

# THE WAY

PART 1

GROUP GUIDE  
**1st Quarter, 2023**



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## ABOUT

*I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

**Jesus, John 14:6**

The earliest Jesus-followers latched on to this claim and began to call this new movement 'the Way'. They believed that Jesus was the way – to hope; to forgiveness; to a relationship with God; to a new life. But who was this man that made such a bold claim? He would either have to have been insane, an egotistical liar, or telling an existence-changing truth.

In this series, we will be exploring the Gospel as written by Mark. Each week, we will ask the question, 'Who is this man?' in the hopes of developing a clearer understanding of the one who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

In the group guide, we will be looking at stories from both Mark and the other Gospel accounts that will take us into a deeper understanding of the content that we covered the previous Sunday.

## Ground Rules

Here are some guidelines for your gatherings.

### Confidentiality

If the group is going to move towards authenticity, then what's shared in the group should stay in the group (note: for situations that you are not qualified to speak into, use a referral to Cornerstone Counseling).

### Don't Rescue and Don't Fix

Let people openly share without trying to solve their problems. Only give advice if they request it.

### No Crosstalk

People feel valued when we listen. The opposite is true as well: people will feel devalued if they are constantly interrupted. If someone has the floor, no other conversations should be happening.

### Give Everyone a Chance to Share

Everyone has something to contribute and everyone should feel heard. Don't be too quick to provide all of the answers. Give others space to share.

### Use Humor Responsibly

Our conversation should build up rather than tear down. Humor can be a great thing provided it is not used as the expense of others.

### Use 'I' Statements

Groups are an opportunity for self-reflection. We should be quick to reflect on how what we are studying should shape us personally, and slow to tell others how it should shape them.

### Fight for the Relationship

Real relationships only thrive when we commit to 'fight' for the relationship. We will not hide from conflict or disagreement, but will instead discuss them in an open and healthy way.

## Leader Guidelines

Thank you for taking the time to invest in others by leading a group. As a leader, your task is to create an environment where real relationships can thrive. Here are some things to keep in mind as you do that:

### Multiply.

The mission of the church is to multiply disciples. Groups are one of the environments where this occurs. You are involved in the discipleship of each person in your group. We ask that each of our group leaders has someone who they are equipping to be a disciple-maker.

### Create a safe environment.

When we say 'safe', we mean an environment where participants can freely share without feeling belittled or that what they share will get spread beyond the group. When we say 'safe', we also mean a group where participants can encounter Jesus and His plan for their life.

### Recognize that your group is unique.

This booklet is designed to be a general guide, but every group is unique. So when you're planning, take into account what does and doesn't work for your group and shape the session to their personalities and needs.

### Review the ground rules.

Periodically, remind your group about the ground rules for the group.

### Ask lots of questions.

Engaging leaders draw participants into the discussion. Ask many questions and lead your group into self-discovery. Follow the 70/30 rule: your goal should be to talk for less than 30% of the time. If you're going over that, then people in your group are going to feel limited in their ability to engage!

### Get feedback.

Improve your group by asking others for feedback.

### Seek wise council.

There are some questions you won't be able to answer and some situations you aren't trained to handle. That's OK! Know who your wise council is (whether a coach, minister, or another disciple-maker) and turn to them in your time of need.

For more on this topic, check out *Servant-Leadership Training* and the *CCW Group Leader Training 2.0* resource on RightNow Media.

## Before the Session

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**Prepare for the Session:** As a group leader, it's essential to be prepared. Before the group session:

1. **Pray.** God is the one doing the transformation.
2. **Take time to read over the Bible passage.** Write down questions and observations.
3. **Preview the session guide.** Highlight important questions to ask and add your own.
4. **Tap into study resources.** Check outside sources to expand your understanding of the topic. Some recommended resources include: The BibleProject, RightNow Media, and the CCW Resource Center.

## During the Session

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**Share:** Take time to review the content from last week. Use this time to check on:

- **Prayer Requests:** Follow up on any prayer requests that were made the previous session.
- **Application and Challenges:** Take time to provide accountability for any goals that the group set the previous week ('This week, I would like to...').

