



WAY CHURCH
SPRING HILL, KANSAS

HARK

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

An 18-Week Formation Workbook

The Way of Fasting

A Guide for 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting

Way Church believes that fasting is not a discipline of self-punishment. It is a practice of reorientation. When we fast, we are saying with our bodies what we believe in our souls: Jesus is the bread of life. I am hungry for him more than I am hungry for anything else.

These 21 days are embedded in the first three weeks of our journey through Mark. We begin the Gospel of Mark the same way Jesus begins his ministry: in the wilderness, hungry, dependent, and attentive. You are not just reading about a fasting Jesus. You are joining him in the practice.

WHY WE FAST

Fasting appears throughout Scripture as a normal practice of God's people. Moses fasted 40 days before receiving the Torah. Elijah fasted on his way to Horeb. Esther called her people to fast before risking her life. Daniel fasted for clarity and breakthrough. Jesus fasted before his public ministry began. The early church fasted before sending out missionaries. Fasting is not optional religious decoration. It is a core practice of people who take their spiritual hunger seriously.

WHAT FASTING IS NOT

Fasting is not a way to earn God's attention. God is not more available to you because you skipped lunch. Fasting is a way to create space in your body and your schedule for what is already true: God is present, God is speaking, and you are in need of him.

THE PROGRESSIVE STRUCTURE

These 21 days build in intensity across three weeks. This is intentional. You are training a muscle. Start where you are, not where you think you should be.

WEEK 1: PARTIAL FAST (DAYS 1 THROUGH 7)

Skip one meal per day. Replace that meal with intentional prayer using the daily prompt for that day. Eat normally at all other meals. If you are new to fasting, this is your week. If you are experienced, use this week to re-calibrate your heart rather than going straight to intensity.

WEEK 2: NORMAL FAST (DAYS 8 THROUGH 14)

Fast from sunrise to sunset each day. This is a traditional daily fast rooted in the Jewish rhythm of the day and practiced throughout church history, from the early church fathers through the Reformation. Break your fast each evening with a simple meal and a brief prayer of gratitude. Those with medical conditions should do a Daniel Fast instead: fruits, vegetables, water, and no meat or processed food.

WEEK 3: EXTENDED OR DANIEL FAST (DAYS 15 THROUGH 21)

Those who are ready: choose 1 to 3 days this week for an extended fast of 24 hours or longer. On all other days, continue the Daniel Fast. Those not ready for extended fasting: continue the normal fast pattern. The goal is not competition. The goal is surrender.

A DANIEL FAST OPTION

At any point during the 21 days, if medical need, pregnancy, nursing, medication, or physical limitation makes abstaining from food unsafe or unwise, the Daniel Fast is the right path. Daniel 1:8-16 describes Daniel choosing vegetables and water rather than the king's food as an act of covenant faithfulness. The Daniel Fast is: vegetables, fruits, whole grains, nuts, seeds, and water only. No meat. No dairy. No sweeteners. No processed food. No caffeine. It is a genuine fast and is fully honored.

DAILY RHYTHM

Each of the 21 days has a morning focus and an evening focus. The morning focus is tied to the Mark passage for that week. The evening focus is a prayer for Way Church, Spring Hill, or a specific lane of the church's mission. Use the prayer prompts on the following pages.

- ☐ **Morning** Use your meal time or the first 15 minutes of your day. Read the day's passage. Pray the morning focus.
- ☐ **Midday** When hunger hits, use it as a prompt. Breathe. Pray a short prayer. Let your body remind you of your dependence.
- ☐ **Evening** Whether you are breaking a full fast or ending a partial fast day, pause before eating. Pray the evening focus. Give thanks.

PRACTICAL GUIDANCE

- ☐ **Hydrate** Drink water throughout the day, especially on full fast days. Coffee and tea without sweetener are a personal conscience decision.
- ☐ **Tell someone** Invite a friend, your small group, or your family to fast with you. Accountability matters.
- ☐ **Expect distraction** Your phone, your appetite, and your schedule will all fight for the time you are trying to give to God. Plan for it.

- ☐ **Do not fast to impress anyone** Matthew 6 is clear. This is between you and God. No announcements required.
 - ☐ **When you break the fast early** Do not spiral. Confess it simply. Return to the rhythm the next meal or the next day. Grace is real.
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21 Days of Prayer and Fasting

Daily Prompts for the Way of Jesus

These 21 days are woven into the first three weeks of the HARK journey through Mark. Each day has a morning focus and an evening focus. Use them in the rhythm described in the fasting guide.

WEEK 1: PARTIAL FAST (DAYS 1-7)

DAY 1

MORNING Mark 1:1-8. John the Baptist prepared the way in the wilderness. What needs to be prepared in you before Jesus can move more freely in your life? Ask God to show you.

EVENING Pray for Way Church's vision. Ask God to establish Way Church as a beacon of multiethnic reconciliation in Spring Hill. Pray by name for one person who does not yet know Jesus.

DAY 2

MORNING Mark 1:9-13. Jesus was baptized and immediately driven into the wilderness. The Spirit led him there. Where is the Spirit leading you that feels like wilderness right now? Surrender it.

EVENING Pray for Spring Hill, Kansas. For the families moving into new subdivisions who have no church home. Ask God to make Way Church findable to them.

DAY 3

MORNING Mark 1:14-20. Jesus called four fishermen and they left immediately. What would immediate obedience look like for you in one specific area of your life? Ask for the courage to move.

EVENING Pray for the Worship Experience lane of Way Church. For Simon and the worship team. That Sunday gatherings would be encounters with the living God, not just productions.

DAY 4

MORNING Mark 1:21-28. Jesus taught with authority, not like the scribes. Ask God to give you a genuine encounter with his authority today, not just information about him.

EVENING Pray for the Spiritual Formation lane. For small groups, the HARK rhythm, and every person in this workbook. That the Word would go deep and produce real change.

DAY 5

MORNING Mark 1:29-39. Jesus rose very early and went to a desolate place to pray. What would it mean for you to protect time with God before the day consumes you? Ask for that discipline.

EVENING Pray for Way Church's Missions lane. For Meals on Mission. For the relationships

being built in Spring Hill through acts of service. That needs would be met and doors would open.

DAY 6

MORNING Mark 1:40-45. The leper asked if Jesus was willing. Jesus touched him and said yes. Bring your most vulnerable need to God. Ask him directly: Are you willing?

EVENING Pray for Way Church's Operations lane. For the facility goal and the capital campaign. Ask God to provide the right land, the right building, and the right timing for a permanent home.

DAY 7

MORNING Review Mark 1 as a whole. What one moment from this chapter has most stayed with you this week? Bring it back to God in prayer. Ask what he wants to do with it in you.

EVENING Pray for Zach and Raegan and the Way Church staff team. For wisdom, endurance, joy, and protection over their family. For clarity in leadership decisions ahead.

WEEK 2: NORMAL FAST (DAYS 8-14)

DAY 8

MORNING Mark 2:1-12. Four friends lowered a paralyzed man through a roof. Jesus saw their faith. Who in your life are you interceding for right now? Pray for them specifically by name today.

EVENING Pray for the assimilation pathway at Way Church. For every person who has visited but not yet connected. That Plan Your Visit would become Party with the Pastor, and that no one would fall through the cracks.

DAY 9

MORNING Mark 2:5. Jesus said 'Son, your sins are forgiven.' Before he healed the body, he addressed the soul. Ask God to search your heart. Is there unconfessed sin that needs to be named and released today?

