

Compelled

Living and Serving Like Jesus

A Study Through the Book of Mark

“And they **compelled** a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to **carry His cross.**”

MARK 15:21



BEAUTIFUL



Compelled

Living and Serving Like Jesus

“And they **compelled** a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry His cross.”

MARK 15:21

This Book Belongs To:

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Table Number: _____

YouTube
Channel



Going Deeper:

We are providing these resources for those who would like to dive deeper into the study of Mark.

**Be Diligent: Serving Others as
You Walk With the Master**
by Warren W. Wiersbe



Mark: Verse by Verse Commentary
by David Guzik



Prayer Matters

Always start by praying, asking the Lord to guide your reading and reveal Himself to you.

P

PAUSE

Pause to thank God for who He is and for the blessings in your life.

R

REPENT

Reflect on your mistakes, confess your shortcomings and ask for forgiveness.

A

ASK

Present your requests to God, including needs for yourself and intercession for others.

Y

YIELD

Surrender your own will, inviting God's plans and presence to guide your day.



SOAR Instructions



Make Daily Reading Your Priority

Daily time in God's Word is the foundation of this study. The more you immerse yourself in Scripture to know His character, the deeper your relationship will grow, transforming knowledge about God into a greater love for Him.

Your Semester Plan

To help you stay on track, we have created a reading plan designed specifically for this semester. Make a commitment to follow this plan and let the Word guide your daily life.

Go Deeper With the SOAR Method

Below are the directions for SOAR.

S

SCRIPTURE

In this section fill in which verse or passage that grabbed your attention. Before you begin, pray and ask God for His guidance as you read through His Word.

O

OBSERVATION

What does God seem to be revealing through the Scripture? Answer the who, what, where and why questions. If you would like to go deeper, look up the Hebrew or Greek meaning and cross-reference different scriptures with a familiar topic.

A

APPLICATION

How can you begin to apply this Scripture to your life today? How can you live differently in light of what God has spoken to you?

R

REFLECTION

Take a moment to be still and let God show you how to walk out this Scripture. Write a general thought or prayer asking God for wisdom and guidance.

Bible Reading Plan

This reading plan introduces the topic for each week's teaching to build foundational knowledge and context for the upcoming discussions.

WEEK 1

Mark 1

- ☐ Mark 1:1–15
- ☐ Mark 1:16–20
- ☐ Mark 1:21–45
- ☐ Matthew 3
- ☐ Matthew 4

WEEK 2

Mark 2–3

- ☐ Mark 2:1–17
- ☐ Mark 2:18–27
- ☐ Mark 3:1–21
- ☐ Mark 3:22–35
- ☐ Luke 5:1–11

WEEK 3

Mark 4

- ☐ Mark 4:1–20
- ☐ Mark 4:21–29
- ☐ Mark 4:30–41
- ☐ Matthew 13:1–23
- ☐ Matthew 13:24–43

WEEK 4

Mark 5

- ☐ Mark 5:1–20
- ☐ Luke 8:26–39
- ☐ Mark 5:21–34
- ☐ Mark 5:35–43
- ☐ Luke 8:40–56

WEEK 5

Mark 6

- ☐ Mark 6:1–13
- ☐ Luke 4:16–30
- ☐ Mark 6:14–29
- ☐ Mark 6:30–56
- ☐ Matthew 14:1–33

WEEK 6

Mark 7–8

- ☐ Mark 7:1–23
- ☐ Mark 7:24–37
- ☐ Matthew 15:10–28
- ☐ Mark 8:1–26
- ☐ Mark 8:27–9:1

WEEK 7

Mark 9–10

- ☐ Mark 9:1–29
- ☐ Mark 9:30–50
- ☐ Mark 10:1–16
- ☐ Mark 10:17–34
- ☐ Luke 18:18–34

WEEK 8

Mark 10–11

- ☐ Mark 10:35–52
- ☐ Matthew 20:20–28
- ☐ Mark 11:1–19
- ☐ Matthew 21:1–11
- ☐ Mark 11:20–33

WEEK 9

Mark 12–13

- ☐ Mark 12:1–27
- ☐ Mark 12:28–44
- ☐ Deuteronomy 6:1–9
- ☐ Mark 13:1–23
- ☐ Mark 13:24–37

