



A 16 DAY BIBLE READING PLAN FOR STUDENTS

16 Days in Mark

One chapter of Mark a day. The King arrives, the King serves, the King rises.
The fastest, most action driven Gospel, written out for students to read and pray through.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

- Read the chapter of Mark listed for the day in your Bible, then work through this page.
- Reflect, Apply, and Pray are meant to be answered, not skimmed. Write in the margins.
- Going Deeper unpacks the Greek words, the first century backdrop, and what it means for you.
- Checkpoints after Mark 4, 8, 13, and 16 help you see how far you have come.

A free resource from the NW Youth team · Assemblies of God Northwest Ministry Network

The Spirit Comes Down

"I baptized you in water, but he will baptize you in the Holy Spirit."

MARK 1:8 • WEB

AVA, STILL SOAKED FROM THE LAKE

Ava came home from camp with her hair still smelling like campfire and her Bible still in her lap. She kept replaying the moment the leader prayed for her and she felt heat, peace, and courage all at once. When she opened Mark 1 the next morning, she realized what she felt was not the fire pit. It was the same Spirit that came down on Jesus in the Jordan.

REFLECT

If the sinless Son of God needed the Holy Spirit poured on Him before He started, what does that say about you starting your school year?

APPLY

Ask Jesus, out loud, to baptize you in the Holy Spirit. Keep asking every morning this week. He is not stingy with what He promised.

PRAY

Jesus, come pour Your Spirit on me. I want to walk this year full, not empty. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

Mark opens by telling you what kind of book this is: 'The beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.' That is a battle cry, not a bedtime story.

baptize • Greek: baptizō

To immerse, to plunge, to soak all the way through. When Jesus baptizes you in the Holy Spirit, He is not sprinkling — He is soaking.

Holy Spirit • Greek: pneuma hagion

Literally 'holy wind' or 'holy breath.' The same Spirit who hovered over the waters at creation is the One Jesus pours out on you. He is not a feeling — He is a Person.

THE BACKDROP

John the Baptist was in the desert calling Israel to repent. Everyone was watching him. But John kept pointing away from himself: someone stronger is coming, and He will not just wash you outside — He will fill you inside. Days later that Someone stepped into the Jordan and heaven ripped open.

WHAT IT MEANS

There are two things Jesus does with you at salvation and after: He forgives you, and He fills you. The moment you trust Him, His Spirit comes to live in you. But there is also a distinct experience — being immersed in the Spirit — that Jesus offers to empower you for mission. This is why the disciples, who already knew Jesus, still waited in the upper room for the promised Spirit before going public. You are not meant to serve Jesus running on your willpower. Ask Him to baptize you in the Holy Spirit and expect Him to actually do it.

TOMORROW

Tomorrow: four friends tear the roof off a house because they refuse to let a paralyzed friend miss Jesus.

Friends Who Tear Roofs Off

"Jesus, seeing their faith, said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven you.'"

MARK 2:5 • WEB

DIEGO AND HIS FOUR

Diego texted his youth pastor from the bus home: 'I have four friends I am worried about.' At camp he had prayed for them by name, and now on the bus their faces would not leave him. Mark 2 says four friends carried a paralyzed man to Jesus and would not let a roof stop them. Diego decided his group text would be his roof.

REFLECT

Whose faith is Jesus waiting to see? Are you carrying anyone to Him, or are you the one on the mat right now?

APPLY

Write four names on a card. Pray for them every day for 40 days, and invite at least one of them to your youth group.

PRAY

Jesus, give me friends who will carry me and courage to carry others. Forgive me and heal me — I need both. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

Four friends dug through a roof rather than let their friend miss Jesus. That is what real faith looks like.

faith • Greek: *pistis*

Not a feeling — a confident trust that acts. Notice: Jesus saw their faith. Faith you cannot see is faith that has not moved yet.

forgiven • Greek: *aphiēmi*

To send away, to release, to hurl off. Sin is not just erased on a spreadsheet — it is thrown as far as east is from west.

