

Study Mark!

This option is a methodical study of the gospel of Mark using 8F's. It's our heartbeat to teach methods of study that are accessible and effective for you to engage with and grow from the study of scripture. This "Feed your Faith with 8Fs"

tool may be familiar because we used this format last summer to study Philippians and James. This can also be found on our Resource page throughout the summer!



Feed your Faith using Mark + these 8 Fs

It's our heartbeat to teach methods of study that are accessible and effective for you to engage with and grow from the study of scripture. This tool may be familiar because we used this format last summer to study Philippians and James.

Join us using these 8 Fs to help you study Mark this summer! You'll find them on the next page:

Familiarize, Formulate, Facts, Focus {on a passage}, Focus {on a theme}, Find, Frame, Familiarize.

What?

Grab a notebook with your Bible, invite a friend (or two), and feed your faith throughout this series using these 8 lessons designed to help you synthesize and integrate the message of Mark into your everyday life.

When?

Lean in - no matter when you start this journey of studying Mark! We're officially beginning this series May 14 and there are suggested time frames to spend on each lesson. However, if you don't have the full summer to study Mark, you can arrange these 8 lessons in such a way that will allow you to dig into this gospel using the timeline that is available to you! Please LEAN IN while also feeling the freedom to shorten and/or skip some of the lessons (we've given you some hints along the way!) Hear this - you CAN start this in July with the familiarize lesson!

How?

The lessons below will walk you through a strategic outline of how you can study the book of Mark. However, we are never studying Scripture just to download more information, we study Scripture expecting to be transformed more and more into the image of Jesus. So each time you're asked to spend time praying how you might apply what you're learning, consider these questions to help guide you:

- Is there a reason to worship God?
- Is there an example for me to follow?
- Is there a sin or error to avoid?
- Is there a promise to claim?
- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a behavior to change?
- Is there encouragement to receive?
- Is there a challenge to face?
- Is there an issue to pray about?
- What values, attitudes, beliefs or actions are challenged by what I have learned?
- What can I do today to apply what I have learned to my life or present situation?

Familiarize Lesson:

Spend 2 weeks on this lesson.

Familiarize yourself with the book of Mark.

Read or listen to the entire book (it takes about 90 minutes) as many times as you can for this lesson. Use the summary video from the Bible Project (<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/mark/>) to give you a sense of the whole book. Read the book's introduction from a study bible to understand who wrote the letter, to whom, and why. This is also a great place to familiarize yourself with the structure of the letter.

Ponder the following questions as you listen and/or read:

1. What is the tone of the book? Are there any changes in tone that happen throughout the book?
2. What major threads are you beginning to see woven into the fabric of Mark?

Pray for God's Spirit to open your eyes and speak to you through this study.

Formulate Lesson

Spend 1-2 weeks on this lesson.

Formulate chapter summaries.

Continue reading through the whole book a few times in this lesson, focusing on each chapter as a part of the whole. Keep asking God to be present with you and guide your thoughts and feelings as you read + study His Word. Write 1-3 sentences to summarize each chapter. Use the following questions to help you get the big picture of each chapter section.

1. What is the primary verse or passage in each chapter?
2. What are the repeated ideas or phrases throughout the chapter?
3. What do you learn about the Father, Son and Holy Spirit from this chapter?

Facts Lesson

Spend 1-2 weeks on this lesson.

Condense the Facts

In the first lesson (familiarize), you read the introduction to Mark to understand who wrote it to whom, + why. Now record those facts and other pertinent information by filling out the book chart pieces below.

Also, condense your chapter summaries into short newspaper-like headlines of 5-7 words.

Prayerfully consider what these big ideas mean for you in the life situations you will encounter this week. What actions can you take to apply what you are learning?

Book Chart: Here you will record the following, using an introduction from your bible, a bible handbook, or online resources such as [the ESV Study Bible online](#). The Gospel Coalition has some great resources [here](#), too.