WEEK 10

Mark 14

- ☐ Mark 14:1–25
- ☐ Mark 14:26–52
- ☐ Luke 22:39–53
- ☐ Mark 14:53–72
- ☐ Luke 22:54–71

WEEK 11

Mark 15

- ☐ Mark 15:1–20
- ☐ Mark 15:21–47
- ☐ Luke 23:26–56
- ☐ Matthew 27:32–66
- ☐ Isaiah 53

WEEK 12

Mark 16

- ☐ Mark 16:1–8
- ☐ Matthew 28:1–15
- ☐ Mark 16:9–20
- ☐ Matthew 28:16–20
- ☐ Mark 8:34 & 15:21

MARK 15:21

“And they **compelled** a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to **carry His cross.**”

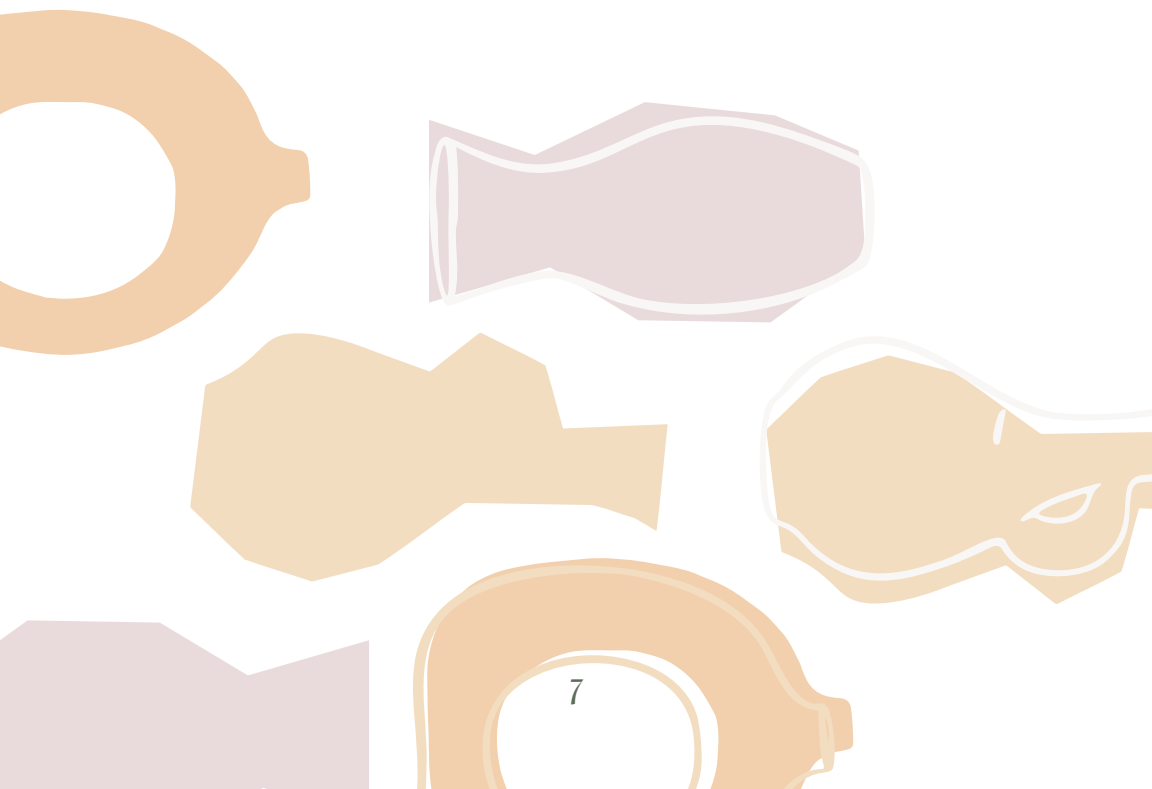


Week 1

The Servant Savior

Compelled to serve like Jesus.

Notes:



Discussion Questions

Week
1

1. Share something funny that compels you to spring into action!
2. What compelled you to do this study?
3. As a group, SOAR through Mark 8:34–38.

S

O

A

R

4. As you conclude your time together, lift one another up in prayer, praying that you would be deeply compelled to follow Jesus even closer than before.