EVENING Pray for the next generation. For Way Students and every middle and high school student connected to Way Church. That they would encounter the real Jesus before the world defines Jesus for them.

DAY 10

MORNING Mark 2:13-17. Jesus ate with tax collectors and sinners. He went to them. Who are you avoiding? Ask God to give you his compassion for the person you find most difficult to include.

EVENING Pray for racial and ethnic reconciliation in Spring Hill. That Way Church would be known as a genuinely multiethnic community. Ask God to draw people from every background to the table.

DAY 11

MORNING Mark 2:18-22. New wine, new wineskins. Ask God to show you where you are holding on to old structures or habits that cannot contain what he is doing. What needs to be released?

EVENING Pray for the institutional giving partnerships sustaining Way Church. Give thanks for Shepherd Church, Send Network, and Abundant Life. Ask God to raise up new donors and kingdom partners.

DAY 12

MORNING Mark 2:23-28. The Sabbath was made for people. Ask God to show you where you are violating rest in your own life. Where are you burning out trying to earn something that is already given?

EVENING Pray for the permanent facility goal. For the land target intersection in Spring Hill. Ask God to move specifically on land availability, relationships with landowners, and financial alignment.

DAY 13

MORNING Read Mark 2 slowly in full. Ask God one question and then be quiet for five minutes: What do you want to say to me through this chapter that I have not yet heard?

EVENING Pray for the city of Spring Hill's leadership. For elected officials, school administrators, first responders, and business owners. Ask God to give Way Church favor with community leaders.

DAY 14

MORNING Mark 2 as a whole. Jesus confronted religious performance at every turn. Where in your own life is spiritual appearance more important to you than spiritual reality? Ask for honest self-awareness and courage to change.

EVENING Pray for Way Church's 2031 goal. For a permanent facility that becomes a hub of community transformation. Pray that the congregation that gathers there would be a reflection of the full diversity of Spring Hill.

WEEK 3: EXTENDED OR DANIEL FAST (DAYS 15-21)

DAY 15

MORNING Mark 3:1-6. Jesus was grieved by hardness of heart. Ask God to search your heart for any area of hardness. Any place where you have stopped feeling what God feels about something. Ask him to soften it.

EVENING Pray for every person in Way Church who is carrying something heavy right now. You may not know their names. God does. Ask him to bring comfort, breakthrough, and breakthrough relationships.

DAY 16

MORNING Mark 3:13-19. Jesus chose twelve ordinary people and gave them authority. He still does this. Ask God: What authority have you given me that I am not using? What mission am I underestimating?

EVENING Pray for the broader church in Spring Hill and the surrounding area. For The Church Louisville, for every congregation seeking to reach the region. Ask God to give them all kingdom fruitfulness.

DAY 17

MORNING Mark 3:31-35. Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother. Pray for the Way Church family. For unity across difference. For covenant that goes deeper than preference.

EVENING Pray for the families of Way Church. For marriages under pressure. For children being raised in the way of Jesus. For singles navigating faith and loneliness. For the elderly being cared for by the community.

DAY 18

MORNING Mark 1 through 3 as a whole. You have spent three weeks with these chapters. Ask God: What is the single most important thing you have shown me in these 21 days? Write it down.

EVENING Pray for yourself. For your own formation. Ask God to seal what he has done in you during these 21 days. Ask what he wants the rest of this series to produce in your life.

DAY 19

MORNING Isaiah 58:6-7. This is the fast God chooses: to loose the chains of injustice, to share food with the hungry, to provide for the poor. Ask God how this call applies to your life right now.

EVENING Pray for Way Church's witness in the community. That acts of service would open doors for genuine Gospel conversations. Ask God to give the church creative, faithful ways to serve Spring Hill.

DAY 20

MORNING Matthew 6:16-18. Jesus assumed his disciples would fast. Not if but when. Ask God to make fasting a sustainable, lifelong practice in your life, not just a 21-day event.

EVENING Pray for the next 21 days and beyond. For sustained momentum in your own spiritual formation. That what God began in this fast would continue as a new rhythm, a new hunger, a new way of walking.

DAY 21

MORNING Final morning. Give thanks. Thank God for every moment of hunger that pointed you to him. Every prayer answered. Every silence that still held him. Ask: What do you want me to carry forward from this?

EVENING Final evening. Break your fast together if possible, with others from Way Church. Eat, celebrate, and pray together. Then go continue the journey through Mark with new eyes.

Week 0: Before We Begin

Preparing Your Heart for the Way of Jesus

WELCOME TO THE JOURNEY

This booklet is your companion through the Gospel of Mark. Mark moves fast. Jesus moves faster. Each week you will sit with one chapter, absorb its history, and ask honest questions of your own life. There is no performance here. Way Church believes we care more about who you become than what you do. That starts right here.

THE HARK FRAMEWORK

Every week in this workbook follows the HARK rhythm. This is not a reading plan. It is a formation practice.

H HEAR AND OBEY

Before you open the passage, pause. Where is Jesus showing up in your contemporary life right now? How are you joining him, or not joining him? This is a present-tense life inventory.

A ACCOUNTABILITY

Go back to your last Key Question. What was God asking you to do from your last time in the Word? Did you actually do it? This is a backward accountability check before moving forward.

R READING AND REFLECTION

Now open the passage. Read it fully. Sit with it. Work through the Reading Blocks. This is where you actually encounter the text.

K KAIROS KEY QUESTION

Land on the moment or truth that most arrested you. Then spiral through four questions: What does this say about God? What does it say about me? What am I going to do about it? How am I going to do it? Your HOW becomes your Key Question carried into next week's A section.

ABOUT THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Mark is the shortest Gospel and likely the oldest, written between 65 and 70 AD, probably in Rome. Most scholars believe the Apostle Peter was Mark's primary source. The author, John Mark, appears in Acts as a companion of Paul and Barnabas. Mark's Gospel is urgent and action-driven. The word 'immediately' appears over 40 times. Mark is not interested in long speeches. He wants you to see Jesus in motion.

HISTORICAL NOTE

Mark's original audience was likely a community experiencing real persecution, possibly under the Emperor Nero. They needed to know that Jesus was not a distant concept but an active, powerful, compassionate king who entered the mess of human suffering. That is still the message.

NOTE ON THE 21 DAYS OF PRAYER AND FASTING

Before you begin Week 1, read through the Fasting Guide and the 21-Day Prayer Prompts at the front of this booklet. The first three weeks of this study are embedded in a 21-day fast. You are not just reading about a Jesus who fasted. You are joining him in the practice. That is the way of Jesus.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN: PERSONAL INVENTORY

Take time to answer these honestly. No one needs to see this but you and God.

1. *What is your honest relationship with the Bible right now? Familiar? Distant? Skeptical? Hungry?*

Write here...

2. *What do you most need Jesus to be for you in this season of your life?*

Write here...

3. *Is there anything you are afraid you might encounter in this study? Name it honestly.*

Write here...

A PRAYER TO BEGIN

Jesus, I do not come to this with perfect faith. I come as I am. Open my eyes to see you clearly in these pages. Change what needs to change in me. I want to know the way of Jesus, not just know about it. Amen.

Week 1: Mark 1

The King Has Come

A new way of being human is on the move

FASTING WEEK

This is Week 1 of the 21-day fast: a Partial Fast. Skip one meal each day and replace it with prayer using the Day 1 through 7 prompts in the front of this booklet.

H HEAR AND OBEY

Before you open the passage, pause. Where is Jesus showing up in your life right now? How are you joining him, or not joining him?

