

“Mark’s Account of the Gospel”

Family Bible Study Series – Vol. 2 - Quarter 4

Dear Family,

As you know, Satan has a strong foothold on our society. He is attacking from all angles in all types of ways. His arsenal is heavily equipped with alcohol, drugs, violence, TV, negative peer pressure, complacency, busy-ness and many other tools he has at his disposal.

The only way we can truly overcome Satan and the arsenal that he uses is by our faith in Jesus Christ. In John 14:6, Jesus says, “I am the way, the truth and the life and no one comes to the Father except through me.” Romans 10:17 states it like this, “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing comes by the Word of God.” If we want our family to withstand the pressures of the world, we must be in the Word.

Unfortunately, many families are too busy and have decided to put spiritual development low on the priority list. We spend large amounts of time in activities such as work, sports, school, and recreation, but devote little time to spend developing our relationship with God. Some families have left it to the church to provide their only spiritual food on Sundays and Wednesdays. Because of that, many of us are spiritually malnourished. We need to be in God’s Word more! We need to teach our children the importance of Bible study!

To assist with this dilemma, we try to supply our church family here with tools that can help make our homes the hub of spiritual development. These lessons are designed to be very simple, basic and applicable to the entire family. They are written so that someone unfamiliar with the Bible could use these outlines. They can also be used as a starting point for a family that may be older. Just take these lessons and add more depth to them. The most important thing is for us to begin to open the Word of God as a family. This is where we can develop a spiritual life that can withstand the storms of Satan! How is your family spiritually?

You can NEVER start too young or too old!

May God bless your efforts to develop a strong God-centered home.

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Table of Contents

Keys to Having a Good Home Bible Study	pg. 3
Lesson for Week One – “Mark Chapter 1”	pg. 4
Lesson for Week Two – “Mark Chapters 2 & 3”	pg. 5
Lesson for Week Three – “Mark Chapter 4”	pg. 6
Lesson for Week Four – “Mark Chapter 5”	pg. 7
Lesson for Week Five – “Mark Chapter 6”	pg. 8
Lesson for Week Six – “Mark Chapters 7 & 8”	pg. 9
Lesson for Week Seven – “Mark Chapter 9”	pg. 10
Lesson for Week Eight – “Mark Chapter 10”	pg. 11
Lesson for Week Nine – “Mark Chapters 11 & 12”	pg. 12
Lesson for Week Ten – “Mark Chapter 13”	pg. 13
Lesson for Week Eleven – “Mark Chapter 14”	pg. 14
Lesson for Week Twelve – “Mark Chapter 15”	pg. 15
Lesson for Week Thirteen – “Mark Chapter 16”	pg. 16
Suggestions for Family Projects	pg. 17
Spending Time with God	pg. 18

Keys to Having a Good Home Bible Study

- Have a family meeting and discuss what night and time of the week would be best to have the study.
- Stick to the time that is agreed upon and start and finish on time!
- Make a decision that this will be a family priority.
- Start with a prayer.
- Give each family member time to discuss what has happened during their day.
- Do not allow the discussion time to become a place for family gripes and arguments.
- Give each family member an opportunity to share how he or she was able to work on last week's lesson.
- Always remember what the purpose of this study is...
 - To develop a closer relationship with God.
 - To develop a closer relationship with each other.
 - To unite as a godly family.
- Take time to work on your family project. (*See back of book for a list of suggested projects.*)
- End with a prayer.

The Gospel According to Mark

Week # 1

OBJECTIVE: To read about and discuss the life of Jesus, applying his teachings to our lives.

Feasting on the Word:

Mark, Chapter 1

The book of Mark is a fast-moving account of the life of Jesus. Notice as you read this chapter that Mark jumps from one event to another, often using the words “immediately” and “at once.” (Read the chapter aloud.)

Family Discussion:

(1:1-8) Mark’s account of the gospel does not begin with the birth of Jesus. What does it begin with? Why did this man come to be known as “John the Baptist”? What was John’s purpose in life?

(1:9-13) Where and by whom was Jesus baptized? What happened immediately after his baptism? Who was the “voice from Heaven”? Where did Jesus go next? Why?