Date:

Week 1

Verse

Scripture

Observation

Application

Reflection

Reading Plan:

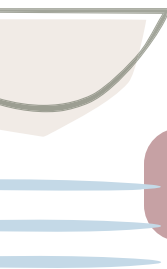
Mark 1

- ☐ Mark 1:1-15
- ☐ Mark 1:16-20
- ☐ Mark 1:21-45
- ☐ Matthew 3
- ☐ Matthew 4

The background features a light beige color with abstract geometric shapes. Orange shapes include semi-circles and quarter-circles positioned around the edges. Green shapes include three vertical, elongated, pointed forms in the upper center and three horizontal, pointed forms in the lower right.

MARK 1:12-13

The Spirit then compelled Jesus to go into the wilderness, where he was tempted by Satan for forty days. He was out among the wild animals, and angels took care of him.



Week 2

The Servant is Tempted

How can I overcome temptation?

Notes:

Discussion Questions

Week
2

Share a SOAR from last week's reading plan.

1. Read Mark 1:9–13. Like Jesus, we too will be faced with temptation. What is your typical response to temptation?
2. Read Matthew 4:4, 7, 10. Each time Satan tempted Jesus, what words did Jesus repeatedly respond with? When you face your most common or recurring temptation, what specific scripture do you turn to?
3. What are some practical ways to flee when temptation arises? Read 2 Timothy 2:22 and 1 Corinthians 10:13 for a strategy on defeating temptation.
4. Satan's strategy in Matthew 4:3 and 4:6 wasn't just to make Jesus doubt His deity, but to tempt Him into proving it. Where does the enemy currently whisper "if" over your identity as a daughter of God? (e.g., "if you were truly loved", or "if you work harder, you'll be worthy").

Date:

Week 2

Verse:

Scripture

Observation

Application

Reflection

Memory Verse: Mark 8:34-36

And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?"

Reading Plan:

Mark 2-3

- ☐ Mark 2:1-17
- ☐ Mark 2:18-27
- ☐ Mark 3:1-21
- ☐ Mark 3:22-35
- ☐ Luke 5:1-11

The Cost of Discipleship

MARK 2:16-17

And the scribes of the
Pharisees, when they
saw that he was
eating with sinners
and tax collectors,
said to his disciples,
“Why does he eat with
tax collectors and
sinners?” And when
Jesus heard it, he
said to them, “Those
who are well have no
need of a physician,
but those who are
sick. I came not to
call the righteous,
but sinners.”

Week 3

The Servant Invites

How do you think Jesus sees you?

Notes:

Discussion Questions

Week
3

Share a SOAR from last week's reading plan.

1. If you were to completely drop your guard and ignore your inner critic, how do you honestly feel Jesus looks at you right now?
2. Has there been a time in your life when someone really saw you, included you or helped you feel valued? What impact did that have on you?
3. Read Mark 2:13–17 and 3:13–19. Jesus sees people others often overlook. Who are the kinds of people you are most tempted to overlook, avoid or make assumptions about?
4. Jesus invites us to be with Him before He sends us out. Describe what that means to you.

SERVE CHALLENGE

Reach out to someone this week by writing a letter, making a call or meeting for coffee to discuss the gifts and potential you recognize in them. It is often easier to witness God's work in others than it is for us to see it in ourselves. Identify those strengths, affirm them and explain how their unique contributions can help others.

Date:

Week 3

Verse:

Scripture

Observation

Application

Reflection

Memory Verse: Mark 8:34-36

And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?"

Reading Plan:

Mark 4

- ☐ Mark 4:1-20
- ☐ Mark 4:21-29
- ☐ Mark 4:30-41
- ☐ Matthew 13:1-23
- ☐ Matthew 13:24-43

The Cost of Discipleship

MARK 4:8-9

"And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold." And he said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Week 4

The Servant Teaches

What holds me back from being all in?

Notes:

Discussion Questions

Week
4

Share a SOAR from last week's reading plan.

1. Read Mark 4:1–9. What are the four different soils mentioned, and what happened to the seeds when they fell on each type of soil?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

2. Read Mark 4:14–20. What did each soil represent, and what happened to the seeds (as the Word)?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

3. In this parable, the seed is God's Word, and the soil represents the human heart. Which of the four soils (path, rocky, thorny, good) best describe your heart's posture toward God this past week? Is your faith currently taking deep root, or are you feeling a bit disconnected?

