

- Underdog Intro

- What is an underdog?
- This is not your typical underdog story
 - NEW TESTAMENT underdog
 - New Testament vs. Old Testament
 - Not described as necessarily frail or weak
 - Started as a top dog
- Tops dogs in the New Testament
 - Have you heard of Paul?
 - HUGE missionary - big powerhouse and respected among many
 - Started off killing Christians - mayyyybe an underdog?!
 - Brought the church and Jesus all over the kingdom
 - Many people have heard of or know of Paul
 - Have you heard of Barnabas?
 - Companion to Paul, almost inseparable in the early days
 - Hugely respected - kind of like a disciple of Paul, heir to the throne kind of dude
 - Still pretty well known, but definitely not as well known as Paul

- John Mark

- Unassuming follower of Barnabas and Paul
- Cousin of Barnabas
- Hardly anything in the Bible about him, but we're going to see what we can learn

- Acts 12:12

- Introduce Acts
 - After the Gospels, talks about what happened after Jesus died on the Cross
 - Adventures of the missionaries
- First time his name appears, but it's talking about his Mom and their home (barely mentions him)
 - John also called Mark
- Peter had just been broken out of prison (by GOD!) and was looking for a place to hang out for a bit before fleeing the city
- John Mark came from a somewhat wealthy Christian family
 - Mom was hosting a ton of influential Christians
 - A servant answered the door

- Acts 12:25-13:5

- Paul and Barnabas just completed a job in Jerusalem and were about to set off on their first missionary journey with John Mark as their assistant

- Acts 13:13

- Not specified why, but John Mark ABANDONS them in the middle of their missionary journey
- Paul DID NOT like it..

- Acts 15:36-40

- Maybe had doubts in his faith? Maybe couldn't take the pressure or didn't realize what he was getting himself into?

- Ups and downs in our faith journey - maybe a very low moment in John Mark's

- Whatever it was, it fully cements himself as an underdog of the New Testament

- Do you feel yourself slipping away from God?

- Can you relate to John Mark?
- 2/3 of those that go to church in Middle/High School don't continue after graduating
- If you feel yourself slipping away from God, confess it

- 1 John 1:9

- Talk to God about it, then do something about it

- Acts 3:19

- True repentance is about:

1. Recognizing your sin

2. Turning away from that sin

3. Experiencing God's forgiveness and redemption

- John Mark's redemption

- 2 Timothy 4:11

- Paul writes in this letter to Timothy that John Mark has redeemed himself in some way and that he is useful for ministry

- Goes on to write one of the Gospels - Mark
- John Mark redeems himself and becomes a true Champion of God