

AN UPLIFT SERIES



THE GOSPEL OF
MARK
KING. CROSS. CROWN.

BRIEF STUDY GUIDE TO THE GOSPEL OF MARK

The Gospel of Mark is both a fantastic introduction and refresher to the compelling reality of Jesus Christ.

In dramatic detail, the Gospel of Mark tells the riveting story of Jesus' brief years of ministry in sixteen short, action-packed chapters. Mark, an assistant to the apostle Peter, is a masterful story-teller. Using a style of writing that is simple and original he recounts the life, death and resurrection of Jesus; events which form the very center of cosmic and human history.

Mark presents Jesus as the ultimate servant. Mark emphasizes what Jesus did more than what He said. He records 20 miracles of Jesus and only four parables. The word "immediately" is used more than 30 times to show Christ as a servant of action. The purpose of Mark is to call all to faith and service in Jesus Christ.

Here's an interesting fact: Mark devotes almost as many chapters to the last week of Christ's life (six chapters) as he does to the prior three years of ministry (eight chapters).

The purpose of Mark is to show Jesus as a SERVANT. The key verse would be Mark 10:45: *"For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."*

Throughout this UPLIFT message series in the Gospel of Mark, we are seeking to embrace what it really means for us to know and follow Jesus.

Outline Of Mark

1. Jesus Prepared (1:1-13)

Whereas the other three gospels have lengthy introductions, there is none in Mark. Mark omits the first 30 years in the life of Jesus. Mark begins by focusing on the work of preparation done by John the Baptist. He briefly mentions the baptism and temptation of Jesus.

2. Jesus At Work

(1:14-10:52)

As Mark shows us the activities of Jesus, particularly his miracles. It is interesting to note that seven of the 20 recorded miracles were performed on the Sabbath.

3. Jesus Rejected

(CHAPS. 11-15)

Throughout his account, Mark shows us how the disciples, the crowds, and the religious leaders all failed to comprehend Jesus' true identity and mission. As the hour of Jesus' crucifixion drew near, his disciples deserted Him, the religious leaders arrested Him, and the crowds condemned Him. Only after Jesus breathed His final breath did a lone Roman centurion confess: "Truly this man was the Son of God."

Leading up to the cross, we see Jesus' final conflict with the Jewish leaders and authorities. In this section we see four questions asked of Jesus in an effort to discredit him.

1. *"By what authority do you do these things?" "And who gave you this authority?" (11:28)*
2. *"Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" (12:14)*
3. *"At the resurrection, whose wife will she be, since seven were married to her?" (12:23)*
4. *"Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" (12:28)*

4. Jesus Exalted

(CHAP. 16)

After Jesus sacrificed himself for all people, Mark ends his gospel with the Ascension of Jesus and the active implementation of the Great Commission in Mark 16:15-16.