Who Is Jesus?

A walk through the Gospel of Mark

Student Workbook · Grades 8-12

Following the workbook pattern of J.C. Hoogeveen III

A free Openly Learning class · openlylearning.live/who-is-jesus

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How to Use This Workbook

This workbook walks through the Gospel of Mark one chapter at a time. There are 16 modules, one per chapter, and each module is built around one question. By the end you will answer the biggest question in Mark for yourself: Who do you say Jesus is? (Mark 8:29).

Each module follows the same pattern: Start Here (an opening question), Read, Reflection, Something to Think On, Self-Reflection, and Apply It, followed by a short self-check.

Plan on about two hours per module, about 30 hours in all. Record your time in the Hours Log at the back. We suggest the course as a quarter (0.25) elective credit in Bible; your parent decides.

Read Mark in your own Bible; any reliable translation works. Quoted verses are from the NIV. You can also do this course online and type your answers at openlylearning.live/who-is-jesus.

My Who Is Jesus? Journal

Before Module 1: Right now I think Jesus is...

After Module 8: Who do I say Jesus is now?

After Module 16: My final answer to “Who is Jesus?”

MODULE 1 OF 16 · MARK 1

Who is this man from Nazareth?

Start Here

Think about someone new who joined your co-op, team, or campground. How did you figure out who they really were: what they said, what they did, or what others said about them?

Talk it over with a parent, a friend, or your youth group. What did they notice that you missed?

Read

Mark 1 (read the whole chapter)

> *“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”*
>
> — Mark 1:15 (NIV)

Mark does not waste time. His first line tells you what the whole book is about: “The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God” (1:1).

In one chapter, John the Baptist prepares the way, Jesus is baptized, he is tested in the wilderness, he calls four fishermen, and he heals and teaches with an authority that amazes people (1:22, 1:27). Notice how often Mark says “immediately” or “at once.”

Based on Mark 1, how would you answer this module's question: Who is this man from Nazareth?

Reflection

Mark 1 shows Jesus speaking, calling, healing, and praying. Which of these surprised you most, and why?

When Jesus said, “Come, follow me” (1:17), Simon and Andrew left their nets. What “nets” might you have to leave to follow him?

Something to Think On

The people in Mark 1 keep asking the same question in different ways: who is this? Before you go further, it helps to name what you already believe.

1. What have I been told about Jesus?

2. What do I actually believe about Jesus?

3. What would it take for me to know him for myself, not just know about him?

Self-Reflection

Take some time for yourself and answer these questions. Be honest with yourself. Answer from your own life, not from the standpoint of having right or wrong answers.

Apply It

Start your Who Is Jesus? journal

1. Read all of Mark 1 in one sitting.
2. On the first page of a notebook (or in the box below), write: “Right now I think Jesus is...” and finish the sentence honestly.
3. Each time you finish a module, add one line about what changed.

What happened when I did it?

Module Checklist

☐ I read all of Mark 1

☐ I answered the Reflection questions

☐ I wrote my “Right now I think Jesus is...” sentence

Self-Check

1. How does Mark describe Jesus in his very first verse?
   a) A good teacher from Galilee
   b) The Messiah, the Son of God
   c) A prophet like Elijah

2. What were Simon and Andrew doing when Jesus called them?
   a) Casting a net into the lake
   b) Collecting taxes
   c) Praying in the synagogue

3. What amazed the people in the synagogue at Capernaum?

a) His miracles only

b) That he taught as one who had authority

c) His family

Study It Your Way (pick one)

• Retell it: Retell the chapter from the point of view of someone who was there.

• Quiz me: Have a parent or sibling ask you the self-check questions one at a time, without looking.

• Sticky-note facts: Write five facts from the chapter on sticky notes and put them where you will see them.

MODULE 2 OF 16 · MARK 2

Why would Jesus eat with sinners?

Start Here

Have you ever been the one nobody wanted to sit with, or the one who kept someone else out? What did it feel like?

Talk it over with a parent, a friend, or your youth group. What did they notice that you missed?

Read

Mark 2 (read the whole chapter)

> *“It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”*
>
> — Mark 2:17 (NIV)

Four friends dig through a roof to lower a paralyzed man to Jesus. Jesus first says, “Son, your sins are forgiven” (2:5), then heals him so everyone knows he has authority to forgive.

Next he calls Levi, a tax collector, and eats at his house with “tax collectors and sinners” (2:15). The religious leaders are upset. Jesus answers with the words of a doctor.

Based on Mark 2, how would you answer this module's question: Why would Jesus eat with sinners?

Reflection

The four friends would not give up until their friend reached Jesus. Who has done that for you, or who could you do that for?

Why do you think the religious leaders were so upset that Jesus ate with sinners?

Something to Think On

It is easy to think Jesus came for the people who already have it together. Mark 2 says the opposite.

1. Do I think of myself as “healthy” or “sick” before God?

2. Who do I quietly keep at a distance?

3. What would it look like to treat them the way Jesus treated Levi?

Self-Reflection

Take some time for yourself and answer these questions. Be honest with yourself. Answer from your own life, not from the standpoint of having right or wrong answers.