THE BACKDROP

First-century houses in Capernaum had flat roofs made of wooden beams packed with mud and branches. Digging through one was loud, dusty, and expensive to repair. The four friends were making a public commitment: our friend meets Jesus today, whatever it costs.

WHAT IT MEANS

Jesus healed the paralyzed man's legs, but only after He healed the deeper problem — his sin. That is the order of the gospel: you were not just broken, you were guilty, and Jesus deals with both. Notice too that Jesus responded to the faith of the friends. Your prayers for your friends are not wasted. When you cannot see anything moving, keep digging. Jesus still sees faith and still forgives.

TOMORROW

Tomorrow: Jesus stares down religious people in a synagogue to heal a hand nobody else would touch.

Family Is Whoever Does the Will of God

“Whoever does the will of God is my brother, my sister, and mother.”

MARK 3:35 • WEB

KAI, THE ONLY CHRISTIAN AT HIS TABLE

Kai used to feel alone in his own family. Nobody at his lunch table followed Jesus either. Then he read Mark 3, where Jesus looks around the room and calls the people doing God's will His brothers and sisters. Kai realized his youth group was not a hobby. It was a family Jesus Himself was giving him.

REFLECT

Where do you feel most alone as a Christian right now? Who has Jesus already given you as family?

APPLY

Text one person from your youth group today and tell them why you are grateful they are part of your Jesus family.

PRAY

Jesus, You said whoever does the will of God is family. Help me find them, and help me be that for someone else. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

Jesus redefined family in one sentence — and if you follow Him, you are in.

will • Greek: *thelēma*

The desire, the pleasure, the design. Doing God's will is not clenched-teeth obedience — it is aligning your life with what actually delights Him.

brother / sister • Greek: *adelphos / adelphē*

From the same womb. Jesus is not saying His people feel like family — He is saying they are family, born of the same Spirit.

THE BACKDROP

Jesus' biological family had come to bring Him home, worried He had lost His mind. Instead of leaving with them, He gestured to the disciples sitting in a circle around Him and said the room was family. In an honor-shame culture that valued blood ties above everything, this was radical.

WHAT IT MEANS

The local church — including your youth group — is not a club or a hobby. It is a supernatural family created by the Spirit. When you belong to Jesus, you inherit brothers and sisters you did not choose but God did. This is why isolation is spiritually dangerous and why staying rooted in your youth group matters more than you feel like it does on a Wednesday night when you are tired.

TOMORROW

Tomorrow: a boat, a storm, and one of the sharpest questions Jesus ever asked His followers.

Peace, Be Still

"He said to them, 'Why are you so afraid? How is it that you have no faith?'"

MARK 4:40 • WEB

NAOMI AND THE PANIC BEFORE THE FIRST DAY

The Sunday night before school, Naomi felt the storm rise in her chest — new classes, old anxiety, all of it. She opened Mark 4 and read about a boat that was already full of water while Jesus slept on a pillow. It hit her: Jesus was not indifferent. He was in the boat. She whispered His name, and the wind in her chest started to calm.

REFLECT

What storm is loud in you tonight? Are you fighting it alone, or are you turning to the One who is already in the boat with you?

APPLY

When anxiety spikes this week, take three slow breaths and say out loud, 'Peace, be still — in Jesus' name.' Then read Mark 4:35 to 41.

PRAY

Jesus, You are in the boat. Speak peace over what is loud in me. I choose faith over fear today. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

Jesus was in the storm — asleep on a pillow — the whole time.

peace • Greek: *siōpaō*

Literally 'be silent.' Jesus rebuked the wind the same way He rebuked demons in Mark 1. He speaks and creation obeys.

afraid • Greek: *deilos*

Cowardly, timid, shrinking back. Jesus is not scolding normal human fear — He is calling out fear that forgets who is in the boat.

THE BACKDROP

The Sea of Galilee sits in a bowl of hills; cold air rushes down and hits warm water, and a storm can rise in minutes. Several of Jesus' disciples were experienced fishermen who had seen storms — and they were still terrified. Which means this storm was serious.