(1:14-20) What is “the good news”? Name the four fishermen who left everything to follow Jesus. What did Jesus tell them? What did that mean?

(1:21-34) How was Jesus’ way of teaching different from the scribes? Isn’t it interesting that the evil spirit testified that Jesus was the Holy One of God? By what authority did Jesus cast out the demon? How do you think the man felt? Which one of Simon’s (Peter’s) relatives was ill? What did Jesus do? What happened later that evening?

(1:35-39) Where and at what time of day did Jesus go to pray? Why do you think Jesus went away to pray all alone? In Matthew 6:6, what does Jesus tell us about our private prayers?

(1:40-45) What did the leper say? What did Jesus reply? How long did it take the man to get well? Why did Jesus order this man not to tell?

Challenge: What do you learn from...

...the fact that Satan would tempt even the Son of God? (2 Peter 5:8-9)

...the response of the fishermen to follow Jesus? (Matt.10:37-38)

Family Project: Take time to work on your family project. (Refer to list.)

The Gospel According to Mark

Week # 2

OBJECTIVE: To read about and discuss the life of Jesus, applying his teachings to our lives.

Feasting on the Word:

Mark, Chapters 2 and 3 (As you read, notice how the Jewish leaders oppose Jesus and question his authority!)

Family Discussion:

(2:1-12) How did the four men get their paralyzed friend to Jesus? What did Jesus do first for the sick man? What did Jesus do next for the man? What was Jesus trying to teach the crowd?

(2:13-17) What was Levi (Matthew) doing when Jesus said, "Follow me"? Why were the scribes and Pharisees upset? What did Jesus say to them?

(2:18-28) Why didn't Jesus' followers fast like the Pharisees' followers did? Again the Pharisees were angry when Jesus' followers ate some grain. Why? What did Jesus teach them, in verse 28?

(3:1-12) Whom did Jesus heal on the Sabbath? How did the Pharisees react? How did Jesus feel about that, in verse 5? When word spread about Jesus' miracles, what happened?

(3:13-19) Name the 12 apostles. What was their job?

(3:20-27) What did the scribes accuse Jesus of, concerning demons? What did Jesus mean: "If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand"? By what power did Jesus cast out demons?

(3:28-35) Who from Jesus' earthly family came to see him? What did Jesus say to the crowd? Are you part of Jesus' family, according to verse 35?

Challenge: What do you learn from...

...the fact that Jesus knew what people were thinking? (2:8) How does that apply to us today? Read and discuss Hebrews 4:13.

...the fact that Jesus used Scripture to answer his critics? (2:25-26) Can we use the same method to answer our critics today? Read and discuss how this should be done, according to 2 Timothy 4:2.

Family Project: Take time to work on your family project. (Refer to list.)

The Gospel According to Mark

Week # 3

OBJECTIVE: To read about and discuss the life of Jesus, applying his teachings to our lives.

Feasting on the Word:

Mark, Chapter 4 (As you read, notice what a great storyteller Jesus!)

Family Discussion:

(4:1-9) What method does Jesus use here to teach important lessons to the crowd? What happened to the seed that fell by the wayside? The seed that fell on stony ground? The seed that fell among thorns? The seed that fell on good ground? Young children might enjoy illustrating this parable.

(4:10-20) What did the disciples ask Jesus? What did he reply? Look up the quote from the Old Testament that Jesus used from Isaiah 6:9,10.

Explanation of the parable: Who is the sower? What is the seed? What does the seed on the wayside represent? What does the seed on stony ground represent? The seed sown on thorns? The seed sown on good ground? Which one are you?

(4:21-25) What did Jesus mean by the parable of the light under a basket? If you have small children, sing "I Have a Little Gospel Light." Is Jesus telling his disciples back then to spread the good news, or us?

(4:26-29) Another parable about how seeds grow is told here. What is the point Jesus is making? Kids may enjoy planting a pinto bean in a cup of soil and watching it grow over the next few weeks. Remind them of this story.

(4:30-34) What tiny seed does Jesus talk about here? How is it like the kingdom of God? When did Jesus explain the parables to his disciples?

