

THE KING'S CROSS



The GOSPEL *of* MARK



CONTENTS

Personal Daily Study

PAGE 3

Weekly Questions

PAGE 5

Resources

PAGE 4

3D / Group Discussion

PAGE 22

ABOUT THIS STUDY

Jesus.

He's gonna surprise you.

I bet He yells at people you think He'd cuddle up with and embraces people you'd expect He'd shun. In every word, action, condemnation, and commendation He shines more brilliantly. Take the time to get to know Him in the Gospel of Mark. He serves everyone, giving Himself away for others, to the point of death.

I bet you'll love Him, give your life to Him, and give your life away for Him. And in doing so, you'll find life itself.

Chances are someone near and dear to you—a neighbor, coworker, friend, or family member—doesn't know Him.

Introduce someone you love to the Savior you love.

Consider asking a friend to read *Jesus the King* by Tim Keller along with you.

Use the *Christ the King Guide* we've created to foster conversation together (available on our resource page: <https://www.thewellsilverspring.org/resources>).

Invite them to the "Christianity Explored" Thrive class on Sunday mornings to ask and answer questions about who Jesus is and what He's done. This class meets at 11:15 on Sunday mornings, Nov. 13 through Dec. 11, at the Well House (604 Pershing Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20910).

It's about time that the people you love meet the God who's given us life.

Jesus.

May He change our lives, and the lives of those we love, by His life, death, and resurrection.

Follow the below schedule to study the passages on your own, and discuss what God is showing you together with your group. More Bible study resources can be found at [thewellsilverspring.org/resources](https://www.thewellsilverspring.org/resources).

PERSONAL DAILY STUDY

Following the below process, prayerfully read the scheduled passage of scripture. Spend the entire week on the given section, slowly reading and rereading it in order to deeply, and accurately, interact with God. Also consider the below supplemental questions per each given week. You can also check out our other simple guides online for additional Bible study resources at thewellsilverspring.org/resources.

What Does It Say?

First, we ask: *“What does this say?”*

Read the passage a few times and carefully observe the words; give full attention to what it says. The purpose is to saturate in the content of the passage.

Look for things such as: important words (what’s being talked about), conjunctions (how is one idea connected to another), admonitions (something being commanded), contrasts, comparisons, illustrations, repeated phrases/ words, mood, and grammatical construction (verb tenses, prepositional phrases, etc.).

Linger here, listening to what God is saying in the detail of His words. Write down questions that the passage raises for you, things you don’t understand, ideas you’d like to pursue further.

What Does It Mean?

We now ask ourselves: *“What does it mean?”*

Use the observations you just gathered, the context of the section, and other passages of scripture to get at the meaning of what you have read.

Consider using [a commentary](#), the [GROW](#) or [SOAP](#) Bible study tools, the [ESV Study Bible](#) notes, or other resources to help.

Next, summarize the main truth you heard from God in His word.

Consider writing out the synthesized truth in your own words. Outline, diagram, draw, or flowchart the line of thought or main idea of the passage. What jumped out

So What?

Now we must ask: *“So what?”*

After meeting God in His word, we cannot ignore, or walk away unchanged. Why does the truth you heard matter to you today?

Is there something new to believe, cling to, or a sin to confess?

Is there something for you to do (or not do) in response to what you have read?

Is there someone with whom to share this truth (believer or nonbeliever)?

Do not forget to apply the gospel for your forgiveness, and as the reason compelling your obedience:

Christ is enough!

He has forgiven you for _____
and He is the reason why we _____.

RESOURCES

“Christianity Explored” Thrive Class

Sundays at 11:15 am / during second service

Nov. 13th -Dec. 11th

The Well House

604 Pershing Drive Silver Spring, MD 20910

What is Christianity? If you are exploring Christianity or if you are at the beginning of faith in Jesus, this Thrive class is for you. We'll explore Christianity through the testimony of Mark, ask tough questions, and engage in fruitful dialogue. We will discover, through the teachings of Tim Keller's book *Jesus is King*, how Christianity isn't a set of rules to be compared with every other religion. It is the most profound message in all of human history. This is a safe space for non-believers and skeptics. Invite someone who would benefit greatly from this time!

