

Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry. 2 Timothy 4:11 (ESV)

She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son. 1 Peter 5:13 (ESV)

The story of Mark's life is that God loves to take ordinary people, even people who fail Him, and use them in unexpected ways to advance His kingdom.

Life Group Questions

1. What are the two questions the book of Mark answers and how does it connect to the title of this series?
2. To whom was the Gospel of Mark written? What were they experiencing? Why is this important to know as we study the book?
3. Even though Mark was an ordinary person working behind the scenes to help Peter and Paul, God uniquely prepared Mark to write this book through the years he spent traveling with those apostles. God never wastes experiences in our life. How has God used experiences in your past to help you share the good news of Jesus with others today?
4. How did God use a failure in Peter's life to help restore Mark when he failed Barnabas and Saul? (See John 18:15-18, 25-27; 21:15-19) How does God want to use the failures of our past to help people today?
5. God loves to use ordinary people to advance his kingdom in unexpected ways. Another ordinary person God used in an unexpected way was Gideon. What does the story of Gideon teach us about why God loves to use ordinary people? (See Judges 6:14-16; 7:1-7) How does that encourage your walk with Christ?
6. What is essential for ordinary people to have an extraordinary impact for Jesus? (See Acts 4:13-14) How does this guide us in how we should structure our life to have maximum impact for God's kingdom?
7. Why does God love to use ordinary people? (See 1 Corinthians 1:26-29) How does that encourage you in your walk with Christ?

MARK THE KING AND THE CROSS

Meet Mark!

September 23, 2018

1. Meet the book of Mark.

A. How does Mark relate to the other gospels?

B. When was Mark written?

C. To Whom was the Gospel of Mark written?

D. What is the Gospel of Mark's structure?

Mark 1-8 - Answers the question, "Who is Jesus?"

Peter answered him, "You are the Christ." Mark 8:29 (ESV)

Mark 9-16 answers the question, "What did Jesus come to do?"

And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!" Mark 15:39 (ESV)

E. What is a key theme in Mark?

The Christian life means denying yourself, taking up your cross, and following in the footsteps of Jesus.

2. Meet the man named Mark.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. Acts 1:8 (ESV)

About that time Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword, and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church. Acts 12:1–5 (ESV)

Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, “Get up quickly.” And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, “Dress yourself and put on your sandals.” And he did so. And he said to him, “Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.” And he went out and followed him. He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel left him. When Peter came to himself, he said, “Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.” When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying. Acts 12:6–12 (ESV)

And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had completed their service, bringing with them John, whose other name was Mark. Acts 12:25 (ESV)

Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him) Colossians 4:10 (ESV)

Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. Acts 13:1–3 (ESV)

When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they had John to assist them. Acts 13:5 (ESV)

Now Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. And John left them and returned to Jerusalem Acts 13:13 (ESV)

And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are.” Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus, but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches. Acts 15:36–41 (ESV)

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