Where I see Jesus moving in my life right now...

Based on what you see, what is one step of obedience in front of you today?

My step of obedience...

A ACCOUNTABILITY

Go back to your last Key Question. What was God asking you to do? Did you do it? Be honest.

My last Key Question was... and my honest account of obedience is...

R READING AND REFLECTION

Now open your Bible. Read the full chapter slowly. Use the Reading Blocks below to work through each passage. Check each one as you complete it.

- ☐ **Mark 1:1-8** John the Baptist prepares the way in the wilderness. What does it mean to prepare a path for someone?
- ☐ **Mark 1:9-13** Jesus is baptized and immediately driven into the wilderness. The Spirit descends, the voice speaks, and the testing begins.
- ☐ **Mark 1:14-20** Jesus begins preaching in Galilee and calls his first four disciples. Notice how immediate their response is.
- ☐ **Mark 1:21-28** Jesus teaches with authority and drives out an unclean spirit in the synagogue at Capernaum. People are astonished.
- ☐ **Mark 1:29-39** Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law, then heals many, then rises early to pray alone. Do not skip that detail.
- ☐ **Mark 1:40-45** A man with leprosy asks if Jesus is willing. Jesus touches him. He was willing.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Mark opens with no birth narrative. He plunges straight into action. In the first century, the word 'gospel' was a political term announcing a king's victory. Mark is announcing that the real king has arrived. John the Baptist's role connects to Isaiah 40 and Malachi 3 and the broader Jewish expectation of a coming Messiah. The Jordan River baptism echoes Israel's crossing into the promised land under Joshua. The wilderness temptation connects to Israel's 40 years of testing. Jesus is recapitulating and redeeming Israel's story.

DEVOTIONAL FOCUS

Jesus begins his ministry not in the temple but in the wilderness and then in ordinary places where people worked and lived. He calls fishermen, not priests. He heals in synagogues, but also in homes and on the street. From the very first chapter, Mark establishes that Jesus brings the kingdom to ordinary people in ordinary places. Way Church exists because we believe Jesus still does exactly that. The question this chapter asks is simple: will you follow immediately?

K KAIROS KEY QUESTION

Land on the moment or truth from this chapter that most stopped you. Name it briefly, then spiral through the four questions below.

MY KAIROS MOMENT

Write the verse or moment that most arrested you before working through the four movements below.

The moment or truth that most stopped me...

GOD

What does this passage reveal about who God is?

ME

What does this say about who I am or where I am?

WHAT

What is God asking me to do in response?

HOW

How specifically will I do it? When? With whom?

Carry your HOW answer forward as your Key Question for next week's A section.

Week 2: Mark 2

Authority to Forgive

Jesus does the thing only God can do

FASTING WEEK

This is Week 2 of the 21-day fast: a Normal Fast from sunrise to sunset. Use the Day 8 through 14 prompts in the front of this booklet.

H HEAR AND OBEY

Before you open the passage, pause. Where is Jesus showing up in your life right now? How are you joining him, or not joining him?

Where I see Jesus moving in my life right now...

Based on what you see, what is one step of obedience in front of you today?

My step of obedience...

A ACCOUNTABILITY

Go back to your last Key Question. What was God asking you to do? Did you do it? Be honest.

My last Key Question was... and my honest account of obedience is...

R READING AND REFLECTION

Now open your Bible. Read the full chapter slowly. Use the Reading Blocks below to work through each passage. Check each one as you complete it.

- ☐ **Mark 2:1-12** Four friends lower a paralyzed man through a roof. Jesus sees their faith and forgives the man. The scribes object silently.
- ☐ **Mark 2:13-17** Jesus calls Levi the tax collector and eats with sinners. He came not to call the righteous, but sinners.
- ☐ **Mark 2:18-22** A question about fasting. New wine needs new wineskins. What is Jesus saying about old structures and new movements?
- ☐ **Mark 2:23-28** Disciples pluck grain on the Sabbath. Jesus defends them. The Sabbath was made for people, not people for the Sabbath.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Chapter 2 introduces the religious leaders as opponents. Scribes and Pharisees were deeply committed to Torah observance and purity codes. Tax collectors like Levi were despised as collaborators with Rome who often overcharged their own people. The controversy over fasting relates to mourning practices and preparation for God's presence. The Sabbath grain controversy connects to Deuteronomy 23 which permitted plucking grain by hand, while the Pharisees had developed additional oral laws restricting any labor on the Sabbath. Jesus engages each dispute not by compromising but by revealing a deeper reality beneath the surface conflict.

DEVOTIONAL FOCUS

Five conflict stories in one chapter, and Jesus wins every one not by arguing harder but by revealing what is most true. He forgives before healing. He eats with people everyone else wrote off. He shows that the Sabbath exists for people, not people for the Sabbath. Jesus consistently places human dignity above religious performance. That is not comfortable for anyone who has made their spiritual life about behavior management. Way Church asks: what would it look like to actually live like that?

K KAIROS KEY QUESTION

Land on the moment or truth from this chapter that most stopped you. Name it briefly, then spiral through the four questions below.

MY KAIROS MOMENT

Write the verse or moment that most arrested you before working through the four movements below.

The moment or truth that most stopped me...

GOD

What does this passage reveal about who God is?

ME

What does this say about who I am or where I am?

WHAT

What is God asking me to do in response?

HOW

How specifically will I do it? When? With whom?

Carry your HOW answer forward as your Key Question for next week's A section.

Week 3: Mark 3

A New Family

Jesus redefines who belongs

FASTING WEEK

This is Week 3 of the 21-day fast: Extended or Daniel Fast. Use the Day 15 through 21 prompts in the front of this booklet. You are in the final stretch. Finish well.

H HEAR AND OBEY

Before you open the passage, pause. Where is Jesus showing up in your life right now? How are you joining him, or not joining him?

Where I see Jesus moving in my life right now...

Based on what you see, what is one step of obedience in front of you today?

My step of obedience...

A ACCOUNTABILITY

Go back to your last Key Question. What was God asking you to do? Did you do it? Be honest.

My last Key Question was... and my honest account of obedience is...

R READING AND REFLECTION

Now open your Bible. Read the full chapter slowly. Use the Reading Blocks below to work through each passage. Check each one as you complete it.

- ☐ **Mark 3:1-6** Jesus heals a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath. The Pharisees are silent but plotting. Jesus is grieved by their hardness of heart.
- ☐ **Mark 3:7-12** Crowds from many regions press in. Jesus heals many. He is no longer local news.
- ☐ **Mark 3:13-19** Jesus appoints twelve apostles. He gives Simon the name Peter. The twelve are listed by name.
- ☐ **Mark 3:20-30** Jesus is accused of being possessed by Beelzebul. He responds with the parable of binding the strong man.
- ☐ **Mark 3:31-35** His family comes to take him away. He redefines family around obedience to God rather than bloodline.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Herodians mentioned in 3:6 were a political group aligned with Herod Antipas who ruled Galilee under Rome. That Pharisees and Herodians would conspire together is remarkable since they were typically rivals, revealing how threatening Jesus had become to both religious and political power. The twelve apostles Jesus appoints parallel the twelve tribes of Israel, a deliberate symbol of a new covenant people being formed. The accusation that Jesus had Beelzebul reflects a broader rabbinic debate about the sources of spiritual power and the nature of exorcism in the first-century Jewish world.

DEVOTIONAL FOCUS

The chapter ends with one of the most radical statements Jesus makes: whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother. He is not abandoning family. He is expanding the definition of it. Way Church takes this seriously. We are a multiethnic community because the family of God has always been bigger than one culture, one background, or one story. That is not a political position. It is a theological one rooted directly in Mark 3.