Apply It

Make room at the table

1. Pick one person who is often left out: in your co-op, team, church, or the family at the next campsite.
2. This week, sit with them, invite them, or message them.
3. Write down what happened.

What happened when I did it?

Module Checklist

☐ I read all of Mark 2

☐ I answered the Reflection questions

☐ I made room for someone this week

Self-Check

1. How did the four friends get the paralyzed man to Jesus?
   a) They waited at the door
   b) They made an opening in the roof
   c) They carried him to the lake

2. What was Levi's job when Jesus called him?
   a) Fisherman
   b) Tax collector
   c) Priest

3. In Mark 2:17, who does Jesus say needs a doctor?

a) The healthy
b) The sick
c) The teachers of the law

Study It Your Way (pick one)

• Socratic questions: Write three “why” questions about the chapter and try to answer each from the text.

• Explain it simply: Explain this chapter to a younger child in three sentences.

• Mind map: Put the module question in the middle and branch out the people, events, and verses.

MODULE 3 OF 16 · MARK 3

Who belongs in Jesus' family?

Start Here

Where do you feel you truly belong: a team, a friend group, a road-schooling community online? What makes it feel like family?

Talk it over with a parent, a friend, or your youth group. What did they notice that you missed?

Read

Mark 3 (read the whole chapter)

> *“Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.”*
>
> — Mark 3:35 (NIV)

Jesus heals a man's shriveled hand on the Sabbath, and the Pharisees begin plotting against him (3:6). Crowds come from everywhere.

Jesus chooses twelve men “that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach” (3:14). Then his own family comes to take charge of him, and he points to the people sitting around him.

Based on Mark 3, how would you answer this module's question: Who belongs in Jesus' family?

Reflection

Jesus chose the Twelve first so they would “be with him” (3:14). Why do you think being with him came before being sent?

What does it mean to you that Jesus calls people who do God's will his brother and sister and mother?

Something to Think On

Jesus says his family is “whoever does God's will” (3:35). You belong by following him, not because of your last name, your church, or your grades.

1. Where do I try to earn belonging?

2. Do I see other believers as family or as strangers?

3. Who in God's family could use a brother or sister right now?

Self-Reflection

Take some time for yourself and answer these questions. Be honest with yourself. Answer from your own life, not from the standpoint of having right or wrong answers.

Apply It

Spend time with Jesus first

1. Set aside 10 minutes each day this week just to be with Jesus: read, pray, or sit quietly.
2. Write one sentence each day about what you noticed.
3. Encourage one Christian friend this week like you would family.

What happened when I did it?

Module Checklist

☐ I read all of Mark 3

☐ I spent 10 minutes a day with Jesus

☐ I encouraged a brother or sister in faith

Self-Check

1. How many apostles did Jesus appoint in Mark 3?
   a) Seven
   b) Twelve
   c) Seventy

2. What was the first reason Jesus gave for choosing them?
   a) That they might be with him
   b) That they might lead the synagogue
   c) That they might write books

3. Who does Jesus call his brother and sister and mother?
   a) Only his relatives
   b) Whoever does God's will

c) The Pharisees

Study It Your Way (pick one)

• Explain it back: Teach the module question to someone else, then fix the parts you could not explain.

• Quiz me: Have a parent or sibling ask you the self-check questions one at a time, without looking.

• One-page guide: Fill one page with this chapter's key verse, three events, and your answer to the module question.

MODULE 4 OF 16 · MARK 4

What kind of soil is my heart?

Start Here

Think of something you heard many times before it finally sank in. What changed so that it finally made sense?

Talk it over with a parent, a friend, or your youth group. What did they notice that you missed?

Read

Mark 4 (read the whole chapter)

> *“Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop —some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown.”*
>
> — Mark 4:20 (NIV)

Jesus tells a story about a farmer who scatters seed on four kinds of ground: the path, rocky places, thorns, and good soil (4:3-8). Later he explains it to his followers (4:13-20).

That night a furious storm hits the boat while Jesus sleeps. He calms it with a word, and the disciples ask, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!” (4:41).

Based on Mark 4, how would you answer this module's question: What kind of soil is my heart?

Reflection

Which of the four soils describes your heart most days? Be honest.

In the storm Jesus asked, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?” (4:40). What storm in your life makes you afraid?

Something to Think On

The seed is the same in every soil. The difference is the ground.

1. What “thorns” (worries, wanting things, busyness) choke the word in me?

2. Where am I “rocky,” excited at first but quick to quit?

3. What would help my heart become good soil?

Self-Reflection

Take some time for yourself and answer these questions. Be honest with yourself. Answer from your own life, not from the standpoint of having right or wrong answers.

Apply It

Pull one weed

1. Name one “thorn” from Something to Think On.
2. Choose one small step to cut it back this week (for example, phone off during Bible reading).
3. Notice whether God's word sinks in more easily.

What happened when I did it?

