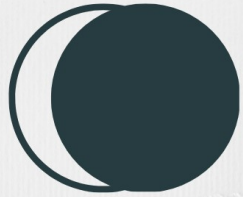
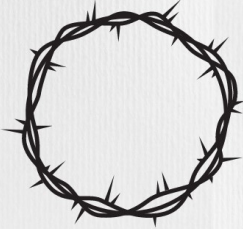


FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY

A STUDY IN MARK



SERIES GUIDE | **BOOK 4**

MARCH—MAY 2024



“Belief-Filled Unbelief”

Mark 9:14-41 • March 3

CONNECT

Has there been a season of life where you have prayed fervently for something? What? Why? Share the results.

READ

Mark 9:14-41

CONSIDER & CONVERSE

1. What stood out to you from today’s service?
2. What were the scribes arguing with the disciples about? What was the problem with the boy? Why did Jesus rebuke them?
3. What does the part mean, “all things are possible to the one who believes”? Why were the disciples unsuccessful? Will a lack of prayer make us unsuccessful in other areas?
4. Compare what Jesus says in 9:30-31 with what He said in 8:31. What do you think the disciples still don’t understand and why are they afraid to ask Him about it?
5. Does it surprise you that the disciples soon after hearing about Jesus’ impending death were arguing among themselves about who among them was the greatest? Why or why not? What makes Jesus’ response to them in verse 35 so shocking?
6. How does Jesus use a child to illustrate His point? Elsewhere (10:13-16), Jesus says that people are to be like little children, but here His point is different. How so? Why should we understand Jesus’ reference to children here to also be a reference to those who are His disciples? (see 9:41-42, 10:24, Matthew 10:42, 1 John 2:1)
7. How would you describe John’s attitude in verse 38? How does it compare with what Jesus is calling for in verses 35-37?

DIG DEEPER In a group or on your own, read a parallel passage in **Matthew 28:16-20**, noting similarities and differences.

APPLY & ACT

1. Verses 9-14 describe a lack of faith among Jesus’ followers. In the space below, identify areas in which you struggle to believe. Ask God to help your unbelief.

2. Ask God to reveal to you how his commission to the Eleven applies to you. Where “into all the world” is He calling you to GO?

PRAY

List praises and petitions below. In addition to these items, pray for yourself and your group in regard to the application items above.

Live Sent

Mark 16:14-20 • May 12

CONNECT

What's the farthest you've gone on someone's behalf?

READ

Mark 16:14-20

CONSIDER & CONVERSE

1. What stood out to you from today's service?
2. Is it significant that the Eleven were still meeting together sometime after Jesus' death?
3. What two things did Jesus rebuke them for? Was he being harsh? Do we struggle with these things too?
4. What is Jesus' final message to them?
5. How far did he tell them to go? Was this message just for them, or for all of Jesus' followers throughout all ages?
6. What signs will accompany those who believe? Do YOU believe this?
7. What happened to Jesus after he spoke to them?
8. How did the disciples respond?

DIG DEEPER

In a group or on your own, read parallel passages in **Matthew 17:14-19, 22,23 & 18:1-5 and Luke 9:37-50**, noting similarities and differences.

APPLY & ACT

1. Belief is a choice. You can choose to believe Jesus' teaching or you can disbelieve. If you have doubts about what Jesus says, write those topics in the space below and ask Jesus for faith to fully believe in a way that affects how you live.
2. How devoted are you to prayer? Make a list of things that hinder your communion with God through prayer. Ask Him to strengthen your commitment to pray regularly and fervently, removing these barriers.

PRAY

List praises and petitions below. In addition to these items, pray for yourself and your group in regard to the application items above.

“Killing Your Sin”

Mark 9:42-50 • March 10

CONNECT

Tell of a time when someone led you down a bad path.

READ

Mark 9:42-50

CONSIDER & CONVERSE

1. What stood out to you from today’s service?
2. What kind of influence should we have on other believers?
3. Why do you think the subject of hell is not much talked about today? Why do believers shy away from talking about it? Who are the people that are going to hell? How does Jesus describe hell?
4. Did Jesus talk literally about the amputation of our limbs? Why did He use this kind of language? What message was He conveying to his disciples?
5. Do you think people are less serious or more serious today about sin? Can you give examples of how your hands, feet and eyes may cause you to sin? What does it mean to deal with sin the way Jesus tells us to?
6. What does it mean to be “salted with fire”? What is significant about salt, and what does it represent in the Bible? (See Leviticus 2:13; Numbers 18:19; Ezekiel 43:24; Matthew 5:13.)
7. What is God’s purpose for allowing fiery trials and discipline to come our way? (See 1 Peter 1:6-7 and Hebrews 12:10-11)
8. What does it mean for a person to lose his/her “saltiness”? What does it mean to have salt in yourselves and how does this affect our relationships?