K KAIROS KEY QUESTION

Land on the moment or truth from this chapter that most stopped you. Name it briefly, then spiral through the four questions below.

MY KAIROS MOMENT

Write the verse or moment that most arrested you before working through the four movements below.

The moment or truth that most stopped me...

GOD

What does this passage reveal about who God is?

ME

What does this say about who I am or where I am?

WHAT

What is God asking me to do in response?

HOW

How specifically will I do it? When? With whom?

Carry your HOW answer forward as your Key Question for next week's A section.

Week 4: Mark 4

Ears to Hear

The kingdom grows in places you would not expect

H HEAR AND OBEY

Before you open the passage, pause. Where is Jesus showing up in your life right now? How are you joining him, or not joining him?

Where I see Jesus moving in my life right now...

Based on what you see, what is one step of obedience in front of you today?

My step of obedience...

A ACCOUNTABILITY

Go back to your last Key Question. What was God asking you to do? Did you do it? Be honest.

My last Key Question was... and my honest account of obedience is...

R READING AND REFLECTION

Now open your Bible. Read the full chapter slowly. Use the Reading Blocks below to work through each passage. Check each one as you complete it.

- **Mark 4:1-20** The parable of the sower and Jesus' private explanation. Four kinds of soil, four kinds of response to the same Word.
- **Mark 4:21-25** A lamp belongs on a stand. What you have been given is meant to give light to others.
- **Mark 4:26-29** The kingdom grows even when the farmer sleeps. There is a hiddenness to how God works.
- **Mark 4:30-34** The mustard seed: smallest of seeds, largest of shrubs. The kingdom starts small and becomes shelter for others.
- **Mark 4:35-41** A storm on the sea. The disciples panic. Jesus rebukes the wind. 'Do you still have no faith?'

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The parable of the sower was immediately recognizable to a first-century Jewish agrarian audience. Palestinian farming often involved broadcasting seed across paths, rocky ground, and thorny soil before reaching good soil. The Sea of Galilee is roughly 13 miles long and 8 miles wide and subject to sudden violent storms driven by wind channeling through surrounding hills. Seasoned fishermen like the disciples would have known its danger well, making their terror entirely understandable. The parables as a teaching form were used by other Jewish teachers of the period, but Jesus uses them distinctively to reveal and conceal the kingdom at the same time.

DEVOTIONAL FOCUS

Jesus teaches in parables because the kingdom of God is not primarily a set of propositions. It is a way of seeing. Those who lean in and ask questions, who want to understand rather than just be entertained, receive the deeper explanation. The disciples ask. That is why they get more. Spiritual curiosity is not weakness. It is the mark of someone with good soil. The question this chapter puts to you is not what kind of soil are you. The question is what kind of soil are you willing to become.

K KAIROS KEY QUESTION

Land on the moment or truth from this chapter that most stopped you. Name it briefly, then spiral through the four questions below.

MY KAIROS MOMENT

Write the verse or moment that most arrested you before working through the four movements below.

The moment or truth that most stopped me...

GOD

What does this passage reveal about who God is?

ME

What does this say about who I am or where I am?

WHAT

What is God asking me to do in response?

HOW

How specifically will I do it? When? With whom?

Carry your HOW answer forward as your Key Question for next week's A section.

Week 5: Mark 5

Completely Whole

Jesus meets people in the places they have been abandoned

H HEAR AND OBEY

Before you open the passage, pause. Where is Jesus showing up in your life right now? How are you joining him, or not joining him?

Where I see Jesus moving in my life right now...

Based on what you see, what is one step of obedience in front of you today?

My step of obedience...

A ACCOUNTABILITY

Go back to your last Key Question. What was God asking you to do? Did you do it? Be honest.

My last Key Question was... and my honest account of obedience is...

R READING AND REFLECTION

Now open your Bible. Read the full chapter slowly. Use the Reading Blocks below to work through each passage. Check each one as you complete it.

- **Mark 5:1-20** The man with many demons is healed, clothed, and commissioned to go tell his own people. Testimony is his first act of freedom.
- **Mark 5:21-34** The woman with the hemorrhage reaches through a crowd to touch the edge of Jesus' garment. Jesus stops and finds her.
- **Mark 5:35-43** Jairus's daughter is raised. Jesus takes her hand. 'Talitha cumi.' Little girl, arise.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Gerasenes region was a Gentile area east of the Sea of Galilee, making this the first healing of a non-Jewish person in Mark's Gospel. The pig herd confirms the Gentile context. The man among the tombs was ritually unclean under Jewish law on multiple counts: likely Gentile, among the dead, and demon-possessed. Jairus was a synagogue ruler, a person of significant social standing. The woman with the hemorrhage had been bleeding for twelve years, making her perpetually unclean under Levitical law and excluded from community worship. Three healings, three kinds of marginalization, one consistent response from Jesus.

DEVOTIONAL FOCUS

Jesus crosses every boundary to reach these three people. He does not wait for them to come to the right neighborhood. He travels to where they are, touches what no one else will touch, and restores them fully. The healed man is commissioned to go tell his own people. The woman is called daughter and sent away in peace. The dead girl is told to arise. Mark is showing us that Jesus is in the full restoration business, not just spiritual improvement. Whatever you think is too far gone to bring to him, bring it anyway.

K KAIROS KEY QUESTION

Land on the moment or truth from this chapter that most stopped you. Name it briefly, then spiral through the four questions below.

MY KAIROS MOMENT

Write the verse or moment that most arrested you before working through the four movements below.

The moment or truth that most stopped me...

GOD <i>What does this passage reveal about who God is?</i>	ME <i>What does this say about who I am or where I am?</i>
WHAT <i>What is God asking me to do in response?</i>	HOW <i>How specifically will I do it? When? With whom?</i>

Carry your HOW answer forward as your Key Question for next week's A section.

Week 6: Mark 6

Ordinary People, Impossible Things

Jesus sends his people out before they feel ready

H HEAR AND OBEY

Before you open the passage, pause. Where is Jesus showing up in your life right now? How are you joining him, or not joining him?

Where I see Jesus moving in my life right now...

Based on what you see, what is one step of obedience in front of you today?

My step of obedience...

A ACCOUNTABILITY

Go back to your last Key Question. What was God asking you to do? Did you do it? Be honest.

My last Key Question was... and my honest account of obedience is...

R READING AND REFLECTION

Now open your Bible. Read the full chapter slowly. Use the Reading Blocks below to work through each passage. Check each one as you complete it.

- **Mark 6:1-6** Jesus is rejected in his hometown. Even he was amazed at their unbelief. Familiarity can produce blindness.
- **Mark 6:7-13** The twelve are sent out two by two with authority. They go. They actually do it.
- **Mark 6:14-29** The execution of John the Baptist. A powerful man makes a weak decision under social pressure.
- **Mark 6:30-44** The disciples return. Jesus tries to give them rest. A crowd of 5,000 interrupts. Five loaves feed them all.
- **Mark 6:45-56** Jesus walks on water. The disciples do not understand the loaves. Wherever Jesus lands, healing follows.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Nazareth was a small, unremarkable village of perhaps a few hundred people. The question 'Is not this the carpenter?' reflects the social reality that artisan trades were lower status than Torah scholarship in that culture. The beheading of John the Baptist is confirmed by the Jewish historian Josephus in his Antiquities of the Jews, providing historical corroboration for Mark's account. The feeding of the five thousand is the only miracle of Jesus recorded in all four Gospels. Herod Antipas ruled Galilee under Roman authority from 4 BC to 39 AD. The disciples return from their first mission trip in this same chapter, making it a pivot point in their formation.