Module Checklist

☐ I read all of Mark 4

☐ I named my soil honestly

☐ I pulled one weed this week

Self-Check

1. In the parable, what does the seed stand for?
   a) Money
   b) The word
   c) The disciples

2. What chokes the word in the thorny soil?
   a) Worries of this life, wealth, and desires for other things
   b) Too much rain
   c) Birds

3. What did the disciples ask after Jesus calmed the storm?
   a) Where are we going?
   b) Who is this?
   c) Why did you sleep?

Study It Your Way (pick one)

• How-it-works sketch: Draw the four soils (or the main idea) as a labeled picture.

• Sticky-note facts: Write five facts from the chapter on sticky notes and put them where you will see them.

• Retell it: Retell the chapter from the point of view of someone who was there.

Does Jesus have power over what scares me most?

Start Here

What is one thing that scares you that you rarely tell anyone about?

Talk it over with a parent, a friend, or your youth group. What did they notice that you missed?

Read

Mark 5 (read the whole chapter)

> *“Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, “Don’t be afraid; just believe.”*
>
> — Mark 5:36 (NIV)

Mark 5 shows Jesus' power over three things people fear: evil, sickness, and death. He frees a man living among tombs and tormented by many demons (5:1-20).

A woman who has suffered bleeding for twelve years touches his cloak and is healed (5:25-34). And a synagogue leader named Jairus hears that his daughter has died, but Jesus takes her by the hand and she gets up (5:35-43).

Based on Mark 5, how would you answer this module's question: Does Jesus have power over what scares me most?

Reflection

Jesus told the healed man, “Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you” (5:19). What has the Lord done for you that you could tell someone?

The woman was healed, and then Jesus stopped to speak to her (5:34). Why do you think he did not just let her slip away?

Something to Think On

In one chapter Jesus shows power over evil, sickness, and death. Fear does not get the last word.

1. What fear do I need to hand to Jesus?

2. When have I waited on God like Jairus did?

3. What would “just believe” look like for me this week?

Self-Reflection

Take some time for yourself and answer these questions. Be honest with yourself. Answer from your own life, not from the standpoint of having right or wrong answers.

Apply It

Tell your story

1. Write three or four sentences about one thing God has done for you.
2. Share it with one person this week, the way the healed man did.
3. If you cannot think of anything yet, ask a parent or grandparent to tell you theirs.

What happened when I did it?

Module Checklist

☐ I read all of Mark 5

☐ I named a fear and prayed about it

☐ I told someone what God has done

Self-Check

1. How long had the woman been subject to bleeding?
   a) Three years
   b) Twelve years
   c) Forty years

2. What did Jesus tell Jairus after hearing his daughter had died?
   a) “Go home”
   b) “Don't be afraid; just believe”
   c) “It is too late”

3. What did Jesus tell the man freed from demons to do?

a) Follow him in the boat
b) Go home and tell his people what the Lord had done
c) Stay silent

Study It Your Way (pick one)

• Quiz me: Have a parent or sibling ask you the self-check questions one at a time, without looking.

• Explain it simply: Explain this chapter to a younger child in three sentences.

• Socratic questions: Write three “why” questions about the chapter and try to answer each from the text.

MODULE 6 OF 16 · MARK 6

What can Jesus do with the little I have?

Start Here

Have you ever been asked to help when you felt like you had almost nothing to give? What happened?

Talk it over with a parent, a friend, or your youth group. What did they notice that you missed?

Read

Mark 6 (read the whole chapter)

> *"But he answered, "You give them something to eat."*
>
> — Mark 6:37 (NIV)

Jesus is rejected in his hometown of Nazareth (6:1-6). He sends out the Twelve two by two (6:7-13). John the Baptist is killed by Herod (6:14-29).

Then a huge crowd gathers in a remote place. The disciples have five loaves and two fish. Jesus gives thanks, breaks the bread, and everyone eats and is satisfied (6:35-44). That night he walks on the water to them (6:45-52).

Based on Mark 6, how would you answer this module's question: What can Jesus do with the little I have?

Reflection

The disciples said, in effect, “We do not have enough.” Where do you feel that way?

Jesus sent the Twelve out two by two (6:7). Why might it help to serve with someone rather than alone?

Something to Think On

Jesus did not ask the disciples for what they did not have. He asked what they had (6:38).

1. What do I have: time, skills, money, friendships, a home on wheels?

2. What am I holding back because it seems too small?

3. Who could I serve with, two by two?

Self-Reflection

Take some time for yourself and answer these questions. Be honest with yourself. Answer from your own life, not from the standpoint of having right or wrong answers.

Apply It

Bring your loaves

1. List five “loaves” you have (skills, time, things).
2. Pick one and use it to meet a need this week with a partner (a sibling, parent, or friend).
3. Write what Jesus did with it.

What happened when I did it?

Module Checklist

☐ I read all of Mark 6

☐ I listed my five loaves

☐ I served with a partner this week

Self-Check

1. How much food did the disciples have before Jesus fed the crowd?
   a) Five loaves and two fish
   b) Seven loaves
   c) Nothing

2. How did Jesus send out the Twelve?
   a) Alone
   b) Two by two
   c) All together

3. Where was Jesus rejected in this chapter?
   a) His hometown
   b) Jerusalem

c) Rome

Study It Your Way (pick one)

• One-page guide: Fill one page with this chapter's key verse, three events, and your answer to the module question.