DIG DEEPER

In a group or on your own, read parallel passages in **Matthew 24:1-51** and **Luke 21:5-36**, noting similarities and differences.

APPLY & ACT

Describe in the spaces below what you can do NOW to prepare:

1. For anyone claiming to be Jesus returning
2. For wars and rumors of wars
3. For persecution/arrest/hatred
4. For how to defend yourself on trial
5. For being “on guard”
6. For keeping watch & not being found sleeping

PRAY

List praises and petitions below. In addition to these items, pray for yourself and your group in regard to the application items above.

“Signs and Symbols”

Mark 13 • May 5

CONNECT

If you could learn one fact about the future, what would you want to know?

READ

Mark 13

CONSIDER & CONVERSE

1. What stood out to you from today’s service?
2. What is significant about this time that Jesus left the temple? (It would be for the last time.)
3. How did His disciples feel about this temple? What was the temple actually like? Why did He highlight its coming destruction? When will what things be? (verse 4)
4. When would the signs in verses 5-8 take place? What would they be a sign of? Have they happened yet? Are they still happening?
5. What do you think is the main point Jesus wants His disciples to get by sharing these signs?
6. What should we be on guard for (verse 9)? Who is the “they” in this verse?
7. Explain verse 10.
8. What principle do we learn in verse 11? How can you prepare for that time of persecution without planning what you will say? How serious will this persecution get?
9. How will unbelievers view believers?
10. What does it mean that the one who endures to the end, he will be saved?

DIG DEEPER

While there are no direct parallel passages, Jesus’ message here is similar to part of the Sermon on the Mount and his teaching elsewhere. Read **Matthew 5:13, 29-30, and 18:2-9**, noting similarities and differences.

APPLY & ACT

Meditate on Colossians 3:5-10. Make a list of how you can “put to death” the sins that ensnare you. Spend time considering how you can utterly destroy the things that will destroy you if you don’t. Write down ways that you can ensure that those things are DEAD - so lifeless in you that they can’t return.

PRAY

List praises and petitions below. In addition to these items, pray for yourself and your group in regard to the application item above.

“Tests and Marriage”

Mark 10:1-16 • March 17

CONNECT

In what situations are you likely to become annoyed or lose patience with children / those younger than you?

READ

Mark 10:1-16

CONSIDER & CONVERSE

1. What stood out to you from today’s service?
2. How did the Pharisees attempt to test Jesus this time? Why was this considered a test and not a sincere question?
3. If God doesn’t approve of divorce why did He allow it? What does it mean “because of their hardness of heart?”
4. Are there any other issues in which the New Testament sets a higher/newer standard than the Old Testament? How can we explain this?
5. How does divorce effect the picture of marriage between husband of wife as an allegory of Christ and the church?
6. Why is this important for married couples? Why is this important for singles?
7. What are some practical things that husband and wife can do to build up their marriage? What are some practical things which singles can do to prepare for a strong marriage?
8. Why did they want Jesus to touch their children? Why do you think the disciples didn’t want them to? What was Jesus’ response? What does it mean that the kingdom of God belongs to such as these?

DIG DEEPER

In a group or on your own, read parallel passages in **Matthew 22:34-46** and **Luke 20:41-44**, noting similarities and differences.

APPLY & ACT

1. In the left column below, write down things you do that show your love for God. In the right column, write down things you need to work on in order to love God with all your heart, soul and strength.

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2. In the left column below, write down things you do that show your love for your neighbor. In the right column, write down things you need to work on in order to love your neighbor as yourself. Have a specific “neighbor” in mind as you write.

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PRAY

List praises and petitions below. In addition to these items, pray for yourself and your group in regard to the application items above.

The Greatest Commandment

Mark 12:28-37 • April 28

CONNECT

What comes to your mind when you hear the word “commandment”? Is your reaction positive or negative?

READ

Mark 12:28-37

CONSIDER & CONVERSE

1. What stood out to you from today’s service?
2. Do you think this scribe was trying to test/challenge Jesus like the others?
3. What is the most important command? Why is this the most important? What other commandments are tied to this one?
4. How would you define “loving God”? How can you show love to God whom you cannot see?
5. What does with “all your heart, all your soul, all your strength” mean? Is there any difference between these three things? Why is it repeated three times?
6. What is the “second greatest” commandment? Why is this so important? Who does it include?
7. What can you do to love your neighbor?
8. Are you fulfilling these commands? What do you need to do to love God more? To love your neighbor more?
9. What additional observation did the scribe make? What was Jesus’ response to it? What does this show us about his motivation for this question?
10. What does it mean that he is not far from the kingdom of God?