Jesus the King by Tim Keller

This short book walks through the Gospel of Mark, giving great insights to both believers and non-believers.

We've created a guide to go along with this book (*Christ the King Guide*, found on our Resources page) to help foster conversations with a neighbor, coworker, or friend that does not yet know Christ.

Take a risk to ask someone to read this book and discuss who Christ is and the core of the Christian message.

Commentaries

If you're looking for a commentary to read along with the gospel, consider:

Mark for Everyone by N.T. Wright

Exalting Jesus in Mark by Daniel Akin

Mark: An Expositional Commentary by R.C. Sproul

INTRO

Mark in Summary

READ

The Gospel of Mark; *twice*

QUESTIONS

Read the book of Mark twice. What sticks out to you about the gospel? Are there any themes, events, or phrases that jump out to you?

What surprised (or even angered) you about Jesus? What kinds of things stuck out to you about how Jesus lived or what He taught? How was He like or unlike you?

Consider reading the ESV Study Bible (or below commentary suggestions) introduction and/or background for the book. Watch the Bible Project video on Mark (on YouTube or the Bible Project app) for a helpful overview.

SO WHAT?

Who could you ask to read the Gospel of Mark along with you? Is there a coworker or friend who might entertain the idea?

Ask them to meet together for discussion.

Use the book *Jesus The King* by Tim Keller and the *Christ the King Guide* on our Resources page to guide your conversations.

Invite them to the “Christianity Explored” Thrive class: Sundays at 11:15 am, Nov. 13 - Dec. 11, at The Well House (604 Pershing Drive Silver Spring, MD 20910).

WEEK 1

Chapter One

READ

Mark 1

QUESTIONS

How has God taken the first step towards you in your life recently?

With whose reaction to Jesus did you most resonate?

Why would Mark begin his story about Jesus' life with these specific events and interactions?

SO WHAT?

How would you describe your relationship with God right now?

What is hard or joy-filled about worshiping and serving Christ? Is there an area of your life where you need His work of healing, mending, and comfort?

Where do you see a need for repentance (a change of direction) in your life? Where do you need to respond to His calling or work: Is there something He is calling you into or out of?

Again, consider: Who could you ask to read the Gospel of Mark along with you? Is there a coworker or friend who might entertain the idea? Ask them to meet together for discussion. Use the book *Jesus The King* by Tim Keller and the *Christ the King Guide* on our Resource Page to guide your conversations. Invite them to the "Christianity Explored" Thrive class.

WEEK 2

Chapter Two

READ

Mark 2

QUESTIONS

What details about the paralytic's healing jump out to you?

Compare the stances that the paralyzed man and the Pharisees have when it comes to Jesus. What is different and why?

Why does chapter two end with a discussion of new and old? Think through all the things that are different now that Jesus is on the scene.

SO WHAT?

Think about the paralytic's felt need "(I want to walk!"). What is your felt need or deep desire right now?

How does Jesus' declaration that you are forgiven and are His son or daughter impact this area of your life?

What needs do you see in the people around you? How might Jesus connect with these desires, making the gospel good news to these neighbors, coworkers, friends, family?

Again, consider: Who could you ask to read the Gospel of Mark along with you? Is there a coworker or friend who might entertain the idea? Ask them to meet together for discussion. Use the book *Jesus The King* by Tim Keller and the *Christ the King Guide* on our Resource Page to guide your conversations. Invite them to the "Christianity Explored" Thrive class.

WEEK 3

Chapter Three

READ

Mark 3

QUESTIONS

How does Jesus interact with the Law?

What is the difference between how Jesus and the Pharisees decide who is good or bad / in or out?

SO WHAT?

Where do you see legalism in your life?

How does it shape the way you treat others, view yourself, impact your relationships?

Which of these interactions highlights a specific area of your life needing repentance, obedience, and an embrace of grace?

WEEK 4

Chapter Four

READ

Mark 4

QUESTIONS

What is the main idea for all four of the kingdom and seed parables?

What are the nuanced differences between the stories?

Why is the story of Jesus calming the storm juxtaposed with these parables?

SO WHAT?