(4:35-41) What was happening when they woke Jesus? What did Jesus do? Close your eyes and imagine that scene! Why did Jesus rebuke them?

Challenge: What do you learn from...

...the fact that in the parable of the sower, not all people who heard the Word of God were saved?

...Jesus' words, "Why are you so fearful?" What reduces fear? Using a concordance, look up these words: *fear, afraid, troubled, worry.*

Family Project: Take time to work on your family project. (Refer to list.)

The Gospel According to Mark

Week # 4

OBJECTIVE: To read about and discuss the life of Jesus, applying his teachings to our lives.

Feasting on the Word:

Mark, Chapter 5 (As you read, notice the supernatural power of Jesus!)

Family Discussion:

(5:1-5) Who met Jesus and the disciples as they got out of the boat? What is an “unclean spirit” or “evil spirit”? Where did the man live? What did people do to try to “tame” the man? Did it work? What else did the man do?

(5:6-9) Did the evil spirit know who Jesus was? If the demon believed in Jesus as the Son of God, did that make him “saved”? Why not? Read also James 2:14-19! Was there actually one evil spirit or many in one person?

(5:10-20) Did Jesus have power over the demons? Where did Jesus send the demons? What happened to them? How was the man, after the demons left him? Why did the people ask Jesus to leave? What did Jesus tell the healed man to do? Did he do it?

(5:21-24) Who was Jairus? Why was he upset? What did he ask for?

(5:25-34) While Jesus was on his way to Jairus’ house, what happened? Did the woman ask Jesus to heal her? How did she get well? How did Jesus know what she had done before she admitted it?

(5:35-43) What did the messengers tell Jairus? What did Jesus say about that? How did Jesus heal her? How do you think the little girl’s parents felt? How was Jesus able to accomplish this great thing? Compare this story to the statement Jesus makes in John 11:25-26.

Challenge: What do you learn from...

...Jesus’ words, “Go home to your friends...tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you”?

...the fact that some Jews hated Jesus and tried to kill him, but others (like Jairus) believed? Does faith in Jesus still divide people today?

Family Project: Take time to work on your family project. (Refer to list.)

The Gospel According to Mark

Week # 5

OBJECTIVE: To read about and discuss the life of Jesus, applying his teachings to our lives.

Feasting on the Word:

Mark, Chapter 6 (As you read, notice that Jesus is becoming famous now!)

Family Discussion:

(6:1-6) What did Jesus do on the Sabbath? How did the hearers react? Did Jesus have brothers and sisters? (Did they have the same mother as Jesus? Did they have the same father?) Why did the people in his own country have trouble believing in him as the Son of God?

(6:7-13) What did Jesus tell his twelve apostles to do as he sent them out in pairs? What curse was upon those who would not receive them? What did the apostles preach to the people? What else did they do?

(6:14-29) When Herod heard about Jesus, whom did he think Jesus was? Why? What impulsive thing had Herod done when he saw Herodias' daughter dance? What did she ask for? Why didn't Herod tell her no?

(6:30-44) When Jesus' apostles returned, why did Jesus try to get them to a deserted place? Was Jesus angry when the crowd found them? Later that day, why did the apostles want to send the crowd away? What miracle did Jesus perform that day? How did he do it?

(6:45-52) How was Jesus able to walk on water? Was he originally trying to get to the boat that the apostles were in? When they saw him, what did they think he was? What did Jesus say and do? How did the apostles react? How would you have felt if you had been there?

(6:53-56) Describe what the crowds did when Jesus arrived. Why do you think God gave Jesus the power to heal? Name at least two reasons.

Challenge: What do you learn from...

...the attitude of the people who were "offended" by Jesus, in verse 3? Are some people offended by Jesus today? Why?

...the fact that Jesus prayed before the meal when feeding the 5,000?
Do you remember to pray before EVERY meal?

Family Project: Take time to work on your family project. (Refer to list.)

The Gospel According to Mark

Week # 6

OBJECTIVE: To read about and discuss the life of Jesus, applying his teachings to our lives.

Feasting on the Word:

Mark, Chapters 7 and 8 (As you read, notice the emotions of Jesus.)