WHAT IT MEANS

Jesus is fully human — He got tired enough to sleep through a storm. And He is fully God — He speaks and the storm ends. Both matter. He knows what your storm feels like from the inside, and He has authority over it from the outside. The Christian life is not a promise that there will be no storms. It is a promise that Jesus is in the boat, and He is enough.

CHECKPOINT · THE KING ARRIVES

In four chapters Jesus has been baptized in the Spirit, called ordinary people, forgiven a paralytic, redefined family, and calmed a storm. You are not reading old stories. You are meeting a King. Keep going — the miles are stacking.

TOMORROW

Tomorrow: Jesus crosses a lake, meets a broken man the town gave up on, and sends him home a preacher.

He Goes for the One

"Don't be afraid, just believe."

MARK 5:36 • WEB

TIA, PRAYING FOR A DAD WHO LEFT

Tia had prayed for her dad for years. Some days she felt like the woman in Mark 5 who had been suffering for twelve — worn out, still reaching. Some days she felt like Jairus, watching his little girl die while Jesus seemed too slow. Then she saw it in verse 36: 'Don't be afraid, just believe.' Jesus was not too slow. He was just not on her clock.

REFLECT

What have you been praying for so long that faith feels tired? What would 'just believe' look like tomorrow?

APPLY

Write down the one prayer you are tempted to give up on. Underneath, write Mark 5:36. Do not stop praying.

PRAY

Jesus, I refuse to let go. Do not be afraid — the words are for me. Increase my faith and finish what You started. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

In one chapter Jesus rescues a demonized man, a sick woman, and a dying girl. He is coming for the ones the world gave up on.

believe • Greek: *pisteuō*

Ongoing trust — literally 'keep on trusting.' Faith is not a one-time signature. It is a way of walking.

made you well • Greek: *sōzō*

To save, to heal, to rescue whole. The same word used for salvation from sin. Jesus does not split spiritual healing from physical healing the way we do.

THE BACKDROP

The woman had spent every dollar on doctors and only gotten worse. In her culture she had also been socially and religiously untouchable for twelve years. Jairus was a synagogue leader — highly respected — and his daughter was twelve, exactly the age the woman had been bleeding. Jesus lingered with the outcast without abandoning the leader.

WHAT IT MEANS

Jesus still heals. Not every prayer for healing is answered the way we want on the timeline we want, and that is a real, honest part of following Him. But we do not respond to that mystery by shutting off faith — we respond by keeping our hand on the hem of His robe. He can raise dead things. He is not too slow. Keep believing.

TOMORROW

Tomorrow: Jesus is rejected at His own hometown, then feeds thousands with one kid's lunch.

It Starts With What You Have

"He said to them, 'How many loaves do you have? Go see!'"

MARK 6:38 • WEB

MICAH WITH FIVE BUCKS

Micah wanted to help his youth group support a missionary but he had five dollars and a broken longboard. He almost did not put anything in. Then Mark 6 landed on him — Jesus asked what they had, not what they wished they had. Micah gave the five, and his whole group ended up funding a semester of Bible school for a student in the Philippines.

REFLECT

What has Jesus put in your hands right now — money, time, a voice, a lunch? What if He wants that, not what you wish you had?

APPLY

Give something today. Speed the Light or your local missions offering is a great place to start. Small in your hand, huge in His.

PRAY

Jesus, take what I have. Break it, bless it, multiply it. Feed people through me. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

Jesus asks the disciples what they have — not what they wish they had.

compassion • Greek: *splagchnizomai*

Literally 'to be moved in the guts.' Jesus' feelings for people were not sentimental — they were physical, gut-level love that led to action.

give... to eat • Greek: *didōmi phagein*

'You give them.' The Greek is emphatic on 'you.' Jesus multiplied the food, but He handed it through the disciples to the crowd. He still works that way.