DEVOTIONAL FOCUS

Jesus sends out the twelve with almost nothing: no bag, no extra clothing, just authority and a mission. They discover that what Jesus gives them is sufficient. Then they watch five thousand people get fed from five loaves and two fish. Jesus can work with what seems like nothing. The disciples are learning, slowly, that Jesus plus inadequacy is still more than enough. Way Church is built on that conviction. We are not waiting until we have enough. We are going with what we have been given.

K KAIROS KEY QUESTION

Land on the moment or truth from this chapter that most stopped you. Name it briefly, then spiral through the four questions below.

MY KAIROS MOMENT

Write the verse or moment that most arrested you before working through the four movements below.

The moment or truth that most stopped me...

GOD

What does this passage reveal about who God is?

ME

What does this say about who I am or where I am?

WHAT

What is God asking me to do in response?

HOW

How specifically will I do it? When? With whom?

Carry your HOW answer forward as your Key Question for next week's A section.

Week 7: Mark 7

Inside Out

What defiles a person is not outside them

H HEAR AND OBEY

Before you open the passage, pause. Where is Jesus showing up in your life right now? How are you joining him, or not joining him?

Where I see Jesus moving in my life right now...

Based on what you see, what is one step of obedience in front of you today?

My step of obedience...

A ACCOUNTABILITY

Go back to your last Key Question. What was God asking you to do? Did you do it? Be honest.

My last Key Question was... and my honest account of obedience is...

R READING AND REFLECTION

Now open your Bible. Read the full chapter slowly. Use the Reading Blocks below to work through each passage. Check each one as you complete it.

- **Mark 7:1-23** A dispute about handwashing becomes a teaching on where defilement actually originates. The heart is the issue.
- **Mark 7:24-30** A Gentile woman asks Jesus to heal her daughter. He tests her. She persists. Her daughter is healed.
- **Mark 7:31-37** A deaf man with a speech impediment is healed. Jesus says 'Ephphatha.' Be opened.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The handwashing controversy in 7:1-5 is about ritual purity, not hygiene. The Pharisees' tradition required washing hands up to the wrist before meals as a way of maintaining ceremonial cleanness, an oral tradition not found in the Torah itself. The region of Tyre was a Gentile coastal city in what is now modern Lebanon. The Syrophenician woman's reference to children and dogs reflects real ethnic tension between Jews and Gentiles in that era. The Decapolis in 7:31 was a league of ten Hellenized Gentile cities east of Galilee, making this again a healing in non-Jewish territory.

DEVOTIONAL FOCUS

Jesus locates the source of human corruption not in external contamination but in the human heart. Pride, envy, slander, foolishness all come from within. The Syrophenician woman argues with Jesus and wins. Not because she is entitled, but because her faith is real and her persistence is honest. Jesus honors it completely. Then he heals a man who cannot hear or speak, and he sighs deeply before doing it. There is a cost to Jesus in every healing. He enters human suffering, not just fixes it from a distance.

K KAIROS KEY QUESTION

Land on the moment or truth from this chapter that most stopped you. Name it briefly, then spiral through the four questions below.

MY KAIROS MOMENT

Write the verse or moment that most arrested you before working through the four movements below.

The moment or truth that most stopped me...

GOD <i>What does this passage reveal about who God is?</i>	ME <i>What does this say about who I am or where I am?</i>
WHAT <i>What is God asking me to do in response?</i>	HOW <i>How specifically will I do it? When? With whom?</i>

Carry your HOW answer forward as your Key Question for next week's A section.

Week 8: Mark 8

Do You Not Yet Understand?

Seeing clearly takes longer than one encounter

H HEAR AND OBEY

Before you open the passage, pause. Where is Jesus showing up in your life right now? How are you joining him, or not joining him?

Where I see Jesus moving in my life right now...

Based on what you see, what is one step of obedience in front of you today?

My step of obedience...

A ACCOUNTABILITY

Go back to your last Key Question. What was God asking you to do? Did you do it? Be honest.

My last Key Question was... and my honest account of obedience is...

R READING AND REFLECTION

Now open your Bible. Read the full chapter slowly. Use the Reading Blocks below to work through each passage. Check each one as you complete it.

- **Mark 8:1-10** A second feeding miracle for a Gentile crowd of four thousand. Seven loaves, seven baskets of leftovers.
- **Mark 8:11-21** The Pharisees demand a sign. Jesus refuses. He warns the disciples about the yeast of the Pharisees.
- **Mark 8:22-26** A blind man is healed in two stages. He sees men like trees walking. Then he sees clearly. A picture of gradual understanding.
- **Mark 8:27-30** Peter confesses Jesus as the Christ. Jesus commands silence about it for now.
- **Mark 8:31-38** The first passion prediction. Peter rebukes Jesus. Jesus rebukes Peter. 'Get behind me, Satan.'

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The feeding of the four thousand in 8:1-10 takes place in the Decapolis, a Gentile region, paralleling the feeding of the five thousand in chapter 6 but for a Gentile crowd, signaling that the messianic feast is for all peoples. Caesarea Philippi in 8:27 was a Roman city built by Philip the Tetrarch at the foot of Mount Hermon, dominated by a massive rock and a pagan temple. The confession and the rebuke that follow happen against that imperial pagan backdrop. The sign-seeking of the Pharisees in 8:11-13 echoes apocalyptic literature's expectations of miraculous signs accompanying the kingdom.

DEVOTIONAL FOCUS

Peter gets the right answer: You are the Christ. Then he immediately gets the application completely wrong. He cannot accept a suffering Messiah. Jesus calls it satanic thinking because it replaces God's way with a human preference for power without cost. The cross is not God's plan B. It is always plan A. Following Jesus involves carrying something. The question is not whether you will carry a cross. The question is whether you are willing.

K KAIROS KEY QUESTION

Land on the moment or truth from this chapter that most stopped you. Name it briefly, then spiral through the four questions below.

MY KAIROS MOMENT

Write the verse or moment that most arrested you before working through the four movements below.

The moment or truth that most stopped me...

GOD

What does this passage reveal about who God is?

ME

What does this say about who I am or where I am?

WHAT

What is God asking me to do in response?

HOW

How specifically will I do it? When? With whom?

Carry your HOW answer forward as your Key Question for next week's A section.

Week 9: Mark 9

This Kind Requires Prayer

Some things only come through surrender

H HEAR AND OBEY

Before you open the passage, pause. Where is Jesus showing up in your life right now? How are you joining him, or not joining him?

Where I see Jesus moving in my life right now...

Based on what you see, what is one step of obedience in front of you today?

My step of obedience...

A ACCOUNTABILITY

Go back to your last Key Question. What was God asking you to do? Did you do it? Be honest.

My last Key Question was... and my honest account of obedience is...

R READING AND REFLECTION

Now open your Bible. Read the full chapter slowly. Use the Reading Blocks below to work through each passage. Check each one as you complete it.