**Transition:** Introduce the topic (we give you an example each session).

**Read It:** Read through the Scripture passage. If it's a larger section of scripture, break it into smaller sections and ask questions throughout.

**Talk About It:** Make sure the passage is understood by:

1. *Retelling* the story in your own words.
2. *Asking review questions.*
3. *Seeking additional questions.* Check to see if your group has additional questions about the passage.

**Apply It:** The apply it section may have both (a) application questions and (b) challenges. Challenges are real-life ways to put Biblical Truth into effect this week.

**Pray Together:** Find creative ways to engage your group in prayer.

## After the Session

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**Follow Up:** Be present with group members throughout the week by: (1) Reminding them of their application/challenge commitments, (2) Checking in on needs and prayer requests and (3) Finding opportunities to do life together.

**Input Group Attendance:** Fill out your Group attendance in the ChurchTeams email that you receive.

# MAN ON MISSION

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## Icebreaker

Spend some time opening conversation with this question:

- If you could sum up who you are in just three words, what would they be?
- What are three words that you would use to describe Jesus?

## Transition

Transition your group into the study by saying something like:

*In this series, we will be looking at the life of Jesus through the Gospel of Mark. The group guide will follow along by adding in supplemental stories from the other Gospel accounts. The question that we will continue to ask throughout is: Who is this man?*

## Read It

Scripture reference: **Matthew 4:1 - 22**

## Talk About It

- (1 - 2) Why was Jesus led into the wilderness?
- (3 - 4) What was the 'tempters' first challenge to Jesus? How did Jesus respond? Why might Jesus have been tempted to turn stones to bread?
- (5 - 7) What was the 'tempters' second challenge? How did Jesus respond? How might jumping off the high place change the trajectory of His ministry?
- (8 - 11) What was the 'tempters' third challenge? How did Jesus respond? Why might Jesus be tempted to bow to Satan?

- Why was the tempter giving Jesus all of these alternatives to following the path that God had set for Him?
- (12 - 16) What prophecy did Jesus fulfill by living in Capernaum?
- (17) What was Jesus' earliest message? What does this message mean?
- (18 - 22) What challenge did Jesus give to the fishermen that he met? What does it mean to 'follow' Jesus?
- Looking at these three short stories, how would you describe Jesus' mission?

*Weekly Questions:*

- According to what we read in this session, who is Jesus?
- How should this truth about Jesus shape how you live?

## Pray Together

# MAN OF AUTHORITY

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## Icebreaker

Spend some time opening conversation with this question:

- What positions of authority have you had in your life? How did you use that authority?

## Transition

Transition your group into the study by saying something like:

*Over the course of our lives, we will encounter a variety of different authorities. Those authorities will come in many different shades: good, bad, and indifferent. But Jesus was different: He always used the authority He had for the best.*

## Read It

Scripture reference: **Mark 2:1 - 12**

## Talk About It

- (1 - 4) What problem did the friends of the paralytic man encounter? How did they overcome their problem?
- (5) How did Jesus respond to the this sudden interruption? What do you think it means for Jesus to forgive this mans sins?
- (6 - 7) What issue did the Jewish teachers have with Jesus' words?
- (8 - 12) How did Jesus reinforce that He has the authority to forgive sins? Why might this be a convincing point?
- (10) What title does Jesus use of Himself? What might this mean?

- (11 - 12) What thoughts and feelings do you think that the paralyzed man have running through his head when Jesus told him to 'get up and walk'?
- How has Jesus shown His authority in this story?

*Weekly Questions:*

- According to what we read in this session, who is Jesus?
- How should this truth about Jesus shape how you live?

## Pray Together

# MAN OF CLARITY

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## Icebreaker

Spend some time opening conversation with this question:

- When have you doubted your purpose, your identity, or a long-held belief that you had?