Which soil do you most identify with right now?

Where is God bearing fruit in your life: shaping your character with the fruit of the Spirit (*Gal. 5:22-23*) or revealing the gospel through you to others?

Is there an area of your life where you need to trust Him, His words, and His promises?

WEEK 5

Chapter Five

READ

Mark 5

QUESTIONS

Describe the phases the demon-possessed man goes through in a timeline.

How does this interaction function as a template for God's work in a person's life?

How does the story of Jairus's daughter compare and contrast with the story of the man being healed from his demon? What does "do not fear, only believe" (5:36) mean in this passage?

SO WHAT?

Where in your life do you feel like you are waiting for Jesus to show up and do something?

Do you feel like you are seeking Him or seeking what He might do for or give you?

Who around you needs the life-changing experience of meeting Christ?

WEEK 6

Chapter Six

READ

Mark 6

QUESTIONS

What specific emotions does Christ experience through these different accounts in chapter six? What emotions do his disciples and the crowd experience?

Pick a key phrase to capture each of the sections of chapter 6: His hometown, sending out the disciples, John the Baptist, feeding the 5,000, and the storm.

How would you summarize what Mark is trying to teach you in this passage?

SO WHAT?

Are you currently allowing fear of rejection or the acceptance you have in Christ influence your life more deeply?

Where is this motivating your decisions and actions? What would freedom look like in this area of your life, and how does the gospel free you?

WEEK 7

Chapter Seven

READ

Mark 7

QUESTIONS

What is the difference between traditions and commandments?

How does this impact the Pharisees'—and the outcast's—view of Jesus and how to interact with sins?

Why are both traditions and the law insufficient for salvation?

With which of the list of sins (7:21-22) do you most struggle? How have you been dealing with your sin this week?

SO WHAT?

On a scale of 1-10, how guilty about your sin do you feel today? Why?

Are you too or not enough aware of your sin, and are you fully aware of the gospel?

WEEK 8

Chapter Eight

READ

Mark 8

QUESTIONS

What are the similarities between the two feeding stories found in chapters 6 and 8? Why do you think the disciples were stumped when facing such a similar problem?

How would you summarize the interaction between Peter and Jesus in this chapter?

What is Jesus using as the primary defining characteristic for following Him? How does Jesus define the core of his life, and therefore the critical aspect of our lives in following Him?

SO WHAT?

Where do you sense that you are a “work in progress” when it comes to following Jesus? To go a bit further, read through Mark and list all of the instances where the disciples show themselves to be a work in progress.

Where have you seen God making progress in your life? Where would you like Him to make a bit more?

WEEK 9

Chapter Nine

READ

Mark 9

QUESTIONS

Plot a timeline of what happens in this chapter.

The transfiguration proclaims “follow this Jesus to the cross;” how do the other stories relate?

Why does the theme of children keep coming up?

What does Jesus mean when he advises to cut off a hand, foot, or eye that is causing you to sin?

SO WHAT?

Where is pride creating discord in your relationships or separating you from others? Consider asking close friends or family where they see pride in your life.

Where do you sense you are managing your sin instead of cutting it off?

What are some practical ways to treat your sin more seriously?

WEEK 10

Chapter Ten

READ

Mark 10

QUESTIONS

What are some hard sayings of Jesus in 10:1-16?
Why does Jesus choose not to answer their question?
What does He do instead?

Why does the theme of children keep coming up?

Why does Jesus 'love' the rich young ruler, and how are Jesus' statements to the man loving?

In chapter 10, Jesus twice asks the question: "What do you want me to do for you?" Compare and contrast the two accounts which surround this question.

SO WHAT?

In which area of your life does Jesus have the most say? In which the least?

What is your motivation for obeying Jesus? Would you most categorize it as love, trust, or will?

If applicable, share about how divorce has intersected with your life.

What would Jesus ask you to lay down and follow Him? Are you generously and sacrificially giving your money to Him and His work?

How would you answer: "What do you want me to do for you?"

WEEK 11

Chapter Eleven

READ

Mark 11

QUESTIONS

What are the main events of this chapter, and how are they related?

Prayer is a key theme in these passages. Where and why does it come up?