- Author: Who wrote the book? Is there anything noteworthy about this person's perspective?
- Date it was written: Where does it fall in relation to when the other gospels were written?
- Setting: Where does the action take place?
- Purpose: Why did the author write it? What might have been his purpose statement?
- Major characters: Who were the prominent people in this book?
- Key verse(s): Do any verses sum up the book? Are there turning point verses?
- Key Ideas: What ideas kept cropping up?
- Theme: What would be a good title or slogan for this book that will help you remember the main idea of this book?

Focus {Passage} Lesson

Spend 1 week on each passage you choose for this lesson.
(There's wiggle room here!)

Focus on a passage.

Choose a passage (try for 1-10 verses) from the book that has intrigued you as you've read so far. Observe the answers to the who, what, where, when, why questions from this text. Make further observations using the questions below as springboards:

1. What are the commands, promises and cause-effect relationships?
2. What are the repeated words or ideas? Why are they repeated? What do these words and ideas mean (hint...look closely at dictionary definitions!)?
3. What do you learn about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit from this passage?
4. What is true to life in this passage?
5. What questions do you have about the passage? (Seek out possible answers.)

After making observations, reflect with God on how this passage affects your everyday life. What are some "principles for life" that come from this passage? What can you apply?

Focus {Theme} Lesson

Spend 1 week on each theme you choose for this lesson.
(There's wiggle room here!)

Focus on a theme.

Choose a theme or idea repeated throughout Mark - Jesus, his kingdom, and his people- are the ones we're studying as a church. Follow those or consider other themes you've discovered such as the identity of Jesus, Jesus' suffering and passion of the cross, the gospel, interest in and from

Gentiles, and the cost of discipleship. Write out each reference to this theme from Mark in the order they occur. Make observations on each mention by asking the following questions:

1. What does this occurrence add to the meaning of the idea/theme? (Is it a comparison? an example? a smaller aspect? a general statement about the topic?)
2. How does each mention fit within its immediate context? What does it add to the overall flow of the book?
3. Are there other scriptures that mention your theme that could weigh in and add further insight?

After making some observations, reflect on how these ideas affect your everyday life. What might need to change or stay the same as a result of your deeper study? What are some “principles for life” that arise out of your study?

Find Lesson

Spend 1-2 weeks on this lesson.
(There’s wiggle room here!)

Find it somewhere else.

Much of the wisdom shared in the book of Mark is shown and supported elsewhere in scripture, by other teachers and often, Jesus himself.

This week, choose 3 passages aimed at developing a gospel centered pattern in everyday life within Mark that have impacted you and find some other passages of scripture that flesh out this idea (this is a great time to use your reference bible!). For example, Mark talks about the Lordship of Jesus and his call for his disciples to imitate his humble service and self-denial. Where else do you see this in Scripture? Ask the following questions about the passages you identify elsewhere:

1. What is the fuller context of these passages (who is speaking, to whom, in what situation)?
2. What truths about who God is provides support for your living out this gospel centered pattern or behavior?
3. Do these passages shed any more light on the reason for or results of living by this wisdom? What is true about God that strengthens your hunger to obey him in these ways?
4. Where do you see opportunities to follow this pattern in your own life? Pray and ask the Spirit to illuminate them and empower you to obey.

Frame Lesson

Spend 1-2 weeks on this lesson.

Frame the book.

From memory, map out the book on a blank piece of paper. Try to recall the sections, themes, flows of discussion and key verses as they occur. Share this book map with a friend or family member. Tell them something you've been learning and implementing as a result of your study through Mark. Pray every day this lesson that God would solidify any commitments or changes you're making in your life to come more into alignment with His Word.

Familiarize Lesson

Spend 1-2 weeks on this lesson.

Familiarize yourself with the book, again.

Read or listen to the entire book of Mark as many times as you can this week. Is there anything you see in a different or truer light after more focused study? How has this process of studying Mark helped you to treasure Jesus and the gospel more? Write out one very specific change you are going to make in your walk with Christ as a result of this study. Thank God for what He has revealed to you and keep asking for his daily help to integrate what you are learning into your days and moments.