## Transition

Transition your group into the study by saying something like:

*Jesus had a clear understanding of His purpose and identity. He also had a clear understanding of what an encounter with His message could do to someones life. In this session, we will check out a story where He explains the impact of God's Word on our lives.*

## Read It

Scripture reference: **Mark 4:1 - 20**

## Talk About It

- (1) What prompted Jesus to teach from a boat?
- (2) What is a 'parable'? Why might Jesus have chosen to teach this way?
- (3 - 8) In Jesus' story, the farmer spreads seed on four different soils. What were the four soils and what happened to the seeds on each?
- (10 - 12) Why do the Apostles ask Jesus about the parable? What reason does Jesus give for teaching in parables?
- (14) What does the 'seed' represent?
- (15) What does the seed on the path

represent? How have you seen this to be true?

- (16) What does the seed on the 'rocky place' represent? How have you seen this to be true?
- (18 - 19) What does the seed sown among the 'thorns' represent? How have you seen this to be true?
- (20) What does the seed on the 'good soil' represent?
- How might you explain the idea in this parable to someone today?

*Weekly Questions:*

- According to what we studied in this session, who is Jesus?
- How should this truth about Jesus shape how you live?

## Pray Together

## Session Four

# MAN OF POWER

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### Icebreaker

Spend some time opening conversation with this question:

- What is the powerful force of nature that you have encountered? How did it make you feel?

### Transition

Transition your group into the study by saying something like:

*Often people envision the love, goodness, and humility of Jesus, forgetting that He is God in the flesh. Jesus contained an incredible amount of power. In this session, we will see how that power is used against the spiritual forces of evil.*

### Read It

Scripture reference: **Mark 5:1 - 20**

### Talk About It

- (1 - 5) How was the man with the evil spirit described? What does it mean to have an 'evil spirit'?
- (6 - 8) How did the evil spirits respond to Jesus? What did they recognize in Jesus?
- (9) How did the demon describe himself?
- (10 - 13) What happened to the pigs when the evil spirits entered into them? Why do you think that Jesus allowed these spirits to go into the pigs rather than just destroy them?
- (14 - 17) How did the people of the region react to what had happened? Why do you think that they begged Jesus to leave

the area?

- How do you think you would have reacted to Jesus if you had been witness to this event?
- (18 - 20) What mission did Jesus give to the healed man?
- When have you wrestled with God's authority (or apparent lack of authority) in your own life?

*Weekly Questions:*

- According to what we studied in this session, who is Jesus?
- How should this truth about Jesus shape how you live?

### Pray Together

# THE BARRIER BREAKER

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## Icebreaker

Spend some time opening conversation with this question:

- What is the most ridiculous rule or law that you have had to follow?

## Transition

Transition your group into the study by saying something like:

*For centuries, the Jewish people had relied on their teachers to understand how to interact with God's Law. Over time, what was designed to draw them close to God instead became increasingly complex as the religious leaders missed the point. Jesus was about to change all of that. He was a man who loved to break down the barriers between God and His people.*

## Read It

Scripture reference: **Matthew 15:1 - 20**

## Talk About It

- (1 - 2) What ritual were Jesus' disciples breaking that had the religious leaders so concerned?
- (3 - 6) With what accusation does Jesus counter their attack? How had the religious leaders failed to follow the heart of the law?
- (7 - 9) Jesus quotes the Old Testament prophet Isaiah. What accusation does He apply to the religious leaders?
- (10 - 11) What does Jesus mean by 'clean' and 'unclean'? What does Jesus say is the cause for 'uncleanness'?

- (12 - 14) Why does Jesus tell His disciples to leave behind the teachings of the religious leaders?
- (15 - 20) When it comes to being 'unclean', what is the culprit that we need to be concerned about?
- How have you seen unneeded religious laws cause people to miss out on the heart of Jesus?
- Are there any rituals or laws that you've adopted in your own life that have distracted you from God's greater good?

*Weekly Questions:*

- According to what we studied in this session, who is Jesus?
- How should this truth about Jesus shape how you live?

