

Jason C. Meyer

Mark

*Turn Your Eyes
Upon Jesus*



✓ 10-Session Bible Study

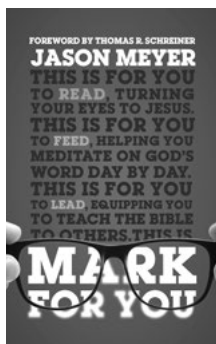
Jason Meyer

Mark

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus



 **10-Session Bible Study**



Mark For You

These studies are adapted from *Mark For You*. If you are reading *Mark For You* alongside this Good Book Guide, here is how the studies in this booklet link to the chapters of *Mark For You*:

Study One > Ch 1-2

Study Two > Ch 3

Study Three > Ch 4

Study Four > Ch 5

Study Five > Ch 6

Study Six > Ch 5-6

Study Seven > Ch 7-9

Study Eight > Ch 10-11

Study Nine > Ch 12-13

Study Ten > Ch 14

Find out more about *Mark For You* at:

www.thegoodbook.com/for-you

Mark: Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

A Good Book Guide

© Jason Meyer/The Good Book Company, 2022.

This edition printed 2025.

Published by The Good Book Company

thegoodbook.com | thegoodbook.co.uk

thegoodbook.com.au | thegoodbook.co.nz

thegoodbook
COMPANY

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version (ESV), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission.

Jason Meyer has asserted his right under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 to be identified as author of this work.

All rights reserved. Except as may be permitted by the Copyright Act, no part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any means without prior permission from the publisher.

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Design by André Parker and Drew McCall

ISBN: 9781802541809 | JOB-008394 | Printed in India

Contents

Introduction	4
Why Study Mark?	5
1. Introducing the Son of God <i>Mark 1:1-45</i>	7
2. A Man of Authority <i>Mark 2:1 – 3:6</i>	13
3. Outsiders and Insiders <i>Mark 3:7 – 4:34</i>	19
4. Fear and Faith <i>Mark 4:35 – 5:43</i>	25
5. Clean and Unclean <i>Mark 7:1-37</i>	31
6. Hard Hearts <i>Mark 6:14-52 and 8:1-21</i>	37
7. True Greatness <i>Mark 8:22 – 10:52</i>	43
8. Jesus in the Temple <i>Mark 11:11 – 12:44</i>	49
9. The End Draws Near <i>Mark 13:28 – 14:72</i>	55
10. The Divine King <i>Mark 15:16 – 16:8</i>	61
Leader's Guide	67



Introduction

One of the Bible writers described God's word as "a lamp for my feet, a light on my path" (Psalm 119:105, NIV). God gave us the Bible to tell us about who he is and what he wants for us. He speaks through it by his Spirit and lights our way through life.

That means that we need to look carefully at the Bible and uncover its meaning—but we also need to apply what we've discovered to our lives.

Good Book Guides are designed to help you do just that. The sessions in this book are interactive and easy to lead. They're perfect for use in groups or for personal study.

Let's take a look at what is included in each session.

Talkabout: Every session starts with an ice-breaker question, designed to get people talking around a subject that links to the Bible study.

Investigate: These questions help you explore what the passage is about.

Apply: These questions are designed to get you thinking practically: what does this Bible teaching mean for you and your church?

Explore More: These optional sections help you to go deeper or to explore another part of the Bible which connects with the main passage.

Getting Personal: These sections are a chance for personal reflection. Some groups may feel comfortable discussing these, but you may prefer to look at them quietly as individuals instead—or leave them out.

Pray: Here, you're invited to pray in the light of the truths and challenges you've seen in the study.

Each session is also designed to be easily split into two! Watch out for the **Apply** section that comes halfway through, and stop there if you haven't got time to do the whole thing in one go.

In the back of the book, you'll find a **Leader's Guide**, which provides helpful notes on every question, along with everything else that group leaders need in order to facilitate a great session and help the group uncover the riches of God's light-giving word.

Why Study Mark?

Church history has not always been kind to the Gospel of Mark. It has sometimes been seen as the least important Gospel simply because it is the shortest. Perhaps I picked up on these negative vibes and allowed them to color my view of Mark's Gospel. I still remember the first time I taught through it. I entered my study of Mark with low expectations and a somewhat impatient eagerness to get to the longer Gospels.

But I was wrong and my life was changed. If I have a first love now in Scripture, it is this Gospel and the Jesus who stands forth from its pages.

Mark's Gospel is fast-paced and action-packed. Mark uses the word "immediately" 41 times! He does not meander with his message. He narrates this story in such a way that in town after town and story after story the message sounds: The Son of God has come!