Family Discussion:

(7:1-23) What were the scribes and Pharisees complaining about? Was the ceremonial washing of hands a commandment, or a tradition they had made up? What does “hypocrite” mean? What were the Jewish leaders doing that Jesus said was wrong? How did Jesus explain that it’s what is in a man’s heart that is most important?

(7:24-31) What did the woman want Jesus to do? Was Jesus being rude to her with his answer? What did he mean by it? What did the woman say? How did Jesus react to her statement? Whom did Jesus heal next? How did he do it?

(8:1-21) How is this story similar to the feeding of the 5,000? How is it different? Did Jesus care about people’s physical needs, or only their spiritual ones? Why did the Pharisees want to see a sign from heaven? When Jesus warned his disciples about the “leaven” of the Pharisees, what did they think he meant? How did Jesus feel about this?

(8:22-38) What was strange about the healing in verses 22-25? Why did some think Jesus was Elijah or John the Baptist? Who did Peter say Jesus was? What did Jesus prophesy about his future? Why did Jesus say to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan”? Then Jesus told them (and us) how to be a true disciple. What does it mean to take up your cross?

Challenge: What do you learn from...

...the fact that it is possible to worship God in vain? (7:6-8) Ultimately, whose responsibility is it to make sure you are worshipping God acceptably?

...the fact that being ashamed of Jesus is a serious offense? (8:38) Read and discuss Matthew 10:32-33.

Family Project: Take time to work on your family project. (Refer to list.)

The Gospel According to Mark

Week # 7

OBJECTIVE: To read about and discuss the life of Jesus, applying his teachings to our lives.

Feasting on the Word:

Mark, Chapter 9 (As you read, you will get a glimpse of the glory of Jesus!)

Family Discussion:

(9:2-13) Who did Jesus take with him up the high mountain? What happened to Jesus when they arrived at the top of the mountain? Who appeared with Jesus? What were they doing? What did Peter want to do for Jesus, Moses and Elijah? What did God say when the cloud surrounded them? Who was left when the cloud was gone? What orders did Jesus give when they were walking down the mountain?

(9:14-19) What did Jesus, Peter, James, and John find when they came to the other disciples? What was wrong with the boy the man had brought to Jesus?

(9:20-29) What did the father ask of Jesus? How does Jesus respond to the request? What does the father say after Jesus' response? What did Jesus do to the evil spirit?

(9:30-32) What did Jesus teach His disciples after they passed through Galilee? Did the disciples fully understand what Jesus had taught them?

(9:33-37) What had the disciples been arguing about earlier on the road? What does Jesus teach about being first? What does Jesus tell the disciples as he holds the child?

(9:38-41) Why were the disciples upset about another man's good deeds? Did Jesus rebuke them? Why? In whose name should we do all good deeds?

(9:42-50) Does God take our influence serious? Should we take our influence over others seriously? How serious should we take sin? What should we do to get rid of sin in our lives?

Challenge:

Reflecting on what you have studied, do you feel that you have to be first all the time? What are some ways this week that you can be a servant to all? Are there some sins in your life that you need to get rid of? What are they? How can your family help?

Family Project: Take time to work on your family project. (Refer to list.)

The Gospel According to Mark

Week # 8

OBJECTIVE: To read about and discuss the life of Jesus, applying His teachings to our lives.

Feasting on the Word:

Mark, Chapter 10 (As you read, notice the wisdom Jesus had in dealing with people!)

Family Discussion:

(10:1-12) Who tested Jesus with a question? What question did they ask? How did Jesus reply? What was the Pharisees' response to Jesus' question? Why does Jesus say that God's law given through Moses allowed divorce? Should we have hard hearts? What does Christ say a man or woman commits when they divorce and marry another? Is adultery a sin? What does sin get us?

(10:13-16) Why did Jesus rebuke the disciples? How does Jesus feel about little children?

(10:17-22) What question does the man ask Jesus? What commandments does Jesus list to the man? How does the man respond to this list of commandments? What does Jesus tell him to go and do? How did the man respond to the command to sell all of his possessions and give them to the poor?