## Pray Together

## Session Six

# MAN OF COMPASSION

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## Icebreaker

Spend some time opening conversation with this question:

- When have you most clearly felt the love and compassion of another human?

## Transition

Transition your group into the study by saying something like:

*As humans, our love is often messy and imperfect. We desire to show compassion, but it rarely avoids being marked by our selfish desires and prideful tendencies. Jesus, on the other hand, was perfectly compassionate. In the story that we're about to read, Jesus' friend, Lazarus, has just died...*

## Read It

Scripture reference: **John 11:17 - 44**

## Talk About It

- (17 - 22) How did Martha respond to the news that Jesus had arrived?
- (23 - 26) How does Jesus attempt to comfort Martha? What titles does Jesus take upon Himself?
- (27) What does Martha's statement tell us about who she believes Jesus to be?
- (28 - 32) How did Mary respond to Jesus when she goes to meet Him?
- (33 - 35) How do these verses describe how Jesus was feeling? Why would Jesus weep?
- (36 - 37) What questions do the other

mourners level at Jesus?

- (38 - 39) What did Jesus do when He came to the tomb of Lazarus? What objection does Martha raise?
- (41 - 42) What does Jesus pray for?
- (43 - 44) What happened to Lazarus after Jesus called for him?
- How do we see Jesus expressing love and compassion in this story?

*Weekly Questions:*

- According to what we studied in this session, who is Jesus?
- How should this truth about Jesus shape how you live?

## Pray Together

# MAN TRANSFORMED

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## Icebreaker

Spend some time opening conversation with this question:

- What is one of the biggest personal changes that you've experienced?

## Meditate On It

It's time to move towards reading God's Word. Transition your group into the study by saying something like:

*This session is going to be a little different than the previous, because we're going to practice some guided meditation together. This is how it works:*

- *We start with prayer; asking God to speak to us thru what we're about to read.*
- *We will minimize distractions by turning off phones and creating a quiet space (this may include dimming the lights).*
- *You will close your eyes as I slowly read over the following Scripture.*
- *We will have one minute of silence as we strive to listen to God. Try to hold on to a phrase or idea that sticks with you from what we've read.*
- *I will read over the Scripture a second time.*
- *We will have a second minute of silence.*
- *I will read over the Scripture a final time.*
- *We will go to God in prayer, thanking Him for what He has revealed to us.*

## Read It

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies

as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

### **Romans 12:1 - 2**

From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

### **2 Corinthians 5:17**

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.

### **2 Corinthians 3:17 - 18**

Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

### **Galatians 3:9 - 11**

## Apply It

- What were some specific words or phrases in these passages that resonated with you?
- What do you feel that God is saying to you through the Scripture that we meditated on?
- How will you live out this message from God this week?

# MAN OF HUMILITY

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## Icebreaker

Spend some time opening conversation with this question:

- What is the 'dirtiest job' you've ever had to complete?

## Transition

Transition your group into the study by saying something like:

*Each of us has had to swallow our pride and do some humiliating things in our life. Jesus, who was God in the flesh, did not exempt Himself from this: He became human, He interacted with the 'least', He washed His disciples feet, and He died on a cross. Jesus was a man of humility and challenges us to have that same humility, as we will see in this story.*

## Read It

Scripture reference: **Matthew 18:1 - 14**

## Talk About It

- (1 - 4) How does Jesus respond to the disciples question about 'Kingdom greatness'? What does it mean to be humble like a child?
- (5 - 6) What blessing does Jesus give to those who welcome a 'little child'? What warning does He give to those who would cause a 'little one' to stumble?
- (7 - 9) How does Jesus say one should react to sin? Why is His language so severe when talking about this response?
- (10) Why should one not look down on a 'little one'?

- (12 - 14) How does Jesus illustrate how God feels about the 'little ones'?
- What would it look like to become like a 'child' in our day and age?

*Weekly Questions:*

- According to what we studied in this session, who is Jesus?
- How should this truth about Jesus shape how you live?

