

THE BOOK OF
Mark

BIBLE STUDY GUIDES FOR SMALL GROUPS

RELATIONAL BIBLE STUDY SERIES

CREATED BY STEVE CASE

Good News In Action

OPENING QUESTION

Do you prefer to be in the spotlight or in the shadows?

READ Mark 1:1–45.

1. What was John the Baptist's role?

- A. Get people to repent.
- B. Be a distraction.
- C. Be an attraction.
- D. Be the Messiah they wanted.
- E. Get the attention of both Jews and Gentiles.
- F. Fashion and food consultant.
- G. Baptize people with water.
- H. Baptize people with the Holy Spirit.
- I. Other.

2. Why did Jesus call fishermen to be his disciples?

- A. Fishermen are good at catching things.
- B. He saw what they could become, not what they were.
- C. The Holy Spirit was already active in their lives.
- D. They were young and impressionable.
- E. Those already serving as religious leaders don't make good disciples.
- F. Jesus knew they would stick with him to the end.
- G. They were Jewish school dropouts who joined the family business.
- H. So children for generations will sing, "I will make you fishers of men."
- I. Other.

3. What made Jesus so noticeable at the Capernaum synagogue?

- A. His jaw-dropping good looks.
- B. New insights from his teaching.
- C. Having his own posse of disciples come with him.
- D. A sense that God was among them.
- E. Casting out demons always draws a crowd.
- F. Christ's charisma and sense of humor made going to synagogue fun.
- G. The testimony of demons.
- H. His awesome authority and potent power.
- I. Other.

4. What caught your attention about the healings Jesus did after church?

- A. Jesus gave priority to his disciples' relatives.
- B. Ending a fever doesn't sound like much of a miracle.
- C. It seems like women always have to provide meals.
- D. The healings didn't happen at church.
- E. Most of the people waited until after the Sabbath ended to be healed.
- F. In addition to healing sickness, Jesus also cast out demons.
- G. It was the biggest show in town.
- H. Other.

5. What made Jesus so popular?

- A. His teachings.
- B. His healings.
- C. Casting out demons.
- D. Obvious supernatural power.
- E. Good PR people and a sound marketing plan.
- F. Being anti-establishment.
- G. The people hoped he might be their Messiah.
- H. Other.

6. What do you wish Mark would have included in this first chapter?

- A. The birth of Jesus.
- B. The childhood of Jesus.
- C. More about Christ's baptism.
- D. Additional details about 40 days of Satan's intense temptations.
- E. More stories and details about John and Jesus as cousins.
- F. Calling the other disciples, not just four fishermen.
- G. The impact on people and places a week after Jesus' miracles.
- H. Other.

**7. Where does the Gospel (Good News) about Jesus begin with you? Where does it end?
Where are you in the process?**

8. If you could ask Jesus to do anything right now, what would it be?

Not What You Expect

OPENING QUESTION

What's an example of something not going the way you expected?

READ Mark 2:1—28.

1. What prevented the paralyzed man from getting to Jesus?

- A. His paralysis.
- B. His sin(s).
- C. Too many people in the way.
- D. The religious leaders.
- E. Christ's disciples.
- F. Jesus was too busy.
- G. Walls and roofs.
- H. He lacked the status necessary to get preferred treatment.
- I. Other.

2. What enabled the paralyzed man to get to Jesus?

- A. His personal drive and conviction.
- B. His friends got him to Jesus no matter what.
- C. Other people invited him to move to the front.
- D. The religious leaders made it happen.
- E. The disciples saw his need and brought him to Jesus.
- F. Prayer.
- G. Jesus went after him like he did with Zacchaeus later in his ministry.
- H. Confessing his sin.
- I. Other.

3. Why did Jesus invite Levi the tax collector to be one of his disciples?

- A. He needed someone to do the finances.
- B. Jesus saw something in Levi that others didn't see.
- C. Levi gave Jesus access to a completely different group of people.
- D. Jesus didn't invite Levi; the other disciples wanted Levi to join them.
- E. Levi was very teachable.
- F. Most Jews despised tax collectors as betrayers.
- G. Andrew brought Levi to Jesus, just like he brought Peter to Jesus.
- H. Jesus knew Levi would one day write the Gospel of Matthew.
- I. Other.

4. Why didn't the disciples of Jesus fast?

- A. They did fast.
- B. As young men, they needed the calories.
- C. Jesus hadn't started them on spiritual disciplines yet.
- D. Every day was a party for them at that time.
- E. Most people fasted for the wrong reason(s).
- F. Jesus wanted them to be different from the other pious people.
- G. They had too many invitations to so many feasts.
- H. Other.

5. What was Christ's defense for his disciples breaking the Sabbath?

- A. A man's gotta eat.
- B. A little snack isn't work—"harvesting."
- C. The disciples weren't breaking the Sabbath.
- D. Challenge traditions that were considered Godly at that time.
- E. David did it, so we can, too.
- F. You've made the Sabbath a burden rather than a delight.
- G. Jesus is God so he determines what's okay for Sabbath.
- H. Other.