- ☐ **Mark 9:1-13** The Transfiguration. Three disciples see Jesus in his glory. A voice says: Listen to him.
- ☐ **Mark 9:14-29** A father brings his son to the disciples. They cannot heal him. Jesus heals the boy. 'This kind can only come out through prayer.'
- ☐ **Mark 9:30-37** The second passion prediction. The disciples were arguing about who was greatest. Jesus uses a child to redefine greatness.
- ☐ **Mark 9:38-50** John reports on someone casting out demons in Jesus' name. Jesus says do not stop him. Salt and fire imagery closes the chapter.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Transfiguration in 9:2-8 takes place on a high mountain, most likely Mount Hermon or Mount Tabor. Moses and Elijah represent the Law and the Prophets, the two pillars of the Hebrew scriptures, bearing witness to Jesus. The overshadowing cloud recalls the divine presence over the Exodus tabernacle in Exodus 40. The father's statement in 9:24 is one of the most memorized lines in all of Mark, deeply resonant with Jewish lament tradition that allowed honest, desperate, even contradictory prayer. The dispute about greatness in 9:33-37 must be read in the honor-shame social context of the first century, where rank and recognition were primary social currencies.

DEVOTIONAL FOCUS

'I believe; help my unbelief.' Those five words have given permission to honest faith for two thousand years. You do not have to have it all together to bring your need to Jesus. The father's double-minded declaration is honored, not rejected. Jesus heals the boy. The disciples could not because they had stopped praying. Some things only come through sustained surrender. That is not a formula. It is a posture.

K KAIROS KEY QUESTION

Land on the moment or truth from this chapter that most stopped you. Name it briefly, then spiral through the four questions below.

MY KAIROS MOMENT

Write the verse or moment that most arrested you before working through the four movements below.

The moment or truth that most stopped me...

GOD	ME
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<i>What does this passage reveal about who God is?</i>	<i>What does this say about who I am or where I am?</i>
WHAT <i>What is God asking me to do in response?</i>	HOW <i>How specifically will I do it? When? With whom?</i>

Carry your HOW answer forward as your Key Question for next week's A section.

Week 10: Mark 10

Whoever Would Be Great

Jesus inverts everything the world says about power

H HEAR AND OBEY

Before you open the passage, pause. Where is Jesus showing up in your life right now? How are you joining him, or not joining him?

Where I see Jesus moving in my life right now...

Based on what you see, what is one step of obedience in front of you today?

My step of obedience...

A ACCOUNTABILITY

Go back to your last Key Question. What was God asking you to do? Did you do it? Be honest.

My last Key Question was... and my honest account of obedience is...

R READING AND REFLECTION

Now open your Bible. Read the full chapter slowly. Use the Reading Blocks below to work through each passage. Check each one as you complete it.

- **Mark 10:1-12** Teaching on divorce. Jesus returns to the creation design in Genesis to raise the standard.
- **Mark 10:13-16** Parents bring children. Disciples rebuke them. Jesus is indignant. 'Let the children come to me.'
- **Mark 10:17-31** A rich man asks how to inherit eternal life. Jesus tells him to sell everything. He goes away grieving.
- **Mark 10:32-45** James and John ask for the best seats. Jesus teaches servant leadership. The Son of Man came to serve.
- **Mark 10:46-52** Blind Bartimaeus calls out, is rebuked by the crowd, calls louder, and is healed. He follows Jesus on the road.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The divorce controversy in 10:1-12 takes place in Perea, ruled by Herod Antipas who had already killed John the Baptist for opposing his own divorce and remarriage. Jesus' teaching on divorce was more protective of women than anything in first-century Jewish law, in a context where only men could issue a divorce certificate. The rich young man's question about eternal life connects to the Jewish concept of inheriting the age to come. Bartimaeus's cry 'Son of David' is a messianic title rooted in 2 Samuel 7 and a significant public declaration before a crowd of Passover pilgrims on the road to Jerusalem.

DEVOTIONAL FOCUS

The rich young man comes to Jesus with the right question and walks away at the wrong answer. He wanted eternal life on his own terms. Jesus loved him and told him the truth anyway. Mark 10 is the chapter where Jesus shows that following him is not addition. For some people, it requires subtraction. The disciples are bewildered. Jesus says the impossible becomes possible with God. Way Church asks: what is the one thing in your life that you are holding back from Jesus?

K KAIROS KEY QUESTION

Land on the moment or truth from this chapter that most stopped you. Name it briefly, then spiral through the four questions below.

MY KAIROS MOMENT

Write the verse or moment that most arrested you before working through the four movements below.

The moment or truth that most stopped me...

GOD

What does this passage reveal about who God is?

ME

What does this say about who I am or where I am?

WHAT

What is God asking me to do in response?

HOW

How specifically will I do it? When? With whom?

Carry your HOW answer forward as your Key Question for next week's A section.

Week 11: Mark 11

The King Arrives

Jesus enters Jerusalem on his own terms

H HEAR AND OBEY

Before you open the passage, pause. Where is Jesus showing up in your life right now? How are you joining him, or not joining him?

Where I see Jesus moving in my life right now...

Based on what you see, what is one step of obedience in front of you today?

My step of obedience...

A ACCOUNTABILITY

Go back to your last Key Question. What was God asking you to do? Did you do it? Be honest.

My last Key Question was... and my honest account of obedience is...

R READING AND REFLECTION

Now open your Bible. Read the full chapter slowly. Use the Reading Blocks below to work through each passage. Check each one as you complete it.

- **Mark 11:1-11** The triumphal entry. Cloaks and branches on the road. 'Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David.'
- **Mark 11:12-19** The fig tree is cursed. The temple is cleansed. Jesus drives out merchants and overturns tables.
- **Mark 11:20-26** The fig tree has withered. Jesus teaches on faith and the necessity of forgiving others before praying.
- **Mark 11:27-33** Religious leaders challenge Jesus' authority. He answers their question with a question about John.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The triumphal entry fulfills Zechariah 9:9, where Israel's king comes riding a donkey rather than a warhorse, signaling a king who comes in peace. The crowds' cry 'Hosanna' means 'Save us now,' rooted in Psalm 118:25-26. Jerusalem during Passover swelled from around 80,000 to possibly 300,000 to 600,000 pilgrims. The temple money changers and dove sellers were operating in the Court of the Gentiles, the only area where non-Jews were permitted to worship. By filling that space with commerce, the religious establishment had effectively excluded Gentiles from the only place they were permitted to pray.

DEVOTIONAL FOCUS

Jesus cleanses the temple in deliberate, prophetic action. He quotes Isaiah 56:7, which is about the temple being a house of prayer for all nations, then quotes Jeremiah 7:11 about a den of robbers. He is saying that the system designed to help people encounter God had become the barrier to it. That is a searching question for any church. What structures or practices in our communities make it harder for people to find God rather than easier?

K KAIROS KEY QUESTION

Land on the moment or truth from this chapter that most stopped you. Name it briefly, then spiral through the four questions below.

MY KAIROS MOMENT

Write the verse or moment that most arrested you before working through the four movements below.

The moment or truth that most stopped me...

GOD	ME
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<i>What does this passage reveal about who God is?</i>	<i>What does this say about who I am or where I am?</i>
WHAT <i>What is God asking me to do in response?</i>	HOW <i>How specifically will I do it? When? With whom?</i>

Carry your HOW answer forward as your Key Question for next week's A section.

Week 12: Mark 12

Whose Is It?

Everything belongs to God, including you

H HEAR AND OBEY

Before you open the passage, pause. Where is Jesus showing up in your life right now? How are you joining him, or not joining him?

Where I see Jesus moving in my life right now...

Based on what you see, what is one step of obedience in front of you today?

My step of obedience...

A ACCOUNTABILITY

Go back to your last Key Question. What was God asking you to do? Did you do it? Be honest.

My last Key Question was... and my honest account of obedience is...

