

The Gospel according to
MARK

José Young

Ediciones Crecimiento Cristiano



"Más que enseñar, te ayudamos a aprender"

 **Córdoba 419 - Villa Nueva - Cba. - Argentina**

 **+54 9 353 491-2450**

 **+54 9 353 481-0724**

 **oficina@edicionescc.com**

 **www.edicionescc.com**

 **Ediciones Crecimiento Cristiano**

 **edicionescc**

Introduction	5
Mark 1	7
Mark 2	12
Mark 3	16
Mark 4	21
Mark 5	26
Mark 6	30
Mark 7	35
Mark 8	40
Mark 9	45
Mark 10	50
Mark 12	60
Mark 13	65
Mark 14	69
Mark 15	74
Mark 16	78
Conclusion	81
How to use this study	83

Introduction

The Christian faith and the Bible are closely related. Actually, the two cannot be separated. Everything we know about Jesus Christ comes from the Bible. It also shows us what a genuine Christian is like and how the church began. It is the book that has served as the foundation of the faith and the church since it was born.

Many people forget that to be a Christian has to do with Christ. The word "Christian" is a nickname that people gave to the first followers of Christ. They talked so much about him and had a lifestyle so distinct that was centered in his person that that people said "they are of Christ", that is, Christians.

What you have in your hands is a study guide on one of the four books called "Gospels", that tell us of the life and work of Jesus. We begin with him, because we know that any person who wants to take God seriously must start with him. To know who he is and what he wants of us is the most urgent task we can have.

The word "Christ" and the word "Messiah" mean the same. "Christ" is a word in the Greek language and "Messiah" in Hebrew. The word means "anointed" and it comes from an ancient practice of the Jews. For example, when they named a new king, the priest anointed his head with oil, as a seal of his new authority.

In the same way Jesus is the anointed of God, he who has been separated for a task, he who has the authority of being selected and sent by God.

The word "Gospel" means "good news". When Mark writes: "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God" he is saying "Here begins the good news that I want to share with you, that has to do with the Son of God, Jesus the Christ." That is what the book is about: Jesus. Its purpose is to let us know that his coming to the earth is good news for all humanity.

Who was Mark?

Mark appears every so often in the New Testament but he wasn't one of the 12 apostles. He was from Jerusalem, young, and probably had heard Jesus speak at times in Jerusalem.

It was the apostle Paul who, for the first time, took him with him as a helper and, according to the historians, he spent much time as Peter's helper.

So Mark did not write what he heard and saw, but what he learned from Peter. Some scholars even call his gospel "the gospel of Peter". Nevertheless, even though the book does not have Mark's name as author (the titles in our Bibles are not in the original ones), the opinion of scholars is that he was the author.

We encourage you to write the answers to the questions in this study. When we write them down, we think with more clarity and remember them better. Also, by doing the study beforehand we are better prepared to take part in the conversation of the group.

We hope you will do this study with a group or at least one other person. The discussion, the interchange of ideas, is a great help.

May our God help you.

Mark 1

Matthew and Luke tell us of the birth of Jesus, but Mark goes directly to the point. He speaks of the "gospel", of the good news. Speaks of Jesus the Christ, the elected of God. And he speaks of the "Son of God" in whom we see all the glory of God.

Mark 1:1-8

Jesus was around 30 years old when he began his work here on earth, but Mark doesn't tell us anything about his early years. Instead, he quotes the word of a prophet that wrote some 400 years before Christ's birth, the prophet Isaiah (verses 2, 3).

He who speaks in the prophecy is God. He talks of Jesus and promises he will send a messenger before him who will prepare the people for his coming. We encounter this messenger in verse 4.

1 What was the message of John, the messenger?

2 Why did he baptize people?

Mark 1:9-13

Jesus was also baptized, even though in his case it was not necessary (the second question gives the reason). But the voice of the Father confirmed that he did the right thing. To understand the temptation of Jesus better, read Mathew 4:1-11.

Mark 1:14-20

In one sense Jesus' message is very simple: change your attitude towards God and believe in the message of the gospel. He will explain this message better later on, but here we have the basics. The kingdom of God was near; the king was present!

Jesus called a group of his early followers, whom he called "apostles" (which means sent ones, messengers). He said that he would make them "fishers of men".

3 What would it mean to fish for men? What differences would there be between fishing for a fish and fishing for a person?

4 Are you capable of fishing for men? Why?

Mark 1:21-28

The synagogue was the meeting place for the Jews, something like our church buildings today. It seems that Jesus often taught in his visits to synagogues. But this time there was an impressive surprise.

5 From the evidence we have in this incident:

» What did the demons know about Jesus?

» What did the people recognize about Jesus?

Mark 1:29-34

In the same way that Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law, he healed many people. Many times, Mark summarizes the activities of Jesus as he does in this passage, and we realize, as the apostle John wrote:

"But there are also many other things which Jesus did; were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that could be written."

(John 21:25)

Mark 1:35-39

It wasn't easy for Jesus to have time for himself. Wherever he went multitudes followed him. But those moments alone, with the Father, were essential for Jesus.

Mark 1:40-45

People affected with leprosy (that could be more than one skin sickness) in those times lived isolated from everyone. They were "impure" and as a consequence no one could touch them; they couldn't eat with "healthy" people or even enter their homes.

But this leper had heard that Jesus could heal him.

6 What did this man understand about Jesus? What level of confidence, as well as doubt, did he have?

Jesus touched him (which was not necessary) and healed him. He told him to go before the priest to receive the confirmation that he had been healed. With that he could enter society again.

Jesus told him to not say anything to people about what had happened. Yet, he went out telling everyone.

7 Did he do the right thing or not? Explain your answer.

With this chapter we have had our first look at this man, Jesus the Christ.

8 What have we learned about him in this chapter? Who was he? How was he?

Even though Jesus was in the public eye for only three years, he has had a greater impact on humanity than any other person.