

The Gospel of Mark



... the **good news** about **Jesus!**

The book of Mark is the shortest gospel and was once overshadowed by the more expansive, orderly gospels of Matthew, Luke and John. We might ask, 'What can we learn from this gospel that we don't already know from the other gospels?'

But it is clear from the opening verse 'The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God', that Mark has an important message he is eager to share with us. Like the other gospel writers, he provides a unique portrait of Jesus, with a special insight into who Jesus was and what he came to accomplish.

The first half of the book (chapters 1-8) sets out to show us who Jesus is – 'the Messiah, the Son of God' (1:1) and from 8:31, the focus moves to the cross – Jesus' mission.

Commentators think Mark was most likely to be John Mark, a minor character mentioned in Acts who worked alongside Paul, Barnabus and Peter, and that his gospel account reflects Peter's version of events.

Mark doesn't beat about the bush – he gets straight to the point and his focus is Jesus from beginning to end. He packs the whole ministry of Jesus into 16 chapters and it can easily be read in one sitting. But let's take time to read the suggested sections slowly, inviting Jesus to reveal new aspects of his identity, character and mission to us. You might want to imagine yourself in the story or read the passage a number of times to see what words or phrases jump out.

And as you read about this radical, wholehearted, compassionate life, you might want to ask God to reveal to you what he wants to say to you about your everyday life. What does living with this good-news-bearing-Jesus look like in your relationships, actions, thoughts and heart?

One	Mark 1:1-20	'The kingdom of God has come near'
Two	Mark 1:20-39	'The people were amazed'
Three	Mark 1:40 – 2:12	Jesus forgives and heals
Four	Mark 2:13-3:6	Jesus breaks the mould
Five	Mark 3:7-35	The crowds follow Jesus
Six	Mark 4:1-20	The parable of the sower
Seven	Mark 4:21-34	More parables
Eight	Mark 4:35-5:20	More miracles
Nine	Mark 5:21-43	Even more miracles
Ten	Mark 6:1-29	Highs and lows
Eleven	Mark 6:30-44	Jesus feeds (at least!) five thousand
Twelve	Mark 6:45-56	Jesus walks on water
Thirteen	Mark 7:1-23	What comes from the heart
Fourteen	Mark 7:24-36	Faith and healing
Fifteen	Mark 8:1-21	Loaves and yeast
Sixteen	Mark 8:22-9:1	'Who do you say I am?'
Seventeen	Mark 9:2-13	The transfiguration
Eighteen	Mark 9:14-29	A difficult case
Nineteen	Mark 9:30-50	Jesus loves children
Twenty	Mark 10:1-31	Jesus teaches
Twenty-one	Mark 10:32-52	On their way to Jerusalem
Twenty-two	Mark 11:1-11	Hosanna!
Twenty-three	Mark 11:12-33	Jesus in the temple courts
Twenty-four	Mark 12:1-12	The parable of the tenants
Twenty-five	Mark 12:13-34	Jesus is questioned
Twenty-six	Mark 12:35-44	Jesus teaches
Twenty-seven	Mark 13:1-36	Signs of the end times
Twenty-eight	Mark 14:1-11	Jesus anointed
Twenty-nine	Mark 14:12-31	The last supper
Thirty	Mark 14:32-65	Jesus is arrested
Thirty-one	Mark 14:66-72	Peter disowns Jesus
Thirty-two	Mark 15:1-20	Jesus before Pilate
Thirty-three	Mark 15:21-47	Jesus dies
Thirty-four	Mark 16:1-8	He has risen!
Thirty-five	Mark 16:9-20	Some final words in italics (<i>possibly not Mark's</i>)