• Explain it back: Teach the module question to someone else, then fix the parts you could not explain.

• Quiz me: Have a parent or sibling ask you the self-check questions one at a time, without looking.

What makes a person clean?

Start Here

Think of a rule you follow mostly so people will see you following it. Why do you keep it?

Talk it over with a parent, a friend, or your youth group. What did they notice that you missed?

Read

Mark 7 (read the whole chapter)

> *“Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them.”*
>
> — Mark 7:15 (NIV)

Religious leaders complain that Jesus' disciples eat without the ceremonial hand-washing. Jesus quotes Isaiah: “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me” (7:6).

He teaches that evil comes “from within, out of a person's heart” (7:21). Then he honors the faith of a Gentile woman (7:24-30) and heals a deaf man (7:31-37).

Based on Mark 7, how would you answer this module's question: What makes a person clean?

Reflection

Where might you be honoring God with your lips while your heart is far away?

Read the list in 7:21-22. Which item do you struggle with most?

Something to Think On

Following Jesus is not about looking clean on the outside. It is about a heart that God changes from the inside.

1. Which of my habits are for God, and which are for appearances?

2. What is coming out of my heart lately (words, attitudes, posts)?

3. What do I need to confess and let God clean?

Self-Reflection

Take some time for yourself and answer these questions. Be honest with yourself. Answer from your own life, not from the standpoint of having right or wrong answers.

Apply It

Guard what comes out

1. For three days, notice your words, texts, and posts.
2. Each evening, write one thing that came from a good heart and one that did not.
3. Pray Psalm 51:10 each night: “Create in me a pure heart, O God.”

What happened when I did it?

Module Checklist

☐ I read all of Mark 7
☐ I did the three-day words check
☐ I prayed for a pure heart

Self-Check

1. What upset the religious leaders at the start of Mark 7?
   a) The disciples ate without ceremonial washing
   b) Jesus healed on the Sabbath
   c) The disciples fished on the Sabbath

2. According to Jesus, where do evil thoughts come from?
   a) From food
   b) From within, out of a person's heart
   c) From the weather

3. What did Jesus heal at the end of the chapter?
   a) A deaf man who could hardly talk
   b) A blind man
   c) A paralyzed man

Study It Your Way (pick one)

• Socratic questions: Write three “why” questions about the chapter and try to answer each from the text.
• Sticky-note facts: Write five facts from the chapter on sticky notes and put them where you will see them.
• Explain it simply: Explain this chapter to a younger child in three sentences.

MODULE 8 OF 16 · MARK 8

Who do you say Jesus is?

Start Here

If a friend asked you today, “Who is Jesus to you?” what would you honestly say?

Talk it over with a parent, a friend, or your youth group. What did they notice that you missed?

Read

Mark 8 (read the whole chapter)

> *“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.”*
>
> — Mark 8:29 (NIV)

This is the turning point of Mark. Jesus feeds four thousand (8:1-10) and heals a blind man in two stages (8:22-26), almost a picture of how slowly the disciples see.

Near Caesarea Philippi he asks the question this whole course is built on: “Who do you say I am?” (8:29). Then he tells them for the first time that he must suffer, die, and rise (8:31), and that anyone who follows him must take up their cross (8:34).

Based on Mark 8, how would you answer this module's question: Who do you say Jesus is?

Reflection

Answer Jesus' question in your own words: Who do you say he is?

Peter got the answer right and then tried to stop Jesus from going to the cross (8:32-33). Why is it possible to say the right words and still miss the point?

Something to Think On

Jesus does not ask what everyone else says. He asks you.

1. What does it mean to “deny yourself” (8:34) at my age?

2. What cross might following Jesus ask me to carry?

3. How does 8:35 turn the world's idea of a good life upside down?

Self-Reflection

Take some time for yourself and answer these questions. Be honest with yourself. Answer from your own life, not from the standpoint of having right or wrong answers.

Apply It

Write your answer

1. Look back at your Module 1 journal sentence.
2. Write a new paragraph: “Who do I say Jesus is?”
3. Share it with a parent, pastor, or mentor and ask what they would add.

What happened when I did it?

Module Checklist

☐ I read all of Mark 8

☐ I wrote my answer to Jesus' question

☐ I shared it with someone I trust

Self-Check

1. What did Peter answer when Jesus asked, “Who do you say I am?”
   a) Elijah
   b) John the Baptist
   c) The Messiah

2. What did Jesus begin to teach right after Peter's answer?
   a) That he would become king of Rome
   b) That he must suffer, be killed, and rise again
   c) That they should leave Galilee forever

3. According to Mark 8:35, who will save their life?
   a) Whoever loses their life for Jesus and the gospel
   b) Whoever works hardest
   c) Whoever keeps all the rules

Study It Your Way (pick one)

• Explain it back: Teach the module question to someone else, then fix the parts you could not explain.

• First principles: Ask: what is the one thing that must be true about Jesus for this chapter to make sense?