DIG DEEPER

In a group or on your own, read parallel passages in **Matthew 19:1-15** and **Luke 18:15-17**, noting similarities and differences.

APPLY & ACT

1. In what ways is your heart hard “like the Pharisees”? If you’re not aware of any, ask the Lord to reveal to you any areas that your heart is “like stone” and replace it with a “new spirit” (see Ezekiel 36:26). Write down any areas where you need a heart transplant and ask God to change your heart (see Ezekiel 18:31, Psalm 51:10).
2. Reflecting on verses 13 and 14, it may be shocking to see Jesus indignant with his own disciples who are acting on his behalf. Ask the Lord to reveal to you any ways where your actions “toward Him” may actually be something he opposes. Write down anything He brings to mind:

PRAY

List praises and petitions below. In addition to these items, pray for yourself and your group in regard to the application items above.

“Anointed”

Mark 11, 14:1-9 • March 24

CONNECT

Tell of a time you were doubted or not believed—even though you were telling the truth!

READ

Mark 11 and Mark 14:1-9

CONSIDER & CONVERSE

1. What stood out to you from today’s service?
2. What can we learn about Jesus from Mark 11? Why would Jesus tell them to take the colt? Were the owners willing for them to take it? How did Jesus know they would be willing?
3. Why did Jesus enter Jerusalem on a colt? What was the significance of a colt on which no one had sat before? What is the significance of Jesus entering Jerusalem like this?
4. How did the crowds react? What would the population of Jerusalem have been like at the time? Why?
5. How did the Pharisees react? Did these crowds stick with Jesus throughout His persecution and suffering? What do you think happened to them?
6. Was this the first time Jesus had driven out the businessmen in the temple? What does this passage teach us about people? What does this passage teach us about Jesus' character?
7. Was perfume commonplace then like it is now? What is the significance that this was very expensive perfume? What can we learn about the woman through this event? What we can learn about Jesus? What can we learn about the other people there through their reaction?

DIG DEEPER

In a group or on your own, read parallel passages in **Matthew 21:33-46** and **Luke 20:9-19**, noting similarities and differences.

APPLY & ACT

In many ways, we are greedy (like the tenants in the parable). We all desire to go our own way. Consider how this parable applies to you, just as it did to the “religious” in Jesus’ day.

Is it possible that in “working for the Kingdom” you are serving your own interests instead of God’s? (Even Peter had that problem. See how Jesus confronted him strongly in Matthew 16:23!)

Ask God to show you any ways where you’re seeking your own interests over His Kingdom. Write them down in the space below and pray for awareness and new behaviors in these circumstances.

PRAY

List praises and petitions below. In addition to these items, pray for yourself and your group in regard to the application item above.

Parable of the Tenants

Mark 12:1-12 • April 21

CONNECT

What's something that someone else rejected but you found valuable? Have you ever gone "dumpster diving"?

READ

Mark 12:1-12

CONSIDER & CONVERSE

1. What stood out to you from today's service?
2. Who is the "them" in 12:1?
3. Who is the one who planted the vineyard in this parable? Who are the vine-growers? Who are the people who the owner of the vineyard sent to receive some of the produce? Who is the beloved son?
4. Explain verses 10-11.
5. So what is the main point of the parable?
6. What prophets in Israel's past were rejected and beaten or killed? Why did Israel reject so many of the prophets? Why did God keep sending more?
7. What do we learn about human nature? What do we learn about God's nature?
8. What was going to happen to those evil vine-growers? Has this happened yet?
9. How did this parable relate to the question of where Jesus got His authority?

DIG DEEPER

In a group or on your own, read parallel passages in **Matthew 21:1-9, Luke 19:29-38, and John 12:12-15**, noting similarities and differences. Also read **Matthew 26:2-16, Luke 22:1-6, and John 12:1-8**.

APPLY & ACT

1. Can you remember a time when you followed up a time of praise with a time of "rejecting" the Lord? If so, write down that memory in the space below and ask the Lord to bring this to mind when you are tempted to repeat that type of action.
2. Write down ways that you can lavish love on Jesus.

PRAY

List praises and petitions below. In addition to these items, pray for yourself and your group in regard to the application items above.

“Alarmed and Doubted”

Mark 16:1-13 • March 31

CONNECT

When was the last time you watched a sunrise?