(10:23-31) Does Jesus say it is "easy" or "hard" for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven? How difficult would it be for a camel to go through the eye of a needle? Why would it be hard for a rich man to enter Heaven? What will those who follow Christ completely receive from God?

(10:32-34) What does Jesus predict again to the disciples?

(10:35-45) What do James and John request of Jesus? How did the other ten feel when they heard James and John's request? What does Jesus tell the disciples to do if they want to be great in the Kingdom? What does verse 45 say Jesus came to do?

(10:46-52) Name the blind man who was sitting by the roadside begging. What did Bartimaeus shout when he heard that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by? What did Jesus do for him? What did Jesus say had healed him?

Challenge: Reflecting on the rich young man, what are some things that can come between us and God?

Family Project: Take time to work on your family project. (Refer to list.)

The Gospel According to Mark

Week # 9

OBJECTIVE: To read about and discuss the life of Jesus, applying His teachings to our lives.

Feasting on the Word:

Mark, Chapters 11 & 12 (As you read, notice how some people worship Jesus, and others are against him.)

Family Discussion:

(11:1-11) What did Jesus tell the disciples to go and get for Him? What did those who went before Him shout?

(11:12-24) What were the people doing inside the temple? What did Jesus do about it? What did He tell them? How did the scribes and chief priests react? What did Jesus teach his disciples about the withered fig tree?

(11:25-26) Should we forgive others of things that they have done to us? What must we do for God to be able to forgive us? How important is it for us to have God's forgiveness?

(11:27-33) What questions did the scribes and high priests ask Jesus? How did Jesus respond? Did they answer the question that Jesus responded with? Why not? Whose authority did Jesus work under?

(12:1-12) What did a man plant? Who did he hire to work the vineyard? What did they do to the men that the owner sent to the vineyard? What did they do to the son of the owner? How did the scribes and high priests feel about this parable? Why did they not do something to Jesus? What do you think this parable foretells?

(12:13-17) Do you think the Pharisees and Herodians were trying to flatter Jesus to get him "off guard"? What is hypocrisy? How were these people being hypocrites? Are there any hypocrites in the church today? Are Christians obligated to pay taxes? (Rom. 13:1ff)

(12:18-40) What do you learn about the resurrection in verses 18-27? Why is loving God and one's neighbor the most important commandment? What is the "kingdom of God" this man was not "far from"? (v. 34) Do you think there will be degrees of punishment in hell? (v. 40, Luke 12:47f)

(12:41-44) What lesson do we learn from the widow's giving? What do we learn from "Jesus... watched..."? Read and discuss Hebrews 4:13 and Matthew 6:3-4.

Challenge: Reflecting on what Jesus said about the fig tree incident, what level of faith was he demanding of his disciples then? What about us? Discuss Mark 11:24. What if we have faith, but we ask God for something that is selfish or sinful? Discuss James 4:2-3. What have you been praying for lately? How is your attitude?

Family Project: Take time to work on your family project. (Refer to list.)

The Gospel According to Mark

Week # 10

OBJECTIVE: To read about and discuss the life of Jesus, applying his teachings to our lives.

Feasting on the Word:

Mark, Chapter 13 (As you read, notice the warnings!)

Family Discussion:

(13:1-13) Why do you think God had the Temple destroyed? (vs. 1f, 2 Chronicles 36:17-21; Jeremiah 26:18)

(13:5) Why do you think God allows deceivers to exist? (I Corinthians 11:19) Why are “many deceived” about Christ today? What is the best defense against being deceived? (Acts 17:11; II Timothy 2:15, Psalm 109:105)

(13:8) Do you think that famines, earthquakes, and physical phenomenon on earth will warn Christians of the coming end? What will, according to the apostle Paul, in 1 Thessalonians 5:1f?

(13:10) Did Jesus say the gospel must be preached to all nations before the end of time? Has that already happened? (Colossians 1:23)

(13:11) How does the Holy Spirit speak to us today? (2 Peter 1:20f, 2 Timothy 3:16f)

(13:13) What is implied by the statement “he who stands firm to the end shall be saved”?