• Mind map: Put the module question in the middle and branch out the people, events, and verses.

MODULE 9 OF 16 · MARK 9

What does real greatness look like?

Start Here

Who is the “greatest” person you know? What makes you say that?

Talk it over with a parent, a friend, or your youth group. What did they notice that you missed?

Read

Mark 9 (read the whole chapter)

> *“Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.”*
>
> — Mark 9:35 (NIV)

Peter, James, and John see Jesus transfigured on a mountain, and a voice says, “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!” (9:7).

A desperate father cries, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!” (9:24). Later, the disciples argue on the road about who is the greatest (9:34), and Jesus sets a child among them.

Based on Mark 9, how would you answer this module's question: What does real greatness look like?

Reflection

Have you ever prayed something like the father's prayer in 9:24? What part of you believes, and what part struggles?

Why do you think Jesus used a little child to teach about greatness (9:36-37)?

Something to Think On

The disciples measured greatness by rank. Jesus measures it by service.

1. Where do I compete to be first (sports, grades, followers)?

2. Who is “last” around me that I could serve?

3. What would change if I listened to Jesus the way the voice on the mountain said?

Self-Reflection

Take some time for yourself and answer these questions. Be honest with yourself. Answer from your own life, not from the standpoint of having right or wrong answers.

Apply It

Serve in secret

1. Do one act of service this week that nobody will know about.
2. Pick something a younger sibling or child would notice.
3. Write how it felt to serve without credit.

What happened when I did it?

Module Checklist

☐ I read all of Mark 9

☐ I prayed the father's honest prayer

☐ I served someone in secret

Self-Check

1. What did the voice from the cloud say on the mountain?
   a) “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!”
   b) “Go to Jerusalem”
   c) “Build three shelters”

2. What were the disciples arguing about on the road?
   a) Who would carry the food
   b) Who was the greatest
   c) Where to sleep

3. Who does Jesus say must be the very last and servant of all?
   a) Anyone who wants to be first
   b) Only the apostles
   c) Children

Study It Your Way (pick one)

• Quiz me: Have a parent or sibling ask you the self-check questions one at a time, without looking.
• Key 20%: Pick the one verse that carries the most of this chapter, and say why.
• Retell it: Retell the chapter from the point of view of someone who was there.

MODULE 10 OF 16 · MARK 10

What will following Jesus cost me?

Start Here

What is one thing you own or love that would be really hard to give up?

Talk it over with a parent, a friend, or your youth group. What did they notice that you missed?

Read

Mark 10 (read the whole chapter)

> *“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*
>
> — Mark 10:45 (NIV)

Jesus welcomes children and says the kingdom belongs to such as these (10:13-16). A rich man asks how to inherit eternal life. “Jesus looked at him and loved him” (10:21), told him to sell everything and follow, and the man went away sad.

James and John ask for the best seats in glory. Jesus answers with 10:45. The chapter ends with blind Bartimaeus, who receives his sight and follows Jesus along the road (10:46-52).

Based on Mark 10, how would you answer this module's question: What will following Jesus cost me?

Reflection

Jesus loved the rich man and still told him the hard truth (10:21). Why is that a loving thing to do?

Bartimaeus threw his cloak aside and followed (10:50-52). What would you have to throw aside?

Something to Think On

Jesus does not ask for anything he did not first give. He came to give his life.

1. What “one thing” might I lack?

2. Do I follow Jesus for what I get or because of who he is?

3. How does 10:45 change the way I see serving?

Self-Reflection

Take some time for yourself and answer these questions. Be honest with yourself. Answer from your own life, not from the standpoint of having right or wrong answers.

Apply It

Give something away

1. Choose one thing you value (time, money, a possession, a weekend plan).
2. Give it to meet someone else's need this week.
3. Write about what it cost and what it gave back.

What happened when I did it?

Module Checklist

☐ I read all of Mark 10

☐ I answered the Reflection questions

☐ I gave something that cost me

Self-Check

1. How did the rich man respond to Jesus' call?
   a) He sold everything right away
   b) He went away sad
   c) He argued with Peter

2. According to Mark 10:45, why did the Son of Man come?
   a) To be served
   b) To serve and give his life as a ransom for many
   c) To become rich

3. What did Bartimaeus do after he received his sight?
   a) Went home
   b) Followed Jesus along the road

c) Became a priest

Study It Your Way (pick one)

• Decision matrix: List what following Jesus costs and what it gives, side by side.

• Socratic questions: Write three “why” questions about the chapter and try to answer each from the text.

• Sticky-note facts: Write five facts from the chapter on sticky notes and put them where you will see them.

MODULE 11 OF 16 · MARK 11

What is God's house for?

Start Here

When you walk into church (or join online from the road), what do you expect to happen there?

Talk it over with a parent, a friend, or your youth group. What did they notice that you missed?

Read

Mark 11 (read the whole chapter)

> *“And as he taught them, he said, “Is it not written: ‘My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations’? But you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’”*
>
> — Mark 11:17 (NIV)

Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a colt while crowds shout “Hosanna!” (11:1-11). The next day he curses a fig tree that has leaves but no fruit (11:12-14).