READ

Mark 16:1-13

CONSIDER & CONVERSE

1. What stood out to you from today’s service?
2. What lessons do we learn from the resurrection?
3. “He is risen!” Why do those three words capture the essence of the greatest event in the history of the world?
4. What implications/meaning does Jesus’ resurrection have to YOU? How has it changed your life? What else in your life needs to be changed because Jesus is alive?
5. What meaning does Christianity have without the resurrection?
6. In what way does the resurrection set Christianity apart from other religions?
7. What significance does the resurrection have for your future?
8. Who did Jesus appear to first? Why is that significant?
9. What was the others’ response to the news of the resurrection? Why do you think they felt this way? Should they have?

DIG DEEPER

In a group or on your own, read parallel passages in **Matthew 20:20-34** and **Luke 18:35-43**, noting similarities and differences.

APPLY & ACT

1. Make a short list of the areas in your life where status is important to you. Then go through that list and make a note of how you can humble yourself in relation to each one, becoming “the servant” instead of “the served.” Perhaps there are areas where you need to step down or give up a status completely?
2. Consider how you can serve someone who is deemed by others around you as unworthy of your time and attention (like Bartimaeus). Write down the name(s) of anyone who comes to mind and make a plan to reach out to them today or later this week.

PRAY

List praises and petitions below. In addition to these items, pray for yourself and your group in regard to the application items above.

“Power and Prestige”

Mark 10:35-52 • April 14

CONNECT

What’s the highest position/rank you would ever aspire to? Why?

READ

Mark 10:35-52

CONSIDER & CONVERSE

1. What stood out to you from today’s service?
2. What did James and John **originally** say to Jesus? Did He agree to do it? What did He first find out? Why did He not just agree? What lesson can we learn from this?
3. What did they **ultimately** ask? Why do you think they wanted to sit on each side? What was their core motivation?
4. What did it mean to drink the cup which He drank and be baptized with the baptism with which He would be baptized?
5. Did Jesus agree? Why were the others upset?
6. What lesson did Jesus convey during this teachable moment? Is this a new lesson for them? Why did He have to keep discussing it again and again?
7. Where is Jericho en route to Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem?
8. What do we learn about Bartimaeus from this passage?
9. Can you remember any of the names of other people who Jesus healed in Mark’s Gospel? After you answer, consider why do you think that might be?
10. What does this title ‘Son of David’ mean and where does it come from? What do you learn about Jesus from this passage?

DIG DEEPER

In a group or on your own, read parallel passages in **Matthew 28:1-8** and **Luke 24:1-10**, noting similarities and differences.

APPLY & ACT

1. Consider the extent to which the resurrection affects how you live your life TODAY. Ask God to reveal to you ways in which your life can be transformed because He lives and write those down below.
2. Read Colossians 3:1. If you have been “raised with Christ,” what specifically did you “die” to (see also Colossians 3:5-10)? What have you been raised “for” according to Colossians 3:1-4?

PRAY

List praises and petitions below. In addition to these items, pray for yourself and your group in regard to the application item above.

Riches/Taxes

Mark 10:17-31, 12:13-17, 12:41-44 • April 7

CONNECT

What's the costliest thing you've ever given away?

READ

Mark 10:17-31, 12:13-17, 12:41-44

CONSIDER & CONVERSE

1. What stood out to you from today's service?
2. What was this man's opinion of who Jesus was?
3. Why did Jesus say He shouldn't call Him good? But wasn't Jesus God? Since Jesus is God, what was the problem with referring to Him as good?
4. Do you think this man really kept all of these commands? If he did, does that mean he was perfect? Why or why not?
5. Why did Jesus tell him to go sell everything? Isn't this a "good works salvation?" If we give what we have to God does that guarantee eternal life?
6. What is the point Jesus is making here? What can learn from this about true discipleship?
7. What does Jesus expect of someone who wants to be His disciple? Are you doing it? Why is it hard for a rich man to enter heaven? Is it possible? How?
8. Was Peter accurate when he said they left all for Christ? What had they left for Him? What does this show about them? How did Jesus respond to this?
9. What do we need to give up for Christ? Is there anything specific?

DIG DEEPER

In a group or on your own, read parallel passages in **Matthew 19:16-30** and **Luke 18:18-30**, noting similarities and differences. Also read **Matthew 22:15-22** and **Luke 20:20-26, 21:1-4**.

APPLY & ACT

1. Make a short list of the commandments that are most difficult for you to keep. Ask the Lord to remind you and help you when you're tempted to break them.
2. What is the Holy Spirit convicting you about that you need to give up now in order to follow Jesus? Write down that thing (or things) in the space below, along with today's date - the day you're letting it go.

PRAY

List praises and petitions below. In addition to these items, pray for yourself and your group in regard to the application items above.