R READING AND REFLECTION

Now open your Bible. Read the full chapter slowly. Use the Reading Blocks below to work through each passage. Check each one as you complete it.

- **Mark 12:1-12** The parable of the tenants. The vineyard owner sends servant after servant, then his son. They kill the son.
- **Mark 12:13-17** The tax question. 'Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's.'
- **Mark 12:18-27** The Sadducees' trick question about resurrection. Jesus answers from Exodus. He is not the God of the dead.
- **Mark 12:28-34** The greatest commandment. Love God with everything. Love your neighbor as yourself.
- **Mark 12:35-44** A warning about scribes who devour widow's houses. Then a widow gives her last two coins.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The parable of the tenants in 12:1-12 draws on Isaiah 5's song of the vineyard, immediately recognizable to a Jewish audience. The question about taxes to Caesar was a political trap: saying no was sedition, while saying yes alienated Jewish nationalists. A denarius was a day's wage for a common laborer and bore the emperor's image. The Sadducees who posed the resurrection question in 12:18-27 were a priestly aristocratic party who accepted only the Torah as authoritative and rejected the doctrine of resurrection as not found in the five books of Moses. The widow's two copper coins were worth less than a penny in modern terms.

DEVOTIONAL FOCUS

Everything belongs to God. The coin bears the image of Caesar. Human beings bear the image of God. Render to God what bears God's image: yourself. The widow gives everything she has to live on. Jesus does not celebrate poverty. He celebrates wholehearted trust. The religious leaders give from their abundance while preserving most of it for themselves. The widow's two coins reveal a heart the large gifts never could. The question this chapter puts to you is simple: what are you keeping back?

K KAIROS KEY QUESTION

Land on the moment or truth from this chapter that most stopped you. Name it briefly, then spiral through the four questions below.

MY KAIROS MOMENT

Write the verse or moment that most arrested you before working through the four movements below.

The moment or truth that most stopped me...

GOD

What does this passage reveal about who God is?

ME

What does this say about who I am or where I am?

WHAT

What is God asking me to do in response?

HOW

How specifically will I do it? When? With whom?

Carry your HOW answer forward as your Key Question for next week's A section.

Week 13: Mark 13

Not One Stone

Jesus speaks of the end with pastoral urgency

H HEAR AND OBEY

Before you open the passage, pause. Where is Jesus showing up in your life right now? How are you joining him, or not joining him?

Where I see Jesus moving in my life right now...

Based on what you see, what is one step of obedience in front of you today?

My step of obedience...

A ACCOUNTABILITY

Go back to your last Key Question. What was God asking you to do? Did you do it? Be honest.

My last Key Question was... and my honest account of obedience is...

R READING AND REFLECTION

Now open your Bible. Read the full chapter slowly. Use the Reading Blocks below to work through each passage. Check each one as you complete it.

- ☐ **Mark 13:1-13** Jesus predicts the temple's destruction. The disciples ask when. Jesus warns about deception, persecution, and the mission of testimony.
- ☐ **Mark 13:14-23** The abomination of desolation. Instructions for urgent flight. Do not go back for your cloak.
- ☐ **Mark 13:24-31** Cosmic signs of the end. The Son of Man in clouds. The fig tree lesson. Heaven and earth will pass away but my words will not.
- ☐ **Mark 13:32-37** No one knows the hour, not even the Son. Stay awake. Keep working. The master could return at any moment.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Mark 13 is called the Olivet Discourse. Jesus predicts the destruction of the Jerusalem temple, fulfilled with historical precision in 70 AD when the Roman general Titus dismantled the temple complex. The 'abomination of desolation' references Daniel 9:27 and 11:31. False messiahs were common in the first century, with several documented uprisings in the decades preceding 70 AD. The discourse moves between near-term first-century events and cosmic end-time language, a feature of apocalyptic literature known as prophetic foreshortening. The original audience would have read this with one eye on current events and one eye on eternity.

DEVOTIONAL FOCUS

Jesus tells his disciples what is coming not to terrify them but to prepare them. He says 'be on guard' and 'watch' multiple times. This is not anxious watching. It is alert, faithful, present watching. The servant who keeps working and serving regardless of when the master returns is the model. Way Church believes that living with the end in mind does not mean retreating from the world. It means engaging the world with even more urgency, love, and purpose.

K KAIROS KEY QUESTION

Land on the moment or truth from this chapter that most stopped you. Name it briefly, then spiral through the four questions below.

MY KAIROS MOMENT

Write the verse or moment that most arrested you before working through the four movements below.

The moment or truth that most stopped me...

GOD	ME
-----	----

<i>What does this passage reveal about who God is?</i>	<i>What does this say about who I am or where I am?</i>
WHAT <i>What is God asking me to do in response?</i>	HOW <i>How specifically will I do it? When? With whom?</i>

Carry your HOW answer forward as your Key Question for next week's A section.

Week 14: Mark 14

Take This Cup

Jesus prays through the hardest night of his life

H HEAR AND OBEY

Before you open the passage, pause. Where is Jesus showing up in your life right now? How are you joining him, or not joining him?

Where I see Jesus moving in my life right now...

Based on what you see, what is one step of obedience in front of you today?

My step of obedience...

A ACCOUNTABILITY

Go back to your last Key Question. What was God asking you to do? Did you do it? Be honest.

My last Key Question was... and my honest account of obedience is...

R READING AND REFLECTION

Now open your Bible. Read the full chapter slowly. Use the Reading Blocks below to work through each passage. Check each one as you complete it.

- **Mark 14:1-11** The plot to arrest Jesus. A woman anoints him with expensive perfume. Judas agrees to betray him.
- **Mark 14:12-26** The Last Supper. Jesus reinterprets the Passover meal around his own body and blood.
- **Mark 14:27-42** Gethsemane. Jesus asks the disciples to watch. He prays three times. They fall asleep three times.
- **Mark 14:43-52** The arrest. Judas's kiss. A disciple strikes with a sword. Jesus is taken. Everyone flees.
- **Mark 14:53-72** Jesus before the Sanhedrin. Peter denies him three times in the courtyard below. He weeps.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Passover meal in 14:12-26 was the central annual celebration of Israel's liberation from Egypt, instituted in Exodus 12. Jesus reinterprets the meal around his own body and blood, claiming the liberation his death will accomplish supersedes the Exodus itself. Gethsemane was an olive grove on the Mount of Olives east of Jerusalem across the Kidron Valley. The word Gethsemane derives from the Aramaic for olive press, a poignant setting for the weight Jesus carries. The Sanhedrin was the 71-member Jewish high court with the highest legal authority for religious and civil matters in Judea. Caiaphas served as high priest from approximately 18 to 36 AD.

DEVOTIONAL FOCUS

Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will. This is the prayer that holds the whole of the Christian life together. Jesus is not a hero who feels no fear. He is a person who prays through real fear into surrender. His disciples sleep. He keeps praying. Three times. The cup does not pass. He takes it anyway. That surrender is the thing that saves us.

K KAIROS KEY QUESTION

Land on the moment or truth from this chapter that most stopped you. Name it briefly, then spiral through the four questions below.

MY KAIROS MOMENT

Write the verse or moment that most arrested you before working through the four movements below.

The moment or truth that most stopped me...

GOD

What does this passage reveal about who God is?

ME

What does this say about who I am or where I am?

WHAT

What is God asking me to do in response?

HOW

How specifically will I do it? When? With whom?

Carry your HOW answer forward as your Key Question for next week's A section.