4. How would you explain the core meaning of this parable in your own words?

Date:

Week 4

Verse:

Scripture

Observation

Application

Reflection

Reading Plan:

Mark 5

- ☐ Mark 5:1-20
- ☐ Luke 8:26-39
- ☐ Mark 5:21-34
- ☐ Mark 5:35-43
- ☐ Luke 8:40-56

Memory Verse: Mark 10:43-45

"But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

The Servant King



MARK 5:28-29, 34

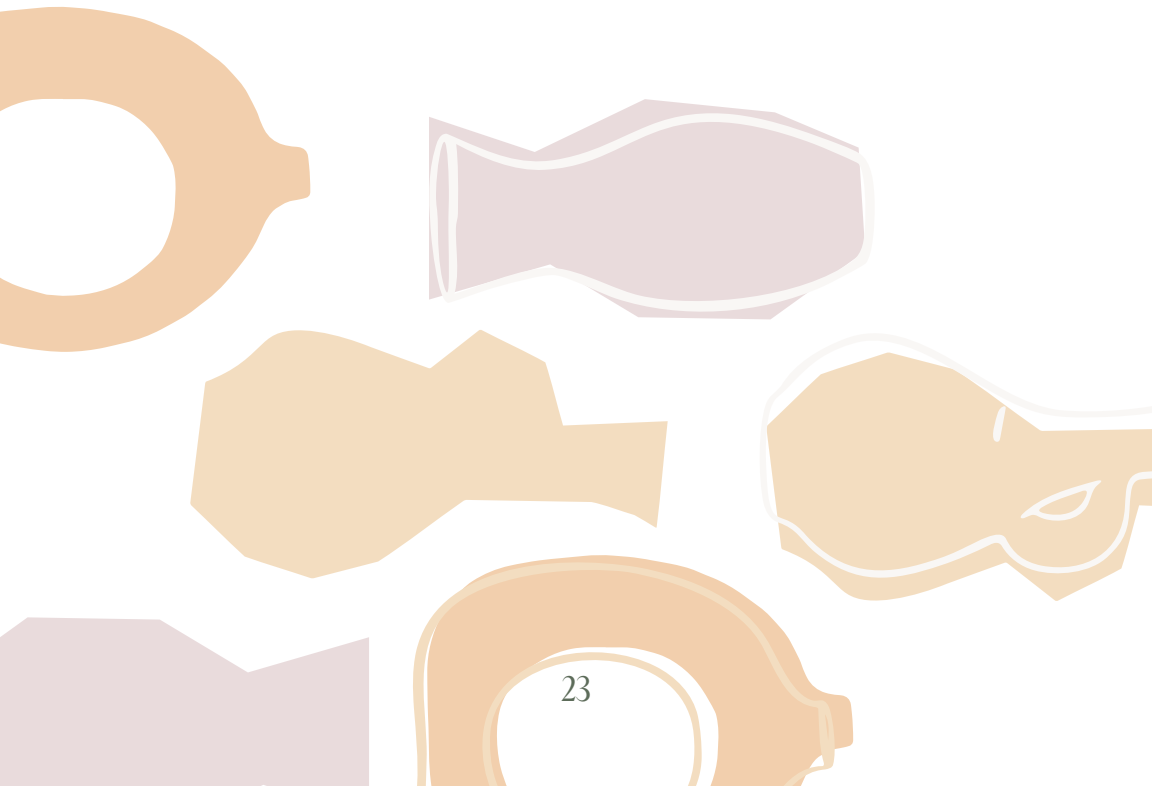
For she said, "If I touch even his garments, I will be made well." And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

Week 5

The Servant Heals

Where does my faith waver?

Notes:



Discussion Questions

Week
5

Share a SOAR from last week's reading plan.

1. Read Leviticus 15:25–27. Based on the woman's condition in Mark 5, what is the word used in these verses to describe her?

According to Levitical law, her condition made her ceremonially unclean, meaning she was isolated from her community and unable to participate in worship. How does recognizing her severe social and spiritual isolation deepen the significance of her healing?

2. Reflect on your life. Has there been an "issue" or long-standing struggle that you have carried for years?
3. Read Mark 5:32–33. How much of her story did she share with Jesus? How much of your story (your sin, your suffering, other things you've tried) have you told Him? In order to move from brokenness to healing, what are some intentional steps you can take today to reach toward Jesus?
4. As we wrap up our time today, take some time to seek Jesus together through prayer. If anyone needs physical healing, gather around them and pray in faith for God's healing power.