THE BACKDROP

A crowd of about five thousand men, plus women and children — probably fifteen thousand people — followed Jesus into a remote area. A boy's lunch (five barley loaves and two small fish) was the meal of a poor family. Jesus took the least impressive lunch on the hillside and fed a small city with it.

WHAT IT MEANS

God's math is not our math. He does not need what is impressive — He needs what is available. When you say yes with what is in your hand (a small offering, a five-minute prayer, an awkward invitation to youth group), Jesus takes it, blesses it, breaks it, and multiplies it. Speed the Light, missions offerings, and every small act of generosity work on this same Mark 6 principle.

TOMORROW

Tomorrow: Jesus reaches across a border for a mom who will not take no for an answer.

He Has Done All Things Well

"They were astonished beyond measure, saying, 'He has done all things well.'"

MARK 7:37 • WEB

JORDAN AND A DEAF UNCLE

Jordan's uncle had lost most of his hearing in the Army and rarely came to church anymore. Jordan asked his youth pastor if healing was still real. His pastor pointed him to Mark 7 — Jesus put His fingers in a man's ears and simply said, 'Be opened.' Jordan started praying for his uncle in his room every night. He is still praying. He is also still believing.

REFLECT

Where do you need Jesus to say 'be opened' — ears, eyes, a mouth that will not speak up for Him, a heart that has gone quiet?

APPLY

Ask an older leader you trust to lay hands on you and pray one specific thing over you this week. Do not skip this.

PRAY

Jesus, You do all things well. Be opened in me. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

Jesus refuses to let religion get in the way of a real relationship with God.

traditions • Greek: **paradosis**

'Handed down.' Not everything handed down is holy. Jesus honored Scripture and often rejected the human rules built around it.

ephphatha • Aramaic: **'be opened'**

Mark keeps the original word Jesus spoke in Aramaic — the language of a Galilean carpenter. This detail is an eyewitness fingerprint from Peter.

THE BACKDROP

The Pharisees had built a fence of extra rules around the Bible — ceremonial hand washings, food traditions — trying to protect people from breaking God's law. Jesus called them out because rules cannot fix a heart. Then He crossed a Gentile border and healed a deaf man — showing that His mission was never small.

WHAT IT MEANS

Jesus still heals bodies today, and His authority over sickness is part of the good news, not an add-on. Do not be afraid to ask an older believer to lay hands on you and pray for healing. And do not settle for outside-only religion. Jesus is after your heart — that is where the real defilement is, and that is what the gospel actually washes clean.

TOMORROW

Tomorrow: Peter finally gets it — sort of — and Jesus tells everyone to grab a cross.

Take Up Your Cross

“If anyone wants to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.”

MARK 8:34 • WEB

SASHA AND A HALLWAY DECISION

The first week back at school someone made a joke about Jesus in the hallway and everyone laughed, including Sasha's friends. She did not laugh, but she did not say anything either. That night Mark 8 pinned her: Jesus said following Him would cost something and she had just tried to follow Him for free. The next day she said something small. It felt like picking up a very small cross.

REFLECT

What did following Jesus cost you this week? If nothing, are you actually following?

APPLY

Name one 'small cross' you will pick up this week — a friendship you will not compromise, a habit you will lay down, a truth you will not deny.

PRAY

Jesus, You went first. I will follow, even when it costs. Give me courage. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

Halfway through Mark, Peter finally answers the question — and immediately tries to talk Jesus out of the cross.

Christ • Greek: Christos

The Anointed One — Israel's long-promised King. When Peter says 'You are the Christ,' he is confessing Jesus is the fulfillment of the whole Old Testament.

deny himself • Greek: aparneomai heauton

To completely disown, the same word later used when Peter denies knowing Jesus. Following Jesus means saying no to the version of you that lives without Him.

THE BACKDROP

Caesarea Philippi was a Roman city stacked with pagan shrines and temples to Caesar. Jesus picked that spot on purpose to ask the loaded question 'Who do people say I am?' In the shadow of temples to false gods, Peter names the true one. Then Jesus tells them the true King is going to be killed. They cannot compute it yet.