How does this passage speak to the emptiness of religion and the supremacy of relationship with God?

SO WHAT?

What are you praying for? What are you substituting for your relationship with God, or where are you avoiding conversation with Him?

Where are you seeing God bear fruit in your life—perhaps changing your character or using you in the lives of others?

What would faith in a mighty God change about your prayers and your life today?

WEEK 12

Chapter Twelve

READ

Mark 12

QUESTIONS

What is the one main point of the parable that gets all of these people so angry (12:1-12)?

Why does it anger them so much? What does it lead to (12:13-40)?

Jesus makes life with God pretty simple. How does he capture this idea in v. 28-34 and 41-44?

SO WHAT?

Where is Christ not King over your life? What do you think still belongs to you or is solely for your benefit?

Where are you experiencing joy serving Him?

Where are you convicted?

Where are you encouraged?

Chapter Thirteen

READ

Mark 13

QUESTIONS

What kinds of things does Jesus supply as a sign of His return?

Do you think this list of things is what the disciples were expecting when they asked for a sign of the end of time?

What does this mean about the end of time or the last days?

When are these days, and why are verses 33-37 so important for us?

SO WHAT?

What are some wonderful things in your life right now?

What is broken in your life right now?

How does living with the end in mind impact these things?

WEEK 14

Chapter Fourteen

READ

Mark 14

QUESTIONS

Describe what each person in these accounts desires.

How do these desires impact their actions?

Who deserts Jesus? How would you describe these people?

Place yourself in the scene of Jesus' betrayal by Judas. What do you see, feel, and hear?

SO WHAT?

Do you feel like you are “doing what you can for Christ” (14:8)? What one word would you use to categorize why you are or are not doing what you can? What is your motivation?

What is the difference between how Peter and Judas deal with their desertion of Jesus?

Is there an area of your life in which you feel lonely? Who are some people you can count on? How does the story of the desertion of Jesus impact your life?

WEEK 15

Chapter Fifteen

READ

Mark 15

QUESTIONS

Why doesn't Jesus answer the accusations at the end of chapter 14 and the beginning of 15?

How does 15:6-15 capture the work of Jesus in an allegorical nutshell for us?

What happens on the cross both physically and theologically? (v. 33-39)

SO WHAT?

What one word would you use to describe how God feels towards you? Why?

How does Jesus' life, death, and resurrection impact your day-to-day life?

WEEK 16

Chapter Sixteen

READ

Mark 16

QUESTIONS

Why are there so many details about Joseph and taking Jesus down from the cross?

How does 16:6-7 capture the gospel message?

What are the women (and anyone who believes Jesus is raised from the dead) called to do? What is the main barrier to this?

SO WHAT?

Do you believe that Jesus really came back to life?

As referenced in your Bible footnotes, chapter 16 most likely ended at verse 8 in the original manuscripts. Why is this a great place to end the gospel? How does it shape the way we are to live our lives in light of the life, death, and resurrection of Christ?

What needs to change in your life, since He is risen?

TOGETHER WITH YOUR 3D GROUP

Use the following format to discuss the passage together in your 3D group. You'll find the specific supplementary questions for the scripture passages

in the above schedule. You can also find the full details for 3D discussion in our [3D Meeting Guide](#). Here is a summary:

Bible

First, discuss the Bible passage from the week:

1

What does the passage say? What jumps out to you? What key ideas, commands, promises, words, ideas, etc, struck you this week?

2

How would you summarize the main truth from the section? How might this inform your thinking and shape the way we are to live?

3

Where is the gospel connected to this truth? What does this highlight about who we are, or about who God is?

Life

Share about how this truth impacts your life today:

For you today, why does this specifically matter?

Is there something God calling you to obey in response to His word?

Is there something you need to do or not do? Something to believe, promise to cling to, or a sin to confess?

Is there someone to share this truth with?

Prayer

Pray throughout your time together.

Offer praises to God when something encouraging is shared; ask for help from God as challenges are shared.

Close in prayer.

Spend time to respond to God's truth in the scriptures and from your conversation.

Praise Him.

Confess sin to Him.

Thank Him.

Ask Him for His power and provision.