

# JOURNEY together



**Current Series:**

**“The Gospel According to Mark”**

**Disciples  
growing together  
in small groups**

# The Gospel According to Mark

1 Mark 1-2

2 Mark 3-4

3 Mark 5-6

4 Mark 7-8

5 Mark 9-10

6 Mark 11-12

7 Mark 13-14

**8 Mark 15-16**

# Step 1: GET REAL

**What** are you thankful for from the past week?

**What** struggles did you face this past week?

**What** can you share from your personal Bible reading?

**What** are your thoughts from Mark 15-16?

# Step 2: GET FED, page 1

## Text: Mark 15-16

### 15:1-15

- Contextually, what do you think the Sanhedrin consulted about / decided to do, before handing Jesus over to Pilate? Compare Mark 14:64 with Luke 23:1-2.
- Why do you think Pilate was amazed, when Jesus did not respond to the many charges the Sanhedrin leveled against him?
- Pilate fully realized that the high priests handed Jesus over to him out of “envy,” as opposed to any real loyalty to Rome. What were they envious of?
- Pilate knew that Jesus was innocent (Luke 23:4, 14). Why, then, didn’t he just release Jesus? Consider John 19:12.
- What led the crowd to choose Barabbas, a robber and murderer (John 18:40; Acts 3:14), for release over Jesus? Did letting Barabbas out of prison make any sense to you?
- What do you think led the crowd into crying out for Jesus to be crucified? See Matt. 27:20.
- Why would the *manner* in which Jesus was to be executed have made any difference to the chief priests? Why was crucifixion such an undesirable way to die? Consider Deut. 21:22-23.
- Who would you say was ultimately responsible for Jesus’ death? The Romans? The Jews? The disciples? The crowd? Me? You?

# Step 2: GET FED, page 2

## Text: Mark 15-16

### 15:16-20

- The soldiers held a mock coronation before Jesus as “King of the Jews.” They also hit his head and spit on him. WHY would they do such horrific things?
- If we *refuse* to get sin out of our life, is that essentially any different from what the soldiers did?

### 15:21-32

- Simon of Cyrene was pressed into service / forced to carry Jesus’ cross. This was likely because Jesus, from lack of sleep and having been beaten / flogged / scourged, was too weak to do so. Are you willing to voluntarily carry your cross? See Luke 9:23-26.
- What does it mean to take up your cross daily and follow Jesus?
- What significance do you see in the soldiers casting lots for Jesus’ clothing? See John 19:23-24. Does the thought of Jesus hanging naked on the cross bother you? What does Heb. 12:2 say that Jesus scorned / despised concerning the cross?
- Jesus was charged with being King of the Jews, and thereby guilty of treason against Caesar (John 19:12). Was Jesus guilty as charged? See John 18:36-37.
- Do you see any significance in Jesus being crucified along with 2 robbers / rebels / insurrectionists? See Luke 23:32; Is. 53:12.

# Step 2: GET FED, page 3

## Text: Mark 15-16

### 15:21-32 (*continued*)

- The chief priests and scribes said that if they could see Jesus come down from the cross, that they would believe. Do you think that this was true? Why / Why not? Consider Luke 16:31; Matt. 28:11-15; Acts 4:16-17.
- Could Jesus have come down from the cross, if he had chosen to? See John 10:17-18; Matt. 26:53-54.
- Both of the men who were being crucified along with Jesus reviled him; they both heaped insults on him. How then, can you explain Luke 23:39-43? Which of the thieves do you most relate to? Why?

### 15:33-41

- Jesus quotes from Ps. 22, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”; it’s a Messianic psalm prophesying that the Christ would be abandoned (because of the world’s sin, Is. 53:4-12). Do you think Jesus was actually asking his Father, “WHY?” as if he did not know the answer? See Mark 8:31; 9:31; 10:33-34.
- What significance do you see in the curtain of the temple (separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place) being torn in two? Consider Heb. 10:19-20.
- What did the centurion announce with regards to Jesus’ identity? See also Luke 23:47.
- What were the women doing, as Jesus was being crucified? See also Luke 23:27. What had they done in the past?

# Step 2: GET FED, page 4

## Text: Mark 15-16

### 15:42-47

- Joseph of Arimathea, along with Nicodemus (John 3:1), was a member of \_\_\_\_\_? What do we additionally learn about Joseph from Luke 23:50-51 and John 19:38-40?
- Why was Pilate surprised to hear that Jesus was already dead?
- What significance do you see in Joseph burying Jesus? See also Matt. 27:60; Is. 53:9.

### 16:1-8

- These same women were watching, as Jesus was being crucified (15:40). They then bought spices to anoint Jesus' body. However, they had made no arrangements for moving the heavy stone from the tomb's entrance. What explanations can you suggest for their failure to take care of this important detail?
- Do you think that the stone was rolled away so that Jesus could get out or that others might get in?
- Do you think that the young man dressed in a white robe was an angel? See Matt. 28:2.
- According to Rom. 1:4, what did Jesus' resurrection from the dead powerfully declare?
- What does being the Son of God mean? See John 5:18.
- Why do you think Peter is especially mentioned in v. 7? Consider Luke 22:60-62.
- When did Jesus tell his disciples that he would meet them in Galilee? Hint: See Mark 14:27-28. Did you miss this detail when you recently read chapter 14?
- Why do you think the women were so afraid? Would you have been afraid?

# Step 2: GET FED, page 5

## Text: Mark 15-16

### 16:9-20

- *As noted in most modern translations, **Mark 16:9-20 does not exist in the earliest and most reliable Greek manuscripts.** Consequently, questions and comments from these verses have not been included in this study.*
- ***How should we respond to this section of text?** Based upon the complex and tedious science of textual criticism, wherein Greek manuscripts of the New Testament are meticulously analyzed and compared, it seems best to conclude that this section was **not part of Mark's original Holy Spirit inspired writing.** Instead, these 12 verses seem (for whatever reason) to have been added at a later date. Academic honesty, therefore, demands that we recognize this section as dubious. Even though some may happen to like certain parts of this passage (e.g., Mark 16:15-16), the fact that someone likes it does not make it Holy Spirit inspired Scripture.*



# Step 3: GET ACTIVE

- *As we continue sheltering in place, there is still much we can do to spread the good news of God's kingdom. Commit to praying at least daily for God's blessings, as we go through this time of uncertainty. Also, reach out to members of the body with encouraging words via text, phone, Zoom, Webex, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, USPS, etc.*