But in the midst of this consistent message, there is a mystery that keeps building. Conflict and confusion abound because people struggle mightily to see clearly who Jesus is and why he has come. The mystery and the suspense build up a head of steam as the Son gets closer and closer to Calvary. It is only at the cross that someone finally puts the pieces together and confesses that the crucified Christ is the divine Son of God (Mark 15:39).

Mark portrays Jesus in a way that is stunningly compelling. Jesus' unrivaled power and wisdom leave us with a sense of awe, but the portrayal of his unparalleled heart touches us even more deeply. Jesus pours out his love on many different people in story after story all the way to the crescendo of the cross. It was there that God poured out his wrath on him so that he could pour out his love on us through him.

This study guide does not cover every part of Mark's Gospel in detail. Instead it goes through section by section, helping you to see the overall structure of Mark and how the key themes fit together. As you study, let this stunning portrayal of Jesus challenge your perception of him and of yourself. Turn your eyes to Jesus, and be transformed.



Mark c. 60s AD

1

Introducing the Son of God

Mark 1:1-45

Talkabout

1. What do you know about the Gospel of Mark? What do you hope to get out of it?

Investigate

 Read Mark 1:1-13

DICTIONARY

Gospel (v 1): good news.

Baptizing (v 4): dunking in water.

Judea (v 5): the region around Jerusalem.

Locust (v 6): a type of insect.

Galilee (v 9): a region north of Judea.

2. Mark gets right to the point. What is his Gospel about (v 1)? What claim is he making about Jesus?


But Mark doesn't want you to just take his word for it.

3. In the promise God made through Isaiah, who would the messenger prepare the way for (v 3)?

- Who is this messenger (v 4)?

Explore More | OPTIONAL

Mark 1:2-3 is actually a mixed quotation from three places.

 **Read Exodus 23:20-21; Malachi 3:1; Isaiah 40:3**

In Exodus 23, God is delivering his people from Egypt into their own land.

- How is the angel in Exodus 23:20 going to help God's people?
- In Mark 1:4-5, how is John helping God's people?

It's significant that John baptizes people in the Jordan River (v 5). This was the border between the wilderness and the promised land. It's as if people are entering the promised land all over again.

- How does Malachi 3:1 help us understand what it means that John is preparing the way for the Lord?
 - What detail in Isaiah 40:3 is fulfilled by John?
-

4. Look at what John says and does (v 4-5). How is this preparing the way for the Lord?

Getting Personal | OPTIONAL

John came to get people ready for Jesus' coming. Taking God seriously meant taking their own sin seriously! Imagine Jesus were coming to visit you. Is there anything you would want to change about your life to get ready for his coming?

5. What does John say about Jesus (v 7-8)?

6. What do we learn about Jesus from what happens next (v 10-11)?

People are being baptized as a sign of their repentance. So what is Jesus doing in that water? He does not need to repent! Jesus is identifying with the need of his people. Humans are not good enough for God. But Jesus came to identify with us, to help us, and to die for us—to bring us to God.

Apply

7. How does this passage call us to respond to Jesus?

Investigate

 Read Mark 1:14-28

DICTIONARY

Sea of Galilee (v 16): a large lake.

Capernaum (v 21): a town in Galilee.

Synagogue (v 21): a building where Jews met locally to worship God.

8. What is Jesus' message (v 15)? What does he want people to do?

"The kingdom of God is at hand" means that the King has come. God is intervening in human affairs.

9. In the following scenes, how do these people respond to Jesus' words?

- Simon, Andrew, James, and John (v 16-20)

- The unclean spirit in the synagogue (v 23-26)

- The other people in the synagogue (v 22, 27-28)

10. What do the people in the synagogue mean in verse 27 when they say that Jesus has authority?

- How has he demonstrated that authority so far?

What Jesus says, happens. This is another proof of his identity as God—the one who spoke the world into being (Genesis 1).

Jesus next continues to cast out demons and heal diseases (Mark 1:29-34).

11. How do you think casting out demons and healing diseases fit into Jesus' mission statement (v 15)?

In the ancient world, a herald would go ahead of an army and warn people to accept terms of peace. That is what Jesus is doing when he calls people to repent and believe. When we repent, we confess that we have tried to be our own king and we accept Jesus as Lord instead.

Apply

12. Based on what you've read in this study, what could you say about Jesus to those who don't yet know him?

Getting Personal | OPTIONAL

Take some time to reflect on your own view of Jesus. Do you believe he is God? Do you recognize his authority and rule in your life? Why, or why not? As you get to know Jesus better in these studies, are you willing to be challenged in your assumptions about him and your response to him?

Pray

Reflect together on the person of Jesus. Pray that the words of the hymn "Be Thou My Vision" would be true of you this week:

*Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise.
Thou mine inheritance, now and always.
Thou and thou only the first in my heart.
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.*

(Mary Elizabeth Byrne)