Week 15: Mark 15

My God, My God

The king dies in the place of the people

H HEAR AND OBEY

Before you open the passage, pause. Where is Jesus showing up in your life right now? How are you joining him, or not joining him?

Where I see Jesus moving in my life right now...

Based on what you see, what is one step of obedience in front of you today?

My step of obedience...

A ACCOUNTABILITY

Go back to your last Key Question. What was God asking you to do? Did you do it? Be honest.

My last Key Question was... and my honest account of obedience is...

R READING AND REFLECTION

Now open your Bible. Read the full chapter slowly. Use the Reading Blocks below to work through each passage. Check each one as you complete it.

- **Mark 15:1-15** Jesus before Pilate. The crowd chooses Barabbas. Pilate hands Jesus over to satisfy the crowd.
- **Mark 15:16-32** The soldiers mock Jesus. Simon of Cyrene carries his cross. He is crucified between two rebels.
- **Mark 15:33-41** Darkness covers the land. Jesus cries out. The temple curtain tears. The centurion declares who Jesus is.
- **Mark 15:42-47** Joseph of Arimathea buries Jesus. The women watch where he is laid.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Pontius Pilate served as Roman prefect of Judea from approximately 26 to 36 AD. Roman crucifixion was reserved for non-Roman citizens, slaves, and those convicted of treason, specifically designed to maximize degradation alongside prolonged death. The mocking of Jesus as King of the Jews was simultaneously political ridicule. The cry of dereliction in 15:34 quotes Psalm 22:1 directly, a lament psalm that moves from abandonment to vindication. The tearing of the temple curtain separating the Holy of Holies carried enormous symbolic weight for Jewish readers. The centurion who declares Jesus the Son of God is Roman, Gentile, an occupier, and the first human being in Mark to name Jesus fully and correctly.

DEVOTIONAL FOCUS

Jesus dies with a question in his mouth. My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? He takes the weight of abandonment that human sin produces and carries it to the cross. He does not die as a victim. He dies as the one who chose to absorb what we could not survive in order to make a way through it. The centurion sees it. The women who loved him see it from a distance. The religious leaders mock it. This is the most important moment in human history, and most of the people present missed what it was.

K KAIROS KEY QUESTION

Land on the moment or truth from this chapter that most stopped you. Name it briefly, then spiral through the four questions below.

MY KAIROS MOMENT

Write the verse or moment that most arrested you before working through the four movements below.

The moment or truth that most stopped me...

GOD

What does this passage reveal about who God is?

ME

What does this say about who I am or where I am?

WHAT

What is God asking me to do in response?

HOW

How specifically will I do it? When? With whom?

Carry your HOW answer forward as your Key Question for next week's A section.

Week 16: Mark 16

He Is Not Here

The resurrection changes everything

H HEAR AND OBEY

Before you open the passage, pause. Where is Jesus showing up in your life right now? How are you joining him, or not joining him?

Where I see Jesus moving in my life right now...

Based on what you see, what is one step of obedience in front of you today?

My step of obedience...

A ACCOUNTABILITY

Go back to your last Key Question. What was God asking you to do? Did you do it? Be honest.

My last Key Question was... and my honest account of obedience is...

R READING AND REFLECTION

Now open your Bible. Read the full chapter slowly. Use the Reading Blocks below to work through each passage. Check each one as you complete it.

- ☐ **Mark 16:1-4** Three women bring spices. They wonder who will roll away the stone. It is already moved.
- ☐ **Mark 16:5-8** They enter the tomb. A young man in white tells them Jesus has risen. He sends them to tell the disciples and Peter.
- ☐ **Mark 16:9-20** The longer ending: resurrection appearances, the Great Commission, ascension. Read with the textual note in mind.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The earliest and most reliable manuscripts of Mark end at 16:8 with the women fleeing the empty tomb in fear and amazement. This abrupt ending is widely debated. Most scholars believe the original ending was either intentionally left open or was lost. The longer ending in 16:9-20 appears in many manuscripts but uses vocabulary and style that differ significantly from the rest of Mark, and is widely considered a later addition. Spices for anointing the dead were used in both Jewish and broader Mediterranean burial customs. The stone described as 'very large' was a typical feature of first-century Jewish tombs near Jerusalem.

DEVOTIONAL FOCUS

The women come to finish the burial. They find the tomb open and a messenger in white who tells them the most world-altering sentence in history: He has risen. He is not here. See the place where they laid him. Now go and tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. And they run, trembling and astonished. Mark ends his Gospel with an open door and an invitation to follow Jesus into whatever comes next. The resurrection is not an ending. It is the beginning of everything.

K KAIROS KEY QUESTION

Land on the moment or truth from this chapter that most stopped you. Name it briefly, then spiral through the four questions below.

MY KAIROS MOMENT

Write the verse or moment that most arrested you before working through the four movements below.

The moment or truth that most stopped me...

GOD

What does this passage reveal about who God is?

ME

What does this say about who I am or where I

	<i>am?</i>
WHAT <i>What is God asking me to do in response?</i>	HOW <i>How specifically will I do it? When? With whom?</i>

Carry your HOW answer forward as your Key Question for next week's A section.

Week 17: The Series Is Over

What Do You Do the Week After?

THIS IS A REAL WEEK

We finished preaching Mark. But the way of Jesus does not end with a sermon series. This week has no new chapter. It has a different kind of work: integration, inventory, and forward commitment.

H HEAR AND OBEY

Where is Jesus showing up in your life right now, at the end of this series? How are you joining him or not?

Where I see Jesus moving right now...

A ACCOUNTABILITY

What was your Key Question from Mark 16? Did you do the thing God asked? Report back honestly.

My last Key Question was... and my obedience report is...

R READING AND REFLECTION

This week, read the whole Gospel of Mark in one sitting if possible. If not, read Mark 1 and Mark 16 back to back and let the full arc settle in you.

- ☐ Read Mark 1 and Mark 16 back to back
- ☐ Optional: Read the full Gospel in one sitting (approximately 90 minutes)

MARK FROM BEGINNING TO END

Check the moments across the full Gospel that most impacted you.

- ☐ Jesus healed someone no one else would touch
- ☐ Jesus forgave before anyone asked
- ☐ Jesus crossed ethnic and cultural lines without hesitation
- ☐ Jesus corrected his disciples with patience
- ☐ Jesus prayed alone before making major decisions
- ☐ Jesus served people no one else was paying attention to
- ☐ Jesus absorbed injustice without retaliation
- ☐ Jesus rose. Full stop.

INTEGRATION QUESTIONS

1. *What is one thing about Jesus you understand now that you did not understand before this series?*

Write here...

2. *What chapter or passage most disrupted your assumptions? Why?*

Write here...

3. *How have you changed, even slightly, through this process? Be specific.*

Write here...

4. *What is one way you are choosing to keep living the way of Jesus beyond this series?*

Write here...

5. *Who in your life needs to encounter the Jesus you met in Mark? What is one step you could take?*

Write here...

K YOUR FINAL KAIROS SPIRAL

One final time through the four movements. Base it on the whole of Mark, not just one chapter.

The single most important truth Mark has shown me about Jesus is...

GOD <i>What does this passage reveal about who God is?</i>	ME <i>What does this say about who I am or where I am?</i>
WHAT <i>What is God asking me to do in response?</i>	HOW <i>How specifically will I do it? When? With whom?</i>

A WORD FROM WAY CHURCH

We care more about who you become than what you do. You have done the work of sitting with Mark. Now let it become who you are. Keep your seat at the table. Stay in community. Let the way of Jesus keep moving in you.