## Pray Together

## Session Nine

# MAN WHO IS KING

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### Icebreaker

Spend some time opening conversation with this question:

- If you were royalty, what would be a rule that you would enact?

### Transition

Transition your group into the study by saying something like:

*Not all of us would make the greatest royalty. We have a tendency towards making rash decisions, appeasing our own desires, and entertaining our fantasies. As we continue to ask the question, 'who is this man', of Jesus, we will discover that He is the perfect King that the world needs.*

### Read It

Scripture reference: **Luke 19:28 - 48**

### Talk About It

- (28 - 34) What series of events led to Jesus riding on a colt?
- (35 - 36) How did the people show honor to Jesus as He rode along the road?
- (37 - 38) What were the words of praise that were shouted about Jesus?
- What are actions we take today to show that Jesus is King?
- (39 - 40) How did Jesus respond to the Pharisees rebuke?
- (41 - 44) Why does Jesus weep? Jesus foresees the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. What are some of the words that He uses to describe this calamity?

- (45 - 46) What did Jesus do when He found a market set up in the Temple courts?
- (47 - 47) What was the reaction of the Jewish leaders to this series of events?
- What qualities would make Jesus the perfect King?

*Weekly Questions:*

- According to what we studied in this session, who is Jesus?
- How should this truth about Jesus shape how you live?

### Pray Together

# MAN OF WISDOM

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## Icebreaker

Spend some time opening conversation with this question:

- What are some words of advice that you were given when you were young?

## Transition

Transition your group into the study by saying something like:

*We may have been given some great nuggets of wisdom along the way, but that probably didn't stop us from making some unwise choices. Jesus was a man in whom the wisdom of God was perfectly manifested. Let's check out how we might access that wisdom.*

## Read It

Scripture reference: **John 10:1 - 18**

## Talk About It

- (1 - 6) How does Jesus describe the relationship between shepherd and sheep? How do the sheep know who the shepherd is?
- (7 - 10) What does Jesus mean when He says that He is 'the Gate'? What does the Gate do for the sheep?
- (11 - 13) What does it mean for Jesus to be the 'Good Shepherd'? What's the difference between the Good Shepherd and the hired hand?
- (14 - 18) What does the Good Shepherd do for His sheep?
- (16) What does Jesus mean when He talks

about having other sheep from another pen?

- (17 - 18) What makes the Good Shepherds sacrifice unique?
- Why do you think that Jesus chose to teach these ideas using this illustration?
- How can we know if we're following the Good Shepherd rather than someone else?

*Weekly Questions:*

- According to what we studied in this session, who is Jesus?
- How should this truth about Jesus shape how you live?

## Pray Together

# MAN RETURNING

---

## Icebreaker

Spend some time opening conversation with this question:

- Where is a place that you'd never want to visit again?

## Transition

Transition your group into the study by saying something like:

*Who was Jesus? He was a man that was leaving this earth. But with that leaving came a promise: He would return again.*

## Read It

Scripture reference: **Matthew 25:31 - 46**

## Talk About It

- (31) What is the picture given of Jesus when He returns to this earth? How does this contrast from His last time on this earth?
- (32 - 33) What are the two groups that stand before Jesus as He makes His judgement?
- (34 - 36) What are the actions that characterized the lives of the 'righteous'?
- (37 - 39) Why were the righteous surprised by Jesus' words?
- (40) How does Jesus see the actions of the righteous being fulfilled?
- (41 - 43) What is the punishment for those who are on Jesus' left? What accusation does Jesus level at them?
- (44 - 46) How does Jesus see them failing

to act righteously?

- What does it mean to know that Jesus will soon return?

*Weekly Questions:*

- According to what we studied in this session, who is Jesus?
- How should this truth about Jesus shape how you live?

## Pray Together

# MAN ANOINTED

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## Icebreaker

Spend some time opening conversation with this question:

- When have you been selected for a special honor, reward, or recognition?

