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to stoop down and untie the thong of His sandals.

8 “I baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

10 Immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opening, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him;

11 and a voice came out of the heavens: “You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased.”

12 Immediately the Spirit impelled Him *to go* out into the wilderness.

- 13 And He was in the wilderness forty days being tempted by Satan; and He was with the wild beasts, and the angels were ministering to Him.
- 14 Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God,
- 15 and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”
- 16 As He was going along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen.
- 17 And Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.”
- 18 Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.
- 19 Going on a little farther, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who were also in the boat mending the nets.
- 20 Immediately He called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went away to follow Him.
- 21 They went into Capernaum; and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and *began* to teach.
- 22 They were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as *one* having authority, and not as the scribes.
- 23 Just then there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit; and he cried out,
- 24 saying, “What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!”
- 25 And Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be quiet, and come out of him!”
- 26 Throwing him into convulsions, the unclean spirit cried out with a loud voice and came out of him.
- 27 They were all amazed, so that they debated among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.”

- 28 Immediately the news about Him spread everywhere into all the surrounding district of Galilee.
- 29 And immediately after they came out of the synagogue, they came into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.
- 30 Now Simon's mother-in-law was lying sick with a fever; and immediately they spoke to Jesus about her.
- 31 And He came to her and raised her up, taking her by the hand, and the fever left her, and she waited on them.
- 32 When evening came, after the sun had set, they *began* bringing to Him all who were ill and those who were demon-possessed.
- 33 And the whole city had gathered at the door.
- 34 And He healed many who were ill with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He was not permitting the demons to speak, because they knew who He was.
- 35 In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left *the house*, and went away to a secluded place, and was praying there.
- 36 Simon and his companions searched for Him;
- 37 they found Him, and said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You."
- 38 He said to them, "Let us go somewhere else to the towns nearby, so that I may preach there also; for that is what I came for."
- 39 And He went into their synagogues throughout all Galilee, preaching and casting out the demons.
- 40 And a leper came to Jesus, beseeching Him and falling on his knees before Him, and saying, "If You are willing, You can make me clean."
- 41 Moved with compassion, Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed."
- 42 Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.
- 43 And He sternly warned him and immediately sent him away,
- 44 and He said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

45 But he went out and began to proclaim it freely and to spread the news around, to such an extent that Jesus could no longer publicly enter a city, but stayed out in unpopulated areas; and they were coming to Him from everywhere.

MARK AT A GLANCE

Book Theme:

Chapter Themes

Author:

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Purpose:

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Date:

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Key Words:

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