SERVE CHALLENGE

Do you trust the quiet prompting of the Holy Spirit when He encourages you to step outside your comfort zone? Following that still, small voice means allowing Him to guide your actions throughout the day. This week, commit to listening and responding to the Holy Spirit's direction through simple acts: Support those in need with money, food, or water; contact someone who has been on your mind; offer assistance to a neighbor; invite a new woman from your table to join you for coffee. As we grow more sensitive to His voice, believe that God will work powerfully in every situation.

Date:

Week 5

Verse

Scripture

Observation

Application

Reflection

Reading Plan:

Mark 6

- ☐ Mark 6:1-13
- ☐ Luke 4:16-30
- ☐ Mark 6:14-29
- ☐ Mark 6:30-56
- ☐ Matthew 14:1-33

Memory Verse: Mark 10:43-45

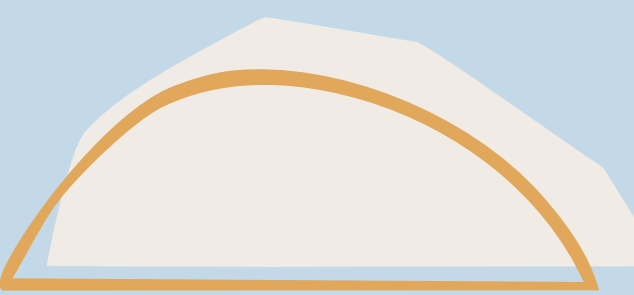
"But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

The Servant King



MARK 6: 1-2

He went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands?"



Week 6

The Servant Rejected

Do I live an unoffendable life?

Notes:

Discussion Questions

Week
6

Share a SOAR from last week's reading plan.

1. Have you ever struggled with doubts about whether Jesus is truly real? If so, how did you respond and work through those questions?
2. In Mark 6, the people of Nazareth were "astonished" by Jesus but still took offense at Him. Why do you think it can be possible to know about Jesus, hear His teaching and still struggle to fully trust or follow Him?
3. Amy talked about three ways we can become offended by Jesus: hiding Him, twisting Him or resisting Him. Which of those do you think people struggle with most today, and why?
4. Read John 14:15. Why do you think obedience to Jesus is often connected to love and trust, not just rules?
5. The text says Jesus "could not do any mighty works there" except heal a few sick people (Mark 6:5). How does our lack of faith or openness limit what God can do in our own lives or communities?

Date:

Week 6

Verse:

Scripture

Observation

Application

Reflection

Reading Plan:

Mark 7-8

- ☐ Mark 7:1-23
- ☐ Mark 7:24-37
- ☐ Matthew 15:10-28
- ☐ Mark 8:1-26
- ☐ Mark 8:27-9:1

Memory Verse: Mark 10:43-45

"But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

The Servant King

MARK 7:24-25

And from there he
arose and went away
to the region of Tyre
and Sidon. And he
entered a house and
did not want anyone
to know, yet he could
not be hidden. But
immediately a woman
whose little daughter
had an unclean spirit
heard of him and came
and fell down at
his feet.

Week 7

The Servant Serves

Do I extend God's love to all people?

Notes:

Discussion Questions

Week
7

Share a SOAR from last week's reading plan.

1. Read Mark 7:24–30. Now read the parallel account in Matthew 15:21–28. What additional details are given in Matthew's account?
2. What can we learn from the Gentile woman's approach toward Jesus and her faith-filled response to Him? (Mark 7:26, 28 & Matthew 15:22, 25, 27)
3. When it comes to serving like Jesus – being intentional, interruptible, and all inclusive – which one comes most naturally?
4. In Mark 7:29, the woman makes her way back home to find Jesus' words to be true. Are there times when you fail to trust Jesus and want to see results first? How can you put your trust in Him and walk by faith, not by sight?

Serve Saturday



SERVE CHALLENGE

Do I extend God's love to all people?

Get your whole group involved in a Serve Saturday project at one of our Grace Family Church locations or ministry partners. Get to know more about these community partners and volunteer regularly as a group or individually.

Date:

Week 7

Verse:

Scripture

Observation

Application

Reflection

Reading Plan:

Mark 9-10

- ☐ Mark 9:2-29
- ☐ Mark 9:30-50
- ☐ Mark 10:1-16
- ☐ Mark 10:17-34
- ☐ Luke 18:18-34

Memory Verse: Mark 12:29-31

Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

The Greatest Commandment

MARK 8:31

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.