He drives the money changers and sellers out of the temple courts (11:15-17). Then he teaches about faith, prayer, and forgiving others (11:22-25).

Based on Mark 11, how would you answer this module's question: What is God's house for?

Reflection

The fig tree looked alive but had no fruit. Where might your faith have leaves but no fruit?

Jesus links prayer with forgiveness (11:25). Who do you need to forgive before you pray?

Something to Think On

Jesus wanted God's house to be a place of prayer for all nations, not a market.

1. Is my time with God mostly prayer or mostly routine?

2. Who would feel unwelcome at my church, and why?

3. Who am I holding something against?

Self-Reflection

Take some time for yourself and answer these questions. Be honest with yourself. Answer from your own life, not from the standpoint of having right or wrong answers.

Apply It

Make a prayer list for the nations

1. Pick three countries (maybe places your family has traveled or wants to go).
2. Look up one prayer need for each from your church or a missions group your parents trust.
3. Pray for them each day this week, and forgive one person by name.

What happened when I did it?

Module Checklist

☐ I read all of Mark 11

☐ I prayed for three nations

☐ I forgave someone by name

Self-Check

1. What did Jesus ride into Jerusalem?
   a) A horse
   b) A colt
   c) A chariot

2. What did Jesus say God's house should be called?
   a) A house of prayer for all nations
   b) A house of sacrifice
   c) A house of teachers

3. What does Jesus tell people to do when they stand praying and hold something against someone?
   a) Wait until later
   b) Forgive them
   c) Leave the temple

Study It Your Way (pick one)

• One-page guide: Fill one page with this chapter's key verse, three events, and your answer to the module question.

• Quiz me: Have a parent or sibling ask you the self-check questions one at a time, without looking.

• Explain it simply: Explain this chapter to a younger child in three sentences.

MODULE 12 OF 16 · MARK 12

What matters most to God?

Start Here

If you had to sum up the whole Christian life in one sentence, what would you say?

Talk it over with a parent, a friend, or your youth group. What did they notice that you missed?

Read

Mark 12 (read the whole chapter)

> *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”*
>
> — Mark 12:30-31 (NIV)

In the temple courts, leaders try to trap Jesus with hard questions about taxes (12:13-17) and the resurrection (12:18-27).

A teacher of the law asks which commandment is the most important. Jesus answers with love for God and love for neighbor (12:28-34). The chapter ends with a poor widow who puts in two small coins, “everything—all she had to live on” (12:44).

Based on Mark 12, how would you answer this module's question: What matters most to God?

Reflection

Jesus says to love God with heart, soul, mind, and strength. Which of those four is hardest for you?

Why did Jesus say the widow put in more than all the others (12:43-44)?

Something to Think On

Every rule in Scripture hangs on two loves.

1. How am I loving God with my mind (what I study, watch, think about)?

2. Who is my neighbor this week, right where I am?

3. What would giving "all I have" look like for me?

Self-Reflection

Take some time for yourself and answer these questions. Be honest with yourself. Answer from your own life, not from the standpoint of having right or wrong answers.

Apply It

Love in four ways

1. Plan one way to love God with each of heart, soul, mind, and strength this week.
2. Plan one act of love for a neighbor.
3. Check them off as you do them.

What happened when I did it?

Module Checklist

☐ I read all of Mark 12

☐ I loved God in four ways this week

☐ I loved a neighbor on purpose

Self-Check

1. What did Jesus name as the most important commandment?
   a) Keep the Sabbath
   b) Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength
   c) Give to the temple

2. What is the second commandment Jesus names?
   a) Love your neighbor as yourself
   b) Honor your father and mother
   c) Do not steal

3. How much did the poor widow give?
   a) A tenth
   b) Two very small copper coins, all she had to live on

c) Nothing

Study It Your Way (pick one)

• Mind map: Put the module question in the middle and branch out the people, events, and verses.

• Explain it back: Teach the module question to someone else, then fix the parts you could not explain.

• Key 20%: Pick the one verse that carries the most of this chapter, and say why.

MODULE 13 OF 16 · MARK 13

How do I stay ready?

Start Here

What is something you prepare for even though you do not know exactly when it will happen?

Talk it over with a parent, a friend, or your youth group. What did they notice that you missed?

Read

Mark 13 (read the whole chapter)

> *“Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come.”*
>
> — Mark 13:33 (NIV)

Jesus tells his disciples the temple will be torn down (13:1-2). He warns them about false messiahs, wars, persecution, and hard times, and promises the Holy Spirit will help them speak (13:11).

He says no one knows the day or hour of his return (13:32), so they must stay watchful, like servants waiting for the owner of the house (13:34-37). “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away” (13:31).

Based on Mark 13, how would you answer this module's question: How do I stay ready?

Reflection

Jesus warned, “Watch out that no one deceives you” (13:5). Where might you be deceived today?

What does staying alert look like on an ordinary Tuesday?

Something to Think On

Jesus does not give a date. He gives a way to live: watchful, faithful, and unafraid.