(13:14-37) Have we been warned of deceivers? (vs. 22f; II Peter 2:2, I John 4:1) According to verse 32, who is the ONLY one who knows when the end of the world will be? Discuss the parable Jesus used to illustrate that no one knows when the Lord will come again. Are you watching for Jesus’ second coming? Should you? Should you even long for it? (I Peter 3:12)

Challenge: If there are small children in your family, let them act out the parable of verses 32-37. If not, discuss some ways that you can keep it fresh in your mind that the Lord could come again at any moment. What does it mean to “be ready”?

Family Project: Take time to work on your family project. (Refer to list.)

The Gospel According to Mark

Week # 11

OBJECTIVE: To read about and discuss the life of Jesus, applying His teachings to our lives.

Feasting on the Word:

Mark, Chapter 14 (As you read, notice how events are starting to lead to the cross.)

Family Discussion:

(14:1-2) What feast was taking place? What did the chief priests and the scribes want to do to Jesus? What keeps them from doing so? Why would these men hate Jesus so much?

(14:3-9) While at Simon the leper's house, what did Mary of Bethany anoint Christ with? Was it expensive? How did some feel about using such expensive oil? How did Jesus respond to them? What lesson do we learn from "she did what she could"? Can Jesus say that about you?

(14:10-11) Who did Judas go and speak with? What did he say he would do? How did this make the chief priests feel when they heard this?

(14:12-16) What feast were they preparing for? Jesus tells them to go in to town and they would find what? When the disciples went into town did they find it as He said? Think back as you have studied the book of Mark. How many times has Jesus told them how things would be and they were exactly as He said?

(14:17-21) Again, Jesus predicts what is going to happen. What did some of the disciples begin to ask when Christ said that one of the twelve would betray him?

(14:22-25) What do the emblems of the Lord's Supper represent? Does it still represent the same things today? How important is the Lord's Supper? How should we conduct ourselves during the Lord's Supper?

(14:26-31) How confident was Peter that he would not "stumble"? Do we sometimes get overconfident? What usually happens we get overconfident?

(14:32-42) Who did Jesus take with him as he went to pray? How did Jesus describe his personal feelings? How many times did he pray? What did he pray? What did the disciples do while he prayed?

(14:43-52) Who did Judas lead to Christ? How did Judas identify Jesus? What did the disciples do? (vs. 50)

(14:53-65) Where did they take Jesus? Who followed them at a distance? Could the chief priests and the council find any testimony to put Jesus to death? (vs. 55) In verse 61, what did they ask Jesus? How did He answer? What happens then?

(14:66-72) What does Peter do three times? What was it that Peter said he would never do? (21-31) How did Peter feel after the rooster crowed?

Challenge: Reflecting on Peter and his overconfidence, what are some ways in which we can become over confident? List some different ways that we can deny Christ. How should we feel when we deny Christ? Are there times in your life that you should ask God to forgive you for being scared to follow His plan?

Family Project: Take time to work on your family project. (Refer to list.)

The Gospel According to Mark

Week # 12

OBJECTIVE: To read about and discuss the life of Jesus, applying his teachings to our lives.

Feasting on the Word:

Mark, Chapter 15 (As you read, notice the self-control Jesus displays.)

Family Discussion:

(15:1-5) What did Pilate ask Jesus? What did Jesus reply? When the chief priests accused Jesus of many crimes, Jesus said nothing. How did Pilate react to Jesus' silence? Discuss what might have happened to our salvation if Jesus had defended himself and Pilate had let Jesus go.

(15:6-15) Who was Barabbas? Who stirred up the crowd to ask for his release instead of releasing Jesus? Why did they do this? What did the crowd shout over and over again? Why did Pilate give in and release Barabbas? What did Pilate have his soldiers do to Jesus?

(15:16-20) How did the soldiers make fun of Jesus? What crown did the soldiers make for Jesus? Jesus had the power to strike these men dead for mocking him and spitting on him. Why do you think he allowed all of this to happen?

(15:21-32) Who was forced to carry Jesus' cross? What does Golgotha mean? Describe the scene of Jesus' crucifixion. Read the prophecy of Psalm 22:16-18 and compare it to this section of chapter 15. The chief priests said, "He saved others but he can't save himself." What did they mean?