Week 8

The Servant Predicts
His Own Suffering

How can I trust God with the unknown?

Notes:

Discussion Questions

Week
8

Share a SOAR from last week's reading plan.

1. Read Mark 8:31–33, 9:30–32, 10:32–34. If Jesus had shared this with you, what thoughts or questions would be running through your mind?

2. Jesus told his disciples in Mark 8:31 that He must suffer and die. Based on John 3:16 and 1 Peter 3:18, why was this the ultimate path to salvation?

3. In Mark 8:34, Jesus outlines three requirements for being His disciples. List them here:

1.

2.

3.

4. What does each one mean, and how do we practically do them?

Date:

Week 8

Verse:

Scripture

Observation

Application

Reflection

Reading Plan:

Mark 10-11

- ☐ Mark 10:35-52
- ☐ Matthew 20:20-28
- ☐ Mark 11:1-19
- ☐ Matthew 21:1-11
- ☐ Mark 11:20-33

Memory Verse: Mark 12:29-31

Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

The Greatest Commandment

MARK 10:43-45

"But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

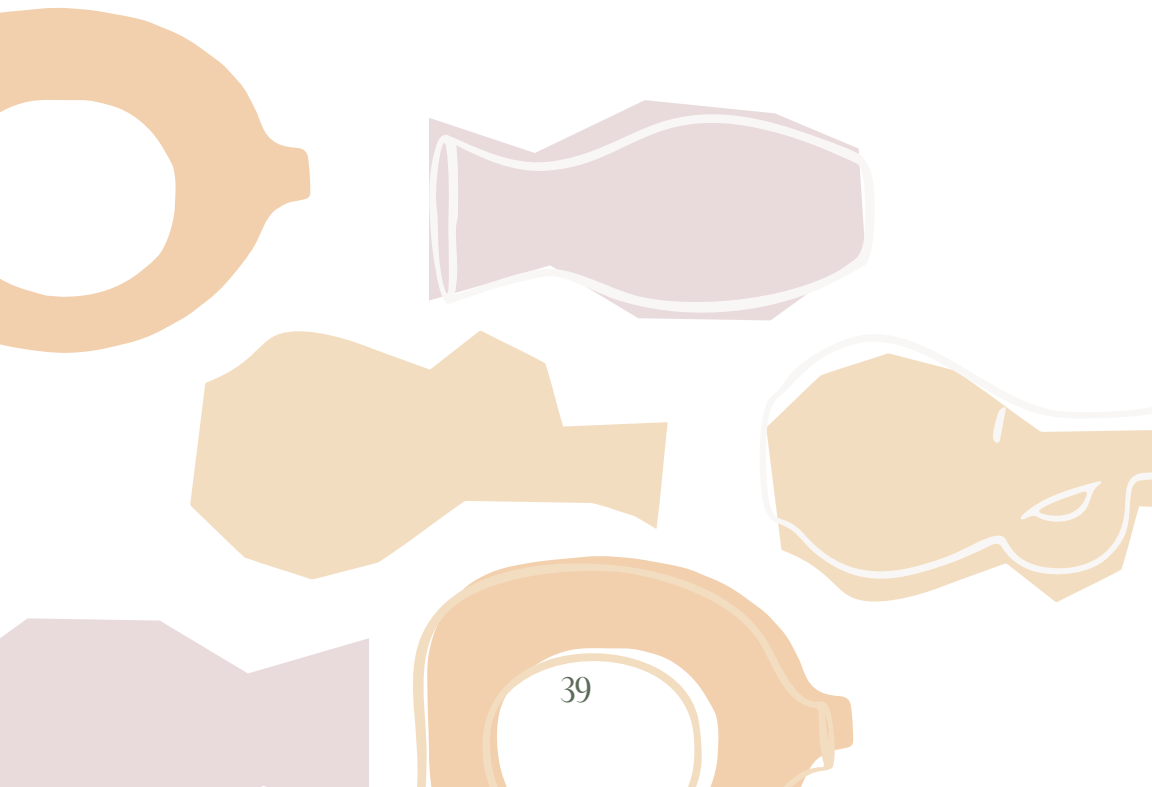


Week 9

The Servant's Humility on Display

Am I okay with being unseen?