1. What would I want Jesus to find me doing if he came today?

2. Which of his words do I need to hold onto when things feel uncertain?

3. Where am I spiritually “asleep”?

Self-Reflection

Take some time for yourself and answer these questions. Be honest with yourself. Answer from your own life, not from the standpoint of having right or wrong answers.

Apply It

Build a daily watch

1. Choose a short daily rhythm: one chapter of Scripture, one prayer, one act of kindness.
2. Do it every day for seven days.
3. Write which day was hardest and why.

What happened when I did it?

Module Checklist

☐ I read all of Mark 13

☐ I kept my daily watch for seven days

☐ I answered the Self-Reflection questions

Self-Check

1. Who knows the day or hour of Jesus' return?
   a) The angels
   b) Only the Father
   c) Anyone who studies enough

2. What will never pass away, according to Jesus?
   a) The temple
   b) His words
   c) Jerusalem

3. Who did Jesus say would help the disciples speak when arrested?
   a) Their lawyers
   b) The Holy Spirit
   c) The crowds

Study It Your Way (pick one)

• Cycle: Draw your daily watch as a loop: Scripture, prayer, kindness, repeat.

• Quiz me: Have a parent or sibling ask you the self-check questions one at a time, without looking.

• Sticky-note facts: Write five facts from the chapter on sticky notes and put them where you will see them.

Can I stay faithful when it gets hard?

Start Here

Have you ever promised something and then not followed through when it got hard? What happened?

Talk it over with a parent, a friend, or your youth group. What did they notice that you missed?

Read

Mark 14 (read the whole chapter)

> *“Abba, Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”*
>
> — Mark 14:36 (NIV)

A woman pours expensive perfume on Jesus, and he says, “She has done a beautiful thing to me” (14:6). Jesus shares the Last Supper with his disciples (14:22-25).

In Gethsemane he prays in deep distress while his friends fall asleep (14:32-42). Judas betrays him, the disciples run, and Peter denies him three times before the rooster crows twice (14:66-72).

Based on Mark 14, how would you answer this module's question: Can I stay faithful when it gets hard?

Reflection

Peter said, “Even if all fall away, I will not” (14:29). Why do you think he failed?

What does Jesus' prayer in 14:36 teach you about praying when you do not want what is coming?

Something to Think On

Mark does not hide the failures of Jesus' closest friends. That is good news for us.

1. When have I been like Peter, bold at first and then quiet?

2. What “beautiful thing” could I do for Jesus, like the woman with the perfume?

3. Can I pray “not what I will, but what you will” about something real right now?

Self-Reflection

Take some time for yourself and answer these questions. Be honest with yourself. Answer from your own life, not from the standpoint of having right or wrong answers.

Apply It

Pray the Gethsemane prayer

1. Name one situation where you want your own way.
2. Pray Mark 14:36 about it every day this week, in your own words.
3. Write what changed in you, if anything.

What happened when I did it?

Module Checklist

☐ I read all of Mark 14

☐ I prayed the Gethsemane prayer daily

☐ I did one beautiful thing for Jesus

Self-Check

1. What did Jesus say about the woman who poured perfume on him?
   a) She wasted it
   b) She has done a beautiful thing to me
   c) She should have sold it

2. What were the disciples doing while Jesus prayed in Gethsemane?
   a) Keeping watch
   b) Sleeping
   c) Singing

3. How many times did Peter disown Jesus?
   a) Once
   b) Twice
   c) Three times

Study It Your Way (pick one)

• Socratic questions: Write three “why” questions about the chapter and try to answer each from the text.

• Explain it simply: Explain this chapter to a younger child in three sentences.

• One-page guide: Fill one page with this chapter's key verse, three events, and your answer to the module question.

MODULE 15 OF 16 · MARK 15

Why did Jesus have to die?

Start Here

Why do you think the cross became the main symbol of the Christian faith?

Talk it over with a parent, a friend, or your youth group. What did they notice that you missed?

Read

Mark 15 (read the whole chapter)

> *“And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, “Surely this man was the Son of God!”*
>
> — Mark 15:39 (NIV)

Jesus is handed over to Pilate. The crowd chooses Barabbas to be released and shouts for Jesus to be crucified (15:6-15). Soldiers mock him, and he is crucified between two rebels (15:16-27).

He cries out, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (15:34). When he dies, the temple curtain is torn from top to bottom (15:38), and a Roman centurion says what Mark said in verse one: this man was the Son of God.

Based on Mark 15, how would you answer this module's question: Why did Jesus have to die?

Reflection

Barabbas, a guilty man, went free while Jesus died. How is that a picture of what Jesus did for you?

Look back at Mark 10:45. How does Mark 15 show Jesus giving “his life as a ransom for many”?

Something to Think On

Mark began by calling Jesus the Son of God (1:1). The first human in Mark to say it plainly is a Roman soldier at the cross.

1. Why is it significant that an outsider said it?

2. What does the torn curtain suggest about access to God?

3. What is my response to what Jesus did on the cross?

Self-Reflection

Take some time for yourself and answer these questions. Be honest with yourself. Answer from your own life, not from the standpoint of having right or wrong answers.