6. What has Sabbath become for you?

- A. A tradition or ritual.
- B. Family time.
- C. A day of worship.
- D. Fellowship with people I don't see the rest of the week.
- E. A church day.
- F. Just another day.
- G. The focus of my entire week.
- H. A day of rest, including catching up on sleep.
- I. Other.

7. Why would Jesus choose you to be one of his disciples?

8. What message would Jesus give you now regarding the Sabbath?

The Hottest Show In Town

OPENING QUESTION

What would have drawn you to go see Jesus when he was here on earth?

READ Mark 3:1–35.

1. Why was healing a man on Sabbath such a big deal?

- A. It wasn't a big deal.
- B. The man's hand needed healing, but it wasn't an emergency.
- C. It was breaking the Sabbath—at least based on their understanding.
- D. This demonstrated Jesus had supernatural power.
- E. It polarized people—some became mad and others became glad.
- F. A few verses earlier the disciples were breaking the Sabbath.
- G. Sabbath understandings and practices often need revisions.
- H. It caused a split between Jesus and his disciples.
- I. Other.

2. Why did the crowds come to Jesus?

- A. Healing miracles.
- B. Casting out demons.
- C. Christ's teaching(s).
- D. It was just a passing fad, like the "flavor of the month."
- E. God drew them to Jesus.
- F. He challenged the status quo.
- G. They wanted to be Christ's disciples.
- H. The spectacle Jesus created.
- I. Other.

3. Why did Jesus choose these specific 12 people to be his disciples?

- A. Nobody knows.
- B. Their diversity broadened Christ's appeal to the crowds.
- C. They were the best of the best.
- D. Most were losers, average at best, or marginalized.
- E. They hadn't been contaminated by the Jewish schools.
- F. The number 12 symbolizes the kingdom of God.
- G. Jesus didn't really choose Judas.
- H. They provided security for Jesus.
- I. Other.

4. Which of the following responses to Jesus in his day resonate with you?

- A. He's amazing!
- B. He's crazy—out of his mind.
- C. He's too busy.
- D. This must be the Jewish Messiah.
- E. This is God himself.
- F. This won't last.
- G. The stories are overly exaggerated.
- H. Other.

5. Why is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit the “unpardonable sin”?

- A. It just is.
- B. All swearing is unpardonable.
- C. The Holy Spirit is super-sensitive.
- D. Other blasphemies can be forgiven, but not this one.
- E. The religious leaders were making God their Satan.
- F. This topic creates unnecessary anxiety.
- G. It's not unpardonable—Jesus forgives.
- H. Other.

6. Why did Jesus redefine family (vs. 31-35)?

- A. Families in Christ's day were highly dysfunctional.
- B. It served as a rebuke of the patriarchal family systems at that time.
- C. Christ's own family had rejected him.
- D. The kingdom of God takes precedence over biological commitments.
- E. Everyone defines “family” in their own way.
- F. Jesus was a single adult—he really didn't have a family.
- G. The disciples had replaced Christ's family as his primary support.
- H. Other.

7. What changes would Jesus make to the way you do Sabbath?

8. Do you consider yourself to be a disciple of Jesus? Do you consider yourself to be part of his family?

Stories

OPENING QUESTION

What is one of the stories Jesus told that sticks in your mind?

READ Mark 4:1–41.

1. What do you glean from Christ's parable of the seeds in different soils?

- A. The soil makes all the difference.
- B. The sower makes all the difference.
- C. Sun and rain also make a difference when it comes to growth.
- D. The same seeds yield different results.
- E. Good soil still yields different results.
- F. It's all a matter of luck and timing.
- G. There are other types of soil besides the ones mentioned.
- H. Most listeners didn't understand Christ's deeper meaning.
- I. Other.

2. What can be done about the "soil" of your heart?

- A. It is what it is.
- B. It needs to be plowed—turned upside down.
- C. Just use better seed.
- D. Choke the thorns.
- E. Remove the rocks.
- F. Provide shade from the sun.
- G. Let it go; let it grow.
- H. Celebrate all growth.
- I. Other.

3. What best describes your light/lamp?

- A. Classic; warm and inviting.
- B. Bright—very illuminating.
- C. LED (Light-Emitting Diode)—efficient and longer lasting.
- D. It rarely gets turned on.
- E. Three levels of brightness.
- F. On a rheostat—for dimming and brightening as needed.
- G. On a battery; like a flashlight.
- H. Directional (focused rather than dispersed).
- I. Other.

4. What was Christ's main message about the growing seed (vs 26-29)?

- A. It's not something the farmer does.
- B. The farmer plants and harvests, but doesn't cause the seed to grow.
- C. You never know what will happen once a seed gets planted.
- D. Most growth is gradual.
- E. Growth happens miraculously.
- F. The farmer gets much more than the farmer gives.
- G. God is the power behind all growth.
- H. Other.