## Transition

Transition your group into the study by saying something like:

*Jesus was anointed for a special task and the time to fulfil that task had arrived. He gathered His disciples together to help them remember this moment.*

## Read It

Scripture reference: **Luke 22:7 - 30**

## Talk About It

- (7 - 8) What festival was being celebrated? What did Jesus ask Peter and John to do?
- (9 - 13) How were the disciples to discover the place in which they would celebrate the Passover?
- (14 - 18) What reason did Jesus give for why He was looking forward to this meal?
- (19 - 20) What did Jesus say the bread and juice signified? What does Jesus mean by the 'new covenant'?
- (21 - 23) What did Jesus say about the one who would 'betray Him'?
- (24 - 27) What were the disciples arguing about? What did Jesus say that true greatness looked like?
- (28 - 30) What promise does Jesus give to

His disciples?

- What do we do today to remind ourselves of Jesus' death on the cross?

*Weekly Questions:*

- According to what we studied in this session, who is Jesus?
- How should this truth about Jesus shape how you live?

## Pray Together

# MAN ABANDONED

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## Icebreaker

Spend some time opening conversation with this question:

- What is the most alone that you have felt in your life?

## Transition

Transition your group into the study by saying something like:

*In spite of the mercy, love, and respect that He extended to others, Jesus was abandoned in His moment of need. As He moved towards the cross, it was alone.*

## Read It

Scripture reference: **Matthew 26:36 - 56**

## Talk About It

- (36 - 38) What request did Jesus make of His friends? How was Jesus feeling?
- (39) What did Jesus ask of God? What is the 'cup' that He talks about here?
- (40 - 42) What did Jesus discover when He returned to His friends? What encouragement does He give them?
- (43 - 46) After returning a third time, Jesus awakes the disciples. What are the phrases He uses for what is going to happen next?
- (47 - 49) How did Judas signal to the guards who Jesus was?
- (50 - 54) How did the disciples react to Jesus' arrest? Why did Jesus warn them away from using the sword to defend Him?

- (55 - 56) Why does Jesus say that His arrest had to come about in this way?
- How do we see Jesus abandoned at His time of need?

*Weekly Questions:*

- According to what we studied in this session, who is Jesus?
- How should this truth about Jesus shape how you live?

## Pray Together

## Session Fourteen

# MAN CRUCIFIED

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## Transition

Transition your group into the study by saying something like:

*All of the things that Jesus had done had led to this point. The Good Shepherd had come to this earth to intentionally lay down His life for the lost and the broken. Now before Him stood the Cross.*

## Read It

Scripture reference: **John 19:1 - 42**

## Talk About It

- (1 - 3) How did the Roman guards abuse Jesus?
- (4 - 6) What was the Jewish peoples response when they had the option to free Jesus?
- (7 - 11) What accusation did the Jewish people bring against Jesus? How did Jesus reply to Pilates questions?
- (12 - 14) What accusations did the Jewish people use to bully Pilate into cooperation?
- (15 ) Who do the Jewish leaders claim as king instead of Jesus?
- (16 - 22) What did Pilate write on the notice that he fastened to the cross? How did the Jewish leaders feel about this?
- (23 - 25) What did the Roman guards do with Jesus' clothing? How did this fulfil Old Testament prophecies?
- (25 - 27) How did Jesus care for His mother even while he was on the cross?
- (28 - 30) What is the significance of the phrase, 'It is finished'?

- (31 - 37) For what reason were the legs of the robbers broken? Why were Jesus' legs not broken? How did this fulfil prophecy?
- (38 - 42) Who requested Jesus' body? How was Jesus' body prepared for internment?

*Weekly Questions:*

- According to what we studied in this session, who is Jesus?
- How should this truth about Jesus shape how you live?

## Pray Together

# MAN ALIVE

---

## Icebreaker

Spend some time opening conversation with this question:

- What are the words that you would use to describe Jesus after participating in this series?