Apply It

Respond to the cross

1. Read Mark 15 slowly, out loud if you can.
2. Write a short prayer or letter to Jesus responding to what he did.
3. If you have questions or want to talk about following Jesus, set a time to talk with a parent, pastor, or youth leader this week.

What happened when I did it?

Module Checklist

☐ I read all of Mark 15

☐ I wrote my response to the cross

☐ I talked with someone I trust about it

Self-Check

1. Whom did the crowd ask Pilate to release?
   a) Barabbas
   b) Peter
   c) Judas

2. What happened to the temple curtain when Jesus died?
   a) It caught fire
   b) It was torn in two from top to bottom
   c) Nothing

3. Who said, “Surely this man was the Son of God!”?
   a) Pilate

b) The centurion
c) Peter

Study It Your Way (pick one)

• Timeline: Draw the events of this chapter in order on a line.

• Explain it back: Teach the module question to someone else, then fix the parts you could not explain.

• First principles: Ask: what is the one thing that must be true about Jesus for this chapter to make sense?

MODULE 16 OF 16 · MARK 16

What changes because the tomb is empty?

Start Here

What is the best news you have ever received? Who did you tell first?

Talk it over with a parent, a friend, or your youth group. What did they notice that you missed?

Read

Mark 16 (read the whole chapter)

> *“You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here.”*
>
> — Mark 16:6 (NIV)

Early on the first day of the week, three women go to the tomb with spices. The stone is rolled away, and a young man in a white robe tells them Jesus has risen (16:1-6).

He sends a message to “his disciples and Peter” (16:7): Jesus is going ahead of them into Galilee. Notice that Peter, who denied him, is named. Your NIV also has a note here: the earliest manuscripts and some other ancient witnesses do not have verses 9-20. Read the note and ask a parent or pastor about it.

Based on Mark 16, how would you answer this module's question: What changes because the tomb is empty?

Reflection

Why do you think the angel said “and Peter” (16:7)? What does that tell you about second chances?

Go back to your Module 1 journal sentence. How has your answer to “Who is Jesus?” changed?

Something to Think On

The good news Mark promised in 1:1 is now complete: the crucified Jesus is alive, and he goes ahead of his followers.

1. What changes in my life if Jesus really rose?

2. Where is Jesus “going ahead” of me, inviting me to follow?

3. Who needs to hear this good news from me?

Self-Reflection

Take some time for yourself and answer these questions. Be honest with yourself. Answer from your own life, not from the standpoint of having right or wrong answers.

Apply It

Finish your journal and take a next step

1. Write your final answer: “Who do I say Jesus is?”
2. Choose one next step: start Discipleship, keep a daily Bible rhythm, talk to your pastor about baptism, or join a youth group.
3. Tell one person what you wrote.

What happened when I did it?

Module Checklist

☐ I read all of Mark 16

☐ I wrote my final answer to “Who is Jesus?”

☐ I chose a next step and told someone

Self-Check

1. Why did the women go to the tomb?
   a) To anoint Jesus' body with spices
   b) To meet the disciples
   c) To pray

2. Whom did the young man name in his message besides the disciples?
   a) John
   b) Peter
   c) Judas

3. Where did the young man say Jesus was going ahead of them?

a) Jerusalem
b) Galilee
c) Rome

Study It Your Way (pick one)

• Mind map: Put the module question in the middle and branch out the people, events, and verses.
• Retell it: Retell the chapter from the point of view of someone who was there.
• Timeline: Draw the events of this chapter in order on a line.

Self-Check Answers

Module 1: 1) b; 2) a; 3) b
Module 2: 1) b; 2) b; 3) b
Module 3: 1) b; 2) a; 3) b
Module 4: 1) b; 2) a; 3) b
Module 5: 1) b; 2) b; 3) b
Module 6: 1) a; 2) b; 3) a
Module 7: 1) a; 2) b; 3) a
Module 8: 1) c; 2) b; 3) a
Module 9: 1) a; 2) b; 3) a
Module 10: 1) b; 2) b; 3) b
Module 11: 1) b; 2) a; 3) b
Module 12: 1) b; 2) a; 3) b
Module 13: 1) b; 2) b; 3) b
Module 14: 1) b; 2) b; 3) c
Module 15: 1) a; 2) b; 3) b
Module 16: 1) a; 2) b; 3) b

Hours Log

Module	Date finished	Hours
1		
2		
3		
4		
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6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
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15		
16		
Total		

Sources

• Scripture: The Holy Bible, New International Version (NIV), 2011. Key verses quoted in this workbook were checked word for word against the NIV text on BibleHub.com on 2026-11-18.

• Biblica, NIV permissions, biblica.com/permissions (checked 2026-11-11): the NIV “may be quoted in any form (written, visual, electronic or audio), up to and inclusive of five hundred (500) verses” without written permission, if the verses do not amount to a complete book of the Bible or 25% or more of the work.

• Workbook pattern: Dr. John C. Hoogeveen III, Discipleship and Evangelism workbooks (Made The Exchange Media Lab).