Notes:



Discussion Questions

Week
9

Share a SOAR from last week's reading plan.

1. In Mark, and throughout the Gospels, Jesus redefines influence. How does His example contrast with the pressure today to build influence or "be seen"?
2. According to Jesus in Mark 10:42-45, what is the radical difference between how secular rulers lead and how His followers should lead?
3. Matthew Henry wrote, "Worldly honour is a glittering thing, with which the eyes of Christ's own disciples have many a time been dazzled." What are some "glittering things" that tend to distract your heart from Jesus?
4. If you knew your most important contribution this week would go unnoticed and unapplauded, would that change what you choose to focus on? Are you okay being unseen?

SERVE CHALLENGE

Each of our locations has prayerfully selected a local nonprofit partner to support and bless this season. Please listen closely to the weekly announcements for specific details on how your group can get involved.

Date:

Week 9

Verse

Scripture

Observation

Application

Reflection

Reading Plan:

Mark 12-13

- ☐ Mark 12:1-27
- ☐ Mark 12:28-44
- ☐ Deuteronomy 6:1-9
- ☐ Mark 13:1-23
- ☐ Mark 13:24-37

Memory Verse: Mark 16:15

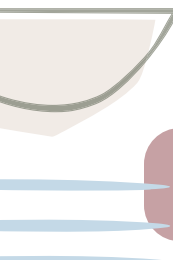
"Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation".

The Commission



MARK 12:29-31

Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."



Week 10

The Servant Shares
the Greatest Command

Am I walking in my purpose?

Notes:

Discussion Questions

Week
10

Share a SOAR from last week's reading plan.

1. How would you define your purpose? Are you living it?
2. According to Deuteronomy 6:4–9 and Mark 12:29–30, what is the foundation of the greatest commandment, and how should it influence how we live and pass on our faith to others?
3. Read Mark 12:31. What is the second greatest command? In what relationship(s) do you find it hardest to love people well right now? Explain why.
4. What is one thing God is inviting you to surrender and realign today so that love-fueled purpose leads your life, not pressure or doubt?

SERVE CHALLENGE

Each of our locations has prayerfully selected a local nonprofit partner to support and bless this season. Please listen closely to the weekly announcements for specific details on how your group can get involved.

Date:

Week 10

Verse:

Scripture

Observation

Application

Reflection

Reading Plan:

Mark 14

- ☐ Mark 14:1-25
- ☐ Mark 14:26-52
- ☐ Luke 22:39-53
- ☐ Mark 14:53-72
- ☐ Luke 22:54-71

Memory Verse: Mark 16:15

"Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation".

The Commission

MARK 14:35-36

He went on a little
farther and fell to
the ground. He prayed
that, if it were
possible, the
awful hour awaiting
him might pass him by.
“Abba, Father,”
he cried out,
“everything is
possible for you.
Please take this cup
of suffering away from
me. Yet I want your
will to be done,
not mine.”

Week 11

The Servant Suffers

How can I boldly face pain and suffering?

Notes:

Discussion Questions

Week
11

Share a SOAR from last week's reading plan.

1. How would you define suffering based on your own life experience?
2. Read Mark 14:32–36. How did Jesus approach His suffering?
3. According to James 1:2–4, how does God want us to shift our perspective when we face trials, and what is the ultimate spiritual benefit He is producing in us through these hardships?
4. Our deepest trials often become our most powerful testimonies. Think of a specific hardship you've endured. How did God reveal Himself to you during that season, whether as a Comforter in your grief, a Provider in your lack or a Healer of your pain? Are you using your story today to proclaim His faithfulness to others?
5. How can you prepare today for the trials that will come your way?

Date:

Week 11

Verse:

Scripture

Observation

Application

Reflection

Reading Plan:

Mark 15

- ☐ Mark 15:1-20
- ☐ Mark 15:21-47
- ☐ Luke 23:26-56
- ☐ Matthew 27:32-66
- ☐ Isaiah 53

Memory Verse: Mark 16:15

"Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation".

The Commission

MARK 16:15

And he said to them, “Go into all the world
and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.”

Week 12

The Servant Commissions

Notes:

Reading Plan:

Mark 16

- ☐ Mark 16:1-8
- ☐ Matthew 28:1-15
- ☐ Mark 16:9-20
- ☐ Matthew 28:16-20
- ☐ Mark 8:34 & 15:21





Grace Family
Church