(15:33-41) If you had been there that day, how would you have felt when the sky was dark from noon till 3:00 p.m.? Why did some think he was calling Elijah? Was he? What women were there watching as Jesus died?

(15:42-47) Why was it a bold thing for Joseph of Arimathea to ask Pilate for Jesus' body? What did Pilate do first and why? What did Pilate do next? What did Joseph do with Jesus' body? What was placed in front of the tomb?

Challenge: What do you learn from...

...the fact that the curtain in the Temple was torn in two when Jesus died?

What did that curtain represent during Old Testament times?

...the fact that Jesus chose not to save himself? If he had, where we would be, spiritually?

Family Project: Take time to work on your family project. (Refer to list.)

The Gospel According to Mark

Week # 13

OBJECTIVE: To read about and discuss the life of Jesus, applying his teachings to our lives.

Feasting on the Word:

Mark, Chapter 16 (As you read, notice the reactions to Jesus' resurrection!)

Family Discussion:

(16:1-3) No Jew was allowed to work or sell goods on the Sabbath day, but at sundown, it was allowed. What did the women buy? Why? Does this show that they expected him to be resurrected or to stay dead? On what day did they go to the tomb? What were they discussing on the way there?

(16:4-8) What unusual thing did they see when they arrived? Whom did they talk to there? What good news did he have for the women? What did he tell the women to do next? How did the women react?

(16:9-11) To whom did Jesus appear first? What had Jesus done for this woman during his ministry on earth? When she told the others that she had seen the risen Lord, what was their reaction? To find out more about this encounter, read John 20:10-18.

(16:12-13) Jesus also appeared to two men in a different form so that they didn't recognize him at first. When they told the others that they had seen Jesus, what was their reaction again? To find out more about this encounter, read Luke 24:13-35.

(16:14-16) Jesus appeared to the Eleven. Why are they called the Eleven now instead of the Twelve? Jesus rebuked them. Why? Jesus then gave them a command. What was it? Is baptism important? Why?

(16:17-20) After Jesus spoke to them, where did he go? What did the disciples begin doing after Jesus left them? How did the Lord confirm that his word, which the apostles preached, was the truth? (verses 17 & 18)

Challenge: What do you learn from...

...the fact that Jesus rebuked his disciples for their lack of faith? Will Jesus be pleased with your faith when he comes again?

...the fact that Jesus said to go into all the world and preach the gospel. How can you, personally, do that? List as many ways as you can.

Family Project: Take time to work on your family project. (Refer to list.)

Suggestions for Family Projects

- Memorize the books of the New Testament.
- Memorize the books of the Old Testament.
- Develop an outreach of service that you and your family can do.
 - Write cards to the missionaries.
 - Write cards to the shut-ins, widows or widowers.
 - Write notes of appreciation to your Bible class teachers.
 - Mow someone's yard.
 - Plant some flowers for someone.
 - Put together a care package for someone in need.
 - Spend a day working at the Barely Used Resale Shop in Tyler. (See Tony for more information.)
 - Visit the nursing home.
 - Sponsor an orphan in our outreach in China. (See Greg Taylor on how to reach Ron Brown, the missionary for China.)
- Memorize I Corinthians 13.
- Memorize the 12 Apostles.
- Memorize the 23rd Psalm.
- Memorize the 12 sons of Jacob.
- Memorize the verses that teach us the plan of salvation.

As you can see there are unlimited opportunities to develop your family. Take time to come up with some of your own ideas to put Christianity to work in your family! I know God will bless you!

Spending Time with God

A suggested plan for 15 minutes a day

Relax (1 minute)

- Take one minute to focus your mind on God. (Psalm 46:10)

Read (4 minutes)

- Take four minutes to read from the Word of God. Focus on listening to God as He speaks to YOU. Have an open mind and an open heart.

Reflect (4 minutes)

- Think through what you just read. How does this passage apply to your life? How does this apply to your relationship with God, your family, the church, and the world in which you live?

Record (2 minutes)

- Write down important questions, observations and personal applications from your reading. Decide on at least one action step to take based on what you learned today.

Request (4 minutes)

- Pray to God with thanksgiving and express your needs to Him and your dependence on Him.

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