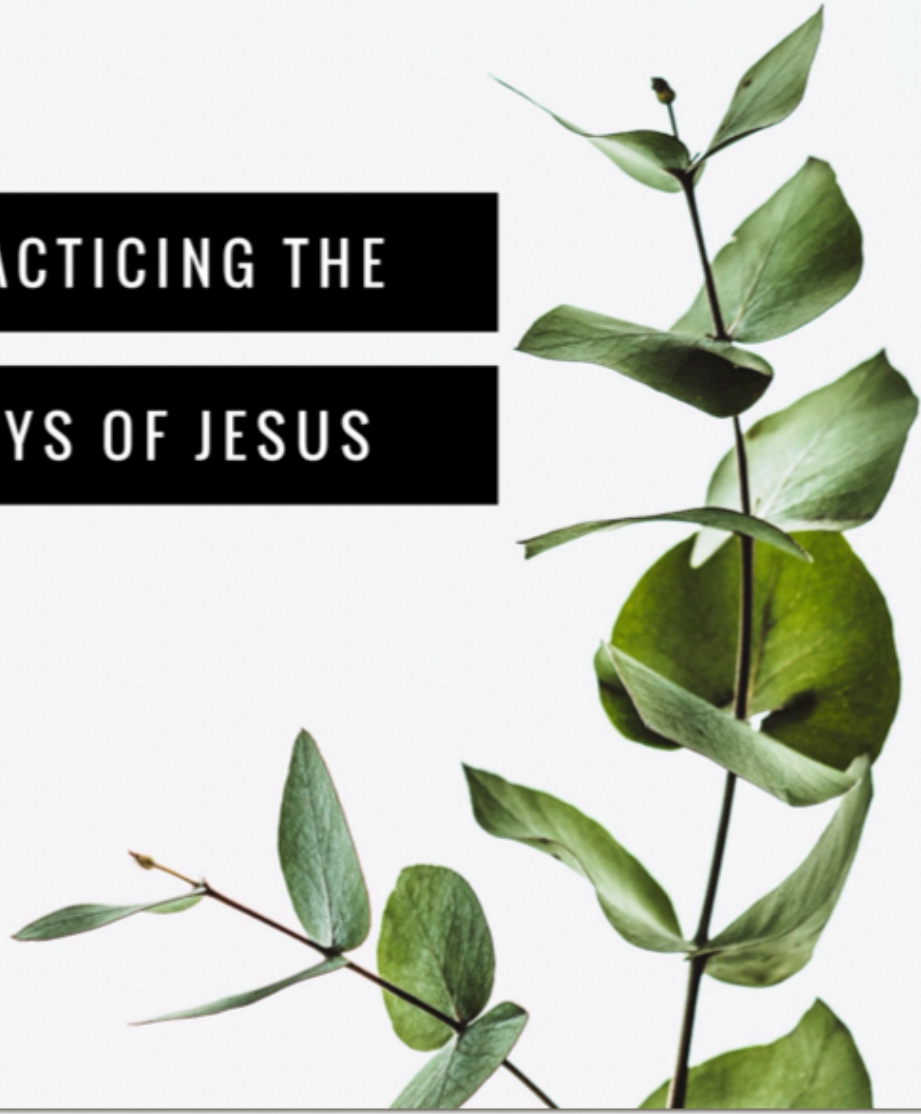


PRACTICING THE

WAYS OF JESUS



A study guide for
Studies in the Gospel of Mark

Week 1
(September 17th-23rd)
Mark 1:1-13
Jesus was Baptized

Day 1 - The Beginning of the Gospel

Read: Mark 1:1-4; Isaiah 40:1-5 and Malachi 3:1

1. How is Isaiah 40:3 and Malachi 3:1 “the beginning” of the gospel message?
2. What does this say about John the Baptist?
3. Why is it important to have strong historical evidence that the coming of Jesus was a part of God’s plan for centuries before Jesus arrived?

Day 2 - The Ministry of John the Baptist

Read: Mark 1:4,5 and Romans 6:1-11

1. What does repentance mean?
2. How does the meaning of baptism align with John's message?
3. How is John's baptism different from Christian baptism?

Day 3 - The Significance of John the Baptist

Read: Mark 1:6-8; 2 Kings 1:1-8 and Matthew 11:11,14

1. What do you learn about the clothing of the John the Baptist?

2. What do you learn about the clothing of Elijah?

3. What does Jesus say about John the Baptist?

Day 4 - The Baptism of Jesus

Read: Matthew 3:1-17

1. What was John's reaction to Jesus coming for baptism?
2. Why does Jesus say he was baptized?
3. How is Jesus' baptism different from Christian baptism? How is it similar?
- 4.

Day 5 - The Baptism of Jesus (continued)

Read: Luke 3:1-23

1. What light does verses 21-23 shed on the reason for the baptism of Jesus?
2. How is the meaning of baptism applied to Jesus?
3. What does this indicate to you about the reason a follower of Jesus is baptized?

Day 2

Read Mark 1:14-20

1. What is the significance of Jesus' first recorded words in Mark's gospel: "The time has come. The kingdom of God has come near. Repent & believe the good news!"? What does this reveal about Jesus' mission?

2. There are four parts to Jesus' proclamation in verse 15. Carefully think through and explain each part:

The time has come -

The kingdom of God has come near -

Repent -

Believe in the gospel -

Day 3

Read Mark 1:14-20 and John 1:35-42

1. We know from other Gospels that Jesus had interactions with some of his disciples before he called them (cf. John 1:35-42). Why do you think Mark records this for us the way he does in verses 16-20?
2. Why do you think Jesus chose people like Simon, Andrew, James and John - fishermen - to be his first disciples?
3. What is significant about their response when Jesus' called them?