## Meditate On It

It's time to move towards reading God's Word. Transition your group into the study by saying something like:

*This session is going to be a little different than the previous, because we're going to practice some guided meditation together. This is how it works:*

- *We start with prayer; asking God to speak to us thru what we're about to read.*
- *We will minimize distractions by turning off phones and creating a quiet space.*
- *You will close your eyes as I slowly read over the following Scripture.*
- *We will have one minute of silence as we strive to listen to God. Try to hold on to a phrase or idea that sticks with you from what we've read.*
- *I will read over the Scripture a second time.*
- *We will have a second minute of silence.*
- *I will read over the Scripture a final time.*
- *We will go to God in prayer, thanking Him for what He has revealed to us.*

## Read It

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me,

though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

**John 11:25 - 26**

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.

**Luke 24:1 - 6**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

**1 Peter 1:3**

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

**Romans 6:3 - 4**

## Apply It

- What were some specific words or phrases in these passages that resonated with you?
- What do you feel that God is saying to you through the Scripture that we meditated on?
- How will you live out this message from God this week?

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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- **RIGHTNOW MEDIA**

Get a free RightNow Media account to get access to thousands of study resources. Some potential resources include:

- **Get Out of Your Head (Jennie Allen):** In Get Out of Your Head, Jennie takes groups on a study in Philippians, inspiring and equipping us to transform our emotions, our outlook, and even our circumstances by taking control of our thoughts. When we submit our minds to Christ, the promises and goodness of God flood our lives in remarkable ways. It starts in your head. And from there, the possibilities are endless.
- **Facing Anxiety (Jonathan Pokluda):** Anxiety is inescapable in today's world. When stress overpowers us and fear infects our minds, it can feel like the peace the Bible talks about is impossible to find. And no amount of pretending, overworking, or isolating ourselves will offer us the peace we need. In this four-session series, pastor Jonathan Pokluda explores how Christians can face anxiety head-on. With real-life stories from people facing various kinds of anxiety, this series helps us see that peace can be found on this side of eternity.
- **Depression and the Gospel (Scott Mehl):** Depression is all around us, more common than most of us imagine. It is also notoriously difficult to understand, and most of us feel inadequate to help the depressed people in our midst. This course is designed to help you understand what depression is, what it is like, what causes it, and how God can use you to walk with people who are experiencing some form of depression.
- **Crash Course on Mental Health (Bobby Conway):** This Mental Health Crash Course was designed to help you know...
  - How to recognize the difference between mental health issues and moral issues.
  - How to be a part of the solution to addressing the mental health crisis in our culture today.
  - How to discover a practical formula for healing mental health issues.
  - How to discuss mental health issues in the context of a small group community.
  - How to help those struggling with mental health issues to feel safe in the church.
  - How to confront mental health issues with both truth and grace.
  - How to find hope in the midst of so much hopelessness!

- **THE BIBLE PROJECT** ([www.thebibleproject.com](http://www.thebibleproject.com))

The Bible Project offers a variety of amazing resources. These videos expand on many of the ideas that we have touched on in this series.

# THE GOSPEL OF MARK

## READING PLAN

God's Word is alive and active. As we read and meditate on Scripture, it begins the process of transformation in how we think and act. As a result, we discover God's design for our life, His purpose for this world, and the path to achieving that.

We invite you to join us in reading the Gospel according to Mark. This reading plan has a small section of Scripture to dig into each day from January 2 - April 14. Read, pray, and discover Jesus.

| DATE                           | SCRIPTURE      |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan 2 | Mark 1:1 - 8   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan 3 | Mark 1:9 - 20  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan 4 | Mark 1:21 - 28 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan 5 | Mark 1:29 - 34 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan 6 | Mark 1:35 - 39 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan 7 | Mark 1:40 - 45 |

**Sunday: Join us at CCW**

|                                 |                |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan 9  | Mark 2:1 - 12  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan 10 | Mark 2:13 - 17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan 11 | Mark 2:18 - 22 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan 12 | Mark 2:23 - 28 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan 13 | Mark 3:1 - 6   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan 14 | Mark 3:7 - 12  |