WHAT IT MEANS

Salvation is by grace through faith alone. And the person that grace saves is a person who then follows Jesus — no longer running their own life. This is not adding works to grace; it is describing the shape of a saved life. The cross Jesus asks you to carry is not a burden of guilt (He already carried that on His cross) — it is the daily surrender of your own throne so Jesus can sit on it.

CHECKPOINT · HALFWAY

Day 8 of 16. You have watched Jesus heal, teach, feed, and confront. Now the road bends. From here on Jesus is walking toward a cross with His eyes wide open — and asking you to walk with Him. Stay in it. The best chapters are still ahead.

TOMORROW

Tomorrow: Jesus glows on a mountain, and a dad prays one of the most honest prayers in the Bible.

I Believe. Help My Unbelief.

"Immediately the father of the child cried out with tears, 'I believe. Help my unbelief!'"

MARK 9:24 • WEB

ETHAN, WHISPERING IT IN THE CAR

Ethan wanted to believe God would heal his brother, but there were mornings the doubt was louder than the prayer. He read Mark 9 and found the most honest prayer in the Bible from a dad exactly like him: 'I believe. Help my unbelief.' Ethan started praying that in the car. It turns out Jesus can work with a small, honest yes.

REFLECT

What are you 90% sure of and 10% unsure of? What if Jesus is not scared of your 10%?

APPLY

Pray Mark 9:24 out loud today about the one thing you are half-believing for.

PRAY

Jesus, I believe. Help my unbelief. Grow the yes in me. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

A dad prays the most honest prayer in the Bible, and Jesus does not reject him for it.

unbelief • Greek: *apistia*

Literally 'no-faith.' The dad is not asking Jesus to accept his doubt — he is asking Jesus to grow faith where there is not enough yet.

transfigured • Greek: *metamorphoō*

Where we get 'metamorphosis.' Jesus did not turn into someone else on the mountain — He let three friends briefly see who He always was underneath.

THE BACKDROP

On top of a mountain, Peter, James, and John see Jesus in blazing glory with Moses and Elijah. At the bottom, the other nine disciples are failing to help a suffering boy. It is a striking picture — glory above, spiritual battle below — and Jesus walks straight from one into the other.

WHAT IT MEANS

God is not scared of your honest doubts. Say them out loud to Him. The disciples' failure in this chapter came because they had stopped depending on prayer and the Spirit. Ministry that is not soaked in prayer eventually runs on fumes. If you are burning out spiritually, do not try harder — get low, get honest, get in the presence of Jesus, and ask Him to grow your faith.

TOMORROW

Tomorrow: a rich guy walks away sad, and Jesus explains what He actually came to do.

Not to Be Served, But to Serve

“For the Son of Man also came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

MARK 10:45 • WEB

CALLIE, LAST ONE OUT OF THE YOUTH ROOM

Callie noticed her youth pastor stacking chairs alone after service one Wednesday. She stayed and helped. He said something she has never forgotten: 'The people who become leaders in the Kingdom are the ones who serve when no one is looking.' Mark 10 said the same thing that week — the King of the universe came to serve. Callie decided she was going to lead by loving the trash cans first.

REFLECT

Where are you asking to be served instead of asking who you can serve?

APPLY

Serve without being asked this week — at church, at home, on your team. Stay after. Wipe the counter. Text your mom thank you.

PRAY

Jesus, You washed feet. I will pick up chairs. Make me a servant leader. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

The kingdom looks like a servant with a towel, not a boss with a title.

ransom • Greek: *lutron*

The price paid to set a slave free. Jesus is saying His death is not just an example — it is the payment that literally buys your freedom.

serve • Greek: *diakoneō*

The root of 'deacon.' To wait tables, to actively meet needs. Kingdom greatness is not measured by how many people serve you but by how many you serve.

THE BACKDROP

James and John lobbied for the two best seats in the kingdom. The other ten disciples were furious — not because James and John were wrong to want honor, but because they wanted it first. Jesus flipped the whole conversation: real greatness looks like the King of glory dying for people who did not deserve it.