5. What did the mustard seed metaphor illustrate (vs 30-32)?

- A. Not much.
- B. Christ's listeners expected a big tree to represent them, not a shrub.
- C. Little things can become great things.
- D. Great things start as little things.
- E. Everything grows.
- F. Birds would hang out in the mustard bush.
- G. It depends on the soil.
- H. Other.

6. What surprised the disciples about the storm on the lake?

- A. How could their lives be threatened when Jesus was with them?
- B. How could Jesus sleep at a time like this?
- C. Nobody else had gone out on the lake with them.
- D. Jesus actually talked to the winds and the waves.
- E. The storm stopped instantly at Christ's command.
- F. Jesus was much more than they thought he was.
- G. Nobody would believe this story.
- H. Other.

7. What is a story or metaphor about Jesus that means a lot to you?

8. What is something you'd like Jesus to explain to you more clearly?

Supernatural

OPENING QUESTION

Rank in order of your preference (1-4): Would you rather be around a:

- _____ Jesus freak.
- _____ Demon-possessed person.
- _____ Physically handicapped person.
- _____ Mentally ill individual.

READ Mark 5:1–43.

1. How did the demon-possessed man become this way?

- A. It started with something small and it increased.
- B. He had been playing with some Satanic stuff.
- C. This could happen to anyone.
- D. This only happens in primitive cultures.
- E. Gentiles in Gergesa/Gadera/Gerasa get this way easily.
- F. He wasn't faithful with his daily devotions.
- G. Nobody knows.
- H. Other.

2. What do you find MOST amazing about Jesus cleansing the demoniac?

- A. Christ's supernatural power.
- B. Jesus read the man's heart even though his words came out wrong.
- C. The immediate loss to the owner(s) of 2,000 pigs.
- D. The people there didn't want Jesus around and asked him to leave.
- E. People prioritized a plethora of pigs over a person.
- F. Jesus refused to let the cleansed demoniac follow him.
- G. Jesus sent the cleansed demoniac, with no training, to evangelize.
- H. Other.

3. Why didn't Jesus let the cleansed demoniac follow him?

- A. A cleansed demoniac would be too much of a distraction.
- B. The guy was a Gentile.
- C. The other disciples had already bonded.
- D. Many are called, but few are chosen.
- E. Your first mission field is to those closest to you.
- F. Jesus planned to return; the cleansed demoniac prepped the people.
- G. The guy's family needed him to pay off debts.
- H. Other.

4. Why did Jesus stop to expose the woman who touched his garment?

- A. Jesus felt healing power leave him.
- B. Jesus knew he would need extra power for Jairus' daughter.
- C. You shouldn't take power from Jesus without asking first.
- D. To shame the woman.
- E. To honor the woman.
- F. This ascribed faith to the healing, not luck or superstition.
- G. To test the faith of Jairus because of the delay.
- H. Other.

5. What would it have been like to be in the room with Jairus' daughter?

- A. Sad and somber.
- B. Noisy.
- C. Comforting.
- D. Confusing.
- E. Powerful.
- F. Expectant.
- G. Feeling like you're about to burst.
- H. Other.

6. Who is supposed to tell others about Jesus?

- A. Everyone.
- B. Anyone.
- C. Only those who are his true followers.
- D. Those freed from demon-possession.
- E. Those physically healed.
- F. Those Jesus has resurrected.
- G. Do it with your walk, not your talk.
- H. Other.

7. Where do you want to experience the supernatural in your life?

8. Exorcism, healing, resurrection—what is your testimony? Why would you share it if it isn't very spectacular? Is it supernatural?

Amazing

OPENING QUESTION

When are you likely to say something like, “That’s amazing!”?

READ Mark 6:1–56.

1. Why did people from Christ’s hometown have difficulty accepting him?

- A. It wasn’t difficult for them, but they were amazed!
- B. Jesus had changed—no longer the carpenter in town.
- C. Jealousy.
- D. Carpenters aren’t supposed to become rabbis.
- E. Being amazed doesn’t mean you accept somebody.
- F. Jesus keeps challenging understandings and expectations.
- G. Jesus turned out to be much more than they thought he was.
- H. It’s very difficult to change.
- I. Other.

2. What is amazing about your faith?

- A. How little you have.
- B. How much you have.
- C. The amount you have considering your background.
- D. The things that test your faith.
- E. The things that grow your faith.
- F. Trusting someone you have never seen.
- G. The hope and love that comes with your faith.
- H. The frequency with which you share your faith.
- I. Other.

3. When has Jesus sent you out and empowered you?

- A. Never.
- B. Everyday.
- C. When I served as a missionary.
- D. After my graduation.
- E. I need this everyday with my family.
- F. I sensed it when I was on a spiritual high.
- G. Jesus wouldn’t pick me to do that.
- H. I