**Sunday: Join us at CCW**

|                                 |                |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan 16 | Mark 3:13 - 19 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan 17 | Mark 3:20 - 30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan 18 | Mark 3:31 - 35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan 19 | Mark 4:1 - 8   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan 20 | Mark 4:9 - 20  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan 21 | Mark 4:21 - 25 |

**Sunday: Join us at CCW**

|                                 |                |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan 23 | Mark 4:26 - 34 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan 24 | Mark 4:35 - 41 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan 25 | Mark 5:1 - 8   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan 26 | Mark 5:9 - 20  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan 27 | Mark 5:21 - 34 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan 28 | Mark 5:35 - 43 |

**Sunday: Join us at CCW**

| DATE                            | SCRIPTURE      |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan 30 | Mark 6:1 - 6   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan 31 | Mark 6:7 - 13  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb 1  | Mark 6:14 - 29 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb 2  | Mark 6:30 - 44 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb 3  | Mark 6:45 - 56 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb 4  | Mark 7:1 - 8   |

**Sunday: Join us at CCW**

|                                 |                |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb 6  | Mark 7:9 - 23  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb 7  | Mark 7:24 - 30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb 8  | Mark 7:31 - 37 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb 9  | Mark 8:1 - 10  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb 10 | Mark 8:11 - 13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb 11 | Mark 8:14 - 21 |

**Sunday: Join us at CCW**

|                                 |                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb 13 | Mark 8:22 - 26  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb 14 | Mark 8:27 - 30  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb 15 | Mark 8:31 - 9:1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb 16 | Mark 9:2 - 13   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb 17 | Mark 9:14 - 27  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb 18 | Mark 9:28 - 32  |

**Sunday: Join us at CCW**

|                                 |                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb 20 | Mark 9:33 - 37  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb 21 | Mark 9:42 - 50  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb 22 | Mark 10:1 - 12  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb 23 | Mark 10:13 - 16 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb 24 | Mark 10:17 - 31 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb 25 | Mark 10:32 - 45 |

**Sunday: Join us at CCW**

| DATE                            | SCRIPTURE       |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb 27 | Mark 10:46 - 52 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb 28 | Mark 11:1 - 11  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mar 1  | Mark 11:12 - 19 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mar 2  | Mark 11:20 - 26 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mar 3  | Mark 11:26 - 33 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mar 4  | Mark 12:1 - 12  |

**Sunday: Join us at CCW**

|                                 |                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mar 6  | Mark 12:13 - 17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mar 7  | Mark 12:18 - 27 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mar 8  | Mark 12:28 - 34 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mar 9  | Mark 12:35 - 40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mar 10 | Mark 12:41 - 44 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mar 11 | Mark 13:1 - 13  |

**Sunday: Join us at CCW**

|                                 |                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mar 13 | Mark 13:14 - 23 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mar 14 | Mark 13:24 - 31 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mar 15 | Mark 13:32 - 37 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mar 16 | Mark 14:1 - 11  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mar 17 | Mark 14:12 - 16 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mar 18 | Mark 14:17 - 26 |

**Sunday: Join us at CCW**

|                                 |                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mar 20 | Mark 14:27 - 31 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mar 21 | Mark 14:32 - 42 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mar 22 | Mark 14:43 - 52 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mar 23 | Mark 14:53 - 59 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mar 24 | Mark 14:60 - 65 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mar 25 | Mark 14:66 - 72 |

**Sunday: Join us at CCW**

| DATE                            | SCRIPTURE       |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mar 27 | Mark 15:1 - 5   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mar 28 | Mark 15:6 - 15  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mar 29 | Mark 15:16 - 20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mar 30 | Mark 15:21 - 24 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mar 31 | Mark 15:25 - 32 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apr 1  | Mark 15:33 - 37 |

**Sunday: Join us at CCW**

|                                |                 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apr 3 | Mark 15:36 - 41 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apr 4 | Mark 15:42 - 47 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apr 5 | Mark 16:1 - 8   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apr 6 | Mark 16:9 - 14  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apr 7 | Mark 16:15 - 20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apr 8 | Acts:1 - 11     |

**Easter Sunday**