WHAT IT MEANS

Mark 10:45 is the clearest single-sentence gospel in Mark. Jesus' death was not a tragedy He fell into — it was the ransom He came to pay. He purchased you. That truth reshapes how you lead: Christians serve because we have been served by Christ. If you want to lead in your youth group, start by serving in your youth group.

TOMORROW

Tomorrow: the King rides into His own city on a borrowed donkey and flips over tables.

Believe You Have Received

“All things whatever you pray and ask for, believe that you have received them, and you shall have them.”

MARK 11:24 • WEB

MATEO, PRAYING FOR A REVIVAL ON HIS CAMPUS

Mateo wrote 'revival at my school' on the back of his phone case. He prayed it every day for a year with almost no proof anything was happening. Then in the spring, sixteen students showed up to prayer at the flagpole. He thought about Mark 11 — Jesus said pray, believe you have received it, and then keep walking. Mateo did not manufacture it. He just kept believing.

REFLECT

What are you asking Jesus for that you have not truly believed yet?

APPLY

Pray one bold thing this week for your school. Then act like Jesus already said yes.

PRAY

Jesus, teach me to pray and believe. Move on my campus. I trust You. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

Believing prayer is not naming what you want at Jesus. It is trusting who Jesus already is.

believe • Greek: **pisteuō**

Trust, rest on, put your weight down. Not the same as convincing yourself something is true — it is anchoring yourself in Someone true.

forgive • Greek: **aphiēmi**

Same word used for how God forgives you in chapter 2. Jesus ties your prayer life to your willingness to forgive people who have hurt you.

THE BACKDROP

Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, fulfilling Zechariah 9. He then walked into the temple courts and flipped over the money-changers' tables because they were exploiting worshippers. This was not a temper tantrum — it was a King reclaiming His Father's house.

WHAT IT MEANS

Prayer works because God is powerful and God is good, not because you say the right words with enough feeling. Jesus is not describing magic — He is describing relationship. And He anchors it to forgiveness: unforgiveness in your heart clogs the pipe. Confess where you are holding a grudge, forgive quickly, and pray boldly. Believe He has received it before you see it.

TOMORROW

Tomorrow: the greatest commandment, and a widow who out-gives everyone with two coins.

Love God With Everything

“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.”

MARK 12:30 • WEB

ZARA, SPLITTING HER ATTENTION

Zara was giving Jesus her Sundays and her Wednesdays. She was giving her phone the rest. Mark 12 hit her hard — love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. All. Not Sundays and Wednesdays. She did not become perfect overnight. She just started giving Jesus her phone every morning for a while, and the rest began to change.

REFLECT

What part of your heart, soul, mind, or strength is not on the altar yet?

APPLY

Fast something you love this week — a scroll, a show, a snack. Give that time and attention to Jesus.

PRAY

Jesus, I want to love You with all of me. No leftovers. Take it all. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

Two coins from a widow moved the King of glory more than the gold of the rich.

love • Greek: agapaō

The love that decides, not the love that just feels. Loving God with all your heart is a choice you make again and again.

poor widow • Greek: ptōchē chēra

'Ptōchē' means bent over from begging — she was destitute. And she still gave her last two coins to God. Jesus called that the biggest offering of the day.

THE BACKDROP

Jesus was in the temple treasury area where thirteen shofar-shaped chests collected offerings. Rich people threw in impressive amounts. A widow put in two 'lepta' — the smallest copper coins, worth less than a penny — and it stopped Jesus in His tracks.

WHAT IT MEANS

God does not measure generosity by the amount. He measures by what you kept for yourself. Loving God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength is what a full-hearted Christian life looks like. Anything less than 'all' becomes an idol. Sanctification — the Spirit gradually making you holy — is the process of Jesus getting more and more of you until nothing is off-limits.

TOMORROW

Tomorrow: Jesus talks about the end of everything — and how to be ready.

His Words Do Not Pass Away

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”

MARK 13:31 • WEB

LEVI, DOOM-SCROLLING THE NEWS

Every headline made Levi more anxious. Wars. Storms. Late-night rabbit holes. Mark 13 sounded eerily current, and yet Jesus was calm inside all of it. He kept saying, 'Do not be alarmed... watch... pray.' Levi realized the world is loud, but the Word is louder — and it is not going anywhere, even when everything else does.

REFLECT

What news source has been shaping you more than Jesus lately?

APPLY

For the next seven days read the Bible before you read the news, every single time.

PRAY

Jesus, You are coming back. Keep me awake, keep me hopeful, keep me steady. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

Jesus is coming back. That is not scary news — it is the most hopeful news in the universe.

watch • Greek: grêgoreō

Stay awake, stay alert. Where we get the name Gregory. Jesus is not asking for anxiety — He is asking for readiness.

pass away • Greek: parerchomai

To pass by, to disappear. Everything you can see with your eyes is more temporary than the words of Jesus. His words are the only unshakeable thing.

THE BACKDROP

On the Mount of Olives, looking across at the temple, the disciples asked when the end would come. Jesus gave a layered answer that covered the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 and His own return at the end of history. His main point was not a timeline — it was a posture: be ready.

WHAT IT MEANS

The return of Christ is a central Christian belief — He will physically come back to reign forever. That truth is not a scary conspiracy theory. It is the reason we live with courage today. Do not live for headlines. Live for the day Jesus lands. Watch, pray, share the good news, and do not be alarmed when the world shakes.

CHECKPOINT • THE TURN

Day 13 of 16. Jesus has finished teaching. He now steps into the darkest three days in history, on purpose, for you. These final chapters are not sad — they are the moment the gospel becomes personal. Do not skip the next three days.

TOMORROW

Tomorrow: a garden, a prayer no one else could pray, and the night everything changed.

Not What I Want, But What You Want

“Abba, Father, all things are possible to you. Please remove this cup from me. However, not what I desire, but what you desire.”

MARK 14:36 • WEB

JENNA, SAYING YES SHE DID NOT WANT TO SAY

Jenna sensed God calling her to full-time ministry. She wanted a normal life — a normal job, a normal paycheck. In the garden Jesus prayed the most honest surrender ever prayed: 'Not what I want, but what You want.' Jenna prayed it too, in her closet, tears down her chin. She did not stop being scared. She just stopped being in charge.

REFLECT

What is Jesus asking you to surrender that you keep taking back?

APPLY

Pray Mark 14:36 out loud tonight over the one area of your life you are still holding tightly. If Jesus is calling you into ministry, take the next step — reach out to the Called Cast team.

PRAY

Abba, Father, not my will but Yours. I trust You more than I trust me. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

In a garden, the Son of God prayed a prayer of surrender the entire universe was hanging on.

Abba • Aramaic: 'Papa, Father'

The tender, family word a child uses for a father. Jesus prays this in His darkest moment and invites you to pray it too (Romans 8:15).

cup • Greek: potērion

Old Testament shorthand for God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 51). Jesus is not just asking to skip pain — He is asking whether there is any other way to save you. There was not.

THE BACKDROP

Gethsemane means 'olive press.' Jesus prayed in a place where olives were crushed for oil — a fitting picture of what was happening in Him spiritually. Three times He prayed. His closest friends kept falling asleep. And His answer was still yes.

WHAT IT MEANS

The center of the Christian life is 'not what I want, but what You want.' You can trust the Father with anything because Jesus proved in the garden that His Father is trustworthy — even with the cross. When Jesus calls you to full-time ministry, missions, singleness, marriage, or an unexpected direction, you say yes not because you can see the whole plan but because you trust the Father who is holding it.

TOMORROW

Tomorrow: a Roman soldier watches Jesus die and says the words heaven had been waiting to hear.

Truly This Was the Son of God

“When the centurion, who stood by opposite him, saw that he cried out like this and breathed his last, he said, ‘Truly this man was the Son of God!’”

MARK 15:39 • WEB

ANDRES, AT HIS GRANDPA'S FUNERAL

Andres stood at his grandpa's funeral and did not know what to say. His grandpa had followed Jesus for sixty years and the pastor kept talking about that with joy, not sadness. Andres thought about Mark 15 — the centurion, a hardened Roman soldier, watched Jesus die and something broke open in him. Sometimes the way a person dies preaches louder than the way they lived. Andres wanted his life and his death to preach the same message.

REFLECT

If someone watched your life this week, what would they say about Jesus?

APPLY

Live today like your unbelieving friend is a centurion watching from ten feet away. What one thing changes?

PRAY

Jesus, You died for me. Let my life shout what the centurion shouted. You truly are the Son of God. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

The first person in Mark to publicly call Jesus 'Son of God' is a hardened Roman soldier watching Him die.

Son of God • Greek: *huios theou*

In the Roman Empire, that title belonged to Caesar. The centurion is confessing that the man dying in front of him — not Caesar — is the true King of the world.

torn • Greek: *schizō*

The same word Mark used in chapter 1 when heaven was 'torn' open at Jesus' baptism. The moment Jesus dies, the temple curtain is 'torn' too. God is opening the way to Himself, top to bottom.

THE BACKDROP

Roman crucifixion was designed to be public, brutal, and shameful. The temple curtain — sixty feet tall and thick as a hand — separated the Holy of Holies (God's presence) from the rest of the temple. When it tore top to bottom the moment Jesus died, it was not a rip a human could make. It was God saying: the barrier is gone.

WHAT IT MEANS

The cross is the exact place where God's justice and God's love meet. Jesus took on Himself the judgment your sin deserved so that you could walk through the torn curtain into the presence of God. That is not one truth of Christianity — it is the truth every other truth stands on. Nothing in your life is more important than personally receiving what Jesus did here.

TOMORROW

Tomorrow: an empty tomb, a scared group of women, and the sentence that started the Church.

Go Into All the World

“Go into all the world, and preach the Good News to the whole creation.”

MARK 16:15 • WEB

YOU, ON DAY 16

The women came to a tomb expecting a body and left with a mission. Jesus was not there. He was risen. He is not a story you finished — He is a King you follow. Whatever school, team, family, or city Jesus is sending you into next, He is going with you. The book ends. The mission starts.

REFLECT

Where has Jesus specifically been sending you this whole month, and are you finally going to say yes?

APPLY

Write down one person and one place. Commit to preaching the Good News there — with your life, with your words, and this week. Then tell your youth pastor about it.

PRAY

Risen Jesus, You are alive and You are sending me. I am going. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

The tomb was empty. The mission was on. And it has not stopped since.

risen • Greek: egeirō

To wake up, to be raised. Jesus is not a legend or a memory — He is a living Person. Every prayer you pray is to a Jesus who is right now alive.

preach • Greek: kēryssō

To herald, to announce publicly like a town crier. The Great Commission is not about being subtle. It is about lovingly telling people that Jesus is King.

THE BACKDROP

The women went to the tomb early Sunday morning with spices to anoint a body. Instead, they met an angel who said the sentence that started the Church: 'He is not here. He is risen.'

Mark ends abruptly — the earliest manuscripts stop at verse 8 — which is almost like Mark is handing you the pen. The story is not finished. You are the next chapter.

WHAT IT MEANS

The resurrection is not a symbol. It is a historical event that changes everything: Jesus really rose, really lives, and really is coming back. That is why we can share the Good News with confidence, expect the Spirit to work, pray for the sick, and give our whole lives to the mission of Jesus without fear of wasting them. He is worth all of it. Go and tell.

YOU FINISHED MARK.

16 chapters. 16 days. You just walked with Jesus from the Jordan to the empty tomb. Now go tell someone. Camp was the trailhead, Mark was the next mile, and Jesus is the whole mountain. Keep going, glory to glory.

TOMORROW

The book ended. The journey did not. Ask Jesus tonight what He wants to read with you next.

16 DAYS IN MARK

Notes & Prayers