Day 4

Read Mark 1:14-20

1. Consider the idea of leaving everything behind to follow Jesus. What sacrifices might be required to follow Jesus?

2. What are some things in your life that you might still need to give up to more fully respond to Jesus' call upon your life?

Day 5

Read Mark 1:14-20

1. How does Jesus exhibit his powerful and loving authority in this passage?

2. How does this passage relate to the broader theme of discipleship in the Gospels and the Christian faith?

3. In two sentences, how would you explain the gospel to a non-Christian friend?

Week 3
(October 1st-7th)
Jesus Ate with Sinners
Mark 2:13-17

Day 1

1. Continuing from last week, spend time this week reflecting on Jesus and the hope of the gospel. As you spend time in prayer, give thanks to the Lord for his goodness and his love.

Day 2

Read Mark 2:13-17

1. Who is Levi (also known as Matthew), and what was his occupation before becoming a disciple of Jesus?
2. What do you know about tax collectors from the Bible and your understanding of first-century society?
3. Why do you think Jesus called Levi to follow Him? What might this tell us about Jesus' mission?

Day 3

Read Mark 2:13-17

1. Why do you think the scribes of the Pharisees ask the question they do in verse 16? Why are they critical of Jesus?
2. What do you think Jesus' disciples thought when He went to Levi's house?
3. What do you think bystanders and other strangers thought of Jesus at this point?

Day 4

Read Mark 2:13-17

1. In verse 17, Jesus says, "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." What is the significance of this statement, and how does it apply to our lives today?
2. Why do you think people of ill repute were so attracted to Jesus?
3. How does this passage challenge our attitudes towards those who may be considered "sinners" by our society? How can we practice the way of Jesus in reaching out to them?

Day 5

Read Mark 2:13-17

1. In what ways do you identify with Levi, the outcast tax collector?
What do you appreciate about God's grace?

2. In what ways can we personally apply the lessons from this passage in our daily lives and relationships with others?

Week 4
(October 8th-14th)
Jesus Prayed (A Lot!)
Mark 1:35-39

Day 1

Read Mark 1:35-39

1. Considering this passage and what you may already know about Jesus, what can be observed about Jesus' spiritual life?

2. What happens in verses 35-39? What does it reveal about both the disciples and Jesus at this point?

Day 2

Read Mark 1:35-39

1. Why do you think Jesus chose to wake up early in the morning to pray?
2. What is significant about Jesus going to a desolate place?
3. How often do you prioritize taking time apart to spend with God?

Day 4

Read Mark 1:35-39

1. In verse 39, we are told that Jesus went throughout Galilee, preaching in the synagogues. Why is it important to think of Jesus as a preacher and not just a miracle worker?

2. Why might it be important that the Bible distinguishes between those who were sick and those who were demon possessed?

Week 5
(October 15th-21st)
Jesus Cared for Broken People
Mark 1:21-28

Day 1 - What is Sabbath?

Read: Mark 1:21; Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 20:8-11

1. What do you learn about Sabbath?
2. Holy means “set apart” or “separated” from the rest. How was the 7th day of the week (Saturday) to be different for God’s people?
3. What does this mean for you?

Day 2 - Jesus teaching

Read: Mark 1:22-27; Luke 4:31-37

1. How did the people respond to Jesus' teaching in Mark 1:22, 27 and why?
2. How is their impression effected by the events of Mark 1:23-27?
3. Do you think seeing a miracle would change your appreciation of the authority of Jesus?

Day 3 - Evil Spirits

Read: Mark 1:23-26; Ephesians 6:10-18

1. What indications do you see that the event in Mark 1 is not simply a “psychological event”?
2. List the armour of God:
3. How can you put on this armour daily?

Day 4 - Jesus Heals Simon's Mother-in-Law

Read: Mark 1:29-31

1. What day of the week was this?
2. What lesson is there for us in verse 30?
3. What lesson is there for us in 31?

Day 5 - The Evening of Healing

Read: Mark 1:32,33

1. What is the significance of the people coming after sunset?
2. Try to imagine the scene outside Simon's home? What kind of people were there?
3. Why was it important that the demons not speak (see Mark 1:40-45)?

Day 2 - New and Old

Read: Mark 2:21,22

1. What is the analogy of a new patch on an old garment saying?
2. What is the analogy with new wine in old wine skins saying?
3. What is the reason Jesus gives for not fasting in verses 21,22?

Day 3 - The Challenge Concerning Sabbath Practices

Read: Mark 2:23-27; Exodus 20:8-11; 1 Samuel 1:1-6

1. What did the disciples do and was it a violation of Exodus 20:8-11?
2. How is Jesus' reference to David an answer to the Pharisees?
3. How does this answer impact your understanding of Sabbath rest?

Day 4 - The Sabbath Made for Man

Read: Mark 2:27; Mark 3:1-6

1. What would it mean if “man was made for the Sabbath” ?

2. What does Jesus mean saying, “the Sabbath was made for man”?

3. How does this impact your practice of Sabbath keeping?

Day 5 - Beware the Yeast of the Pharisees

Read: Matthew 15:5-12

1. What did the Pharisees teach in Mark 2:18-27 that was such a problem?
2. How can this kind of teaching infiltrate our thinking?
3. Is there any “yeast of the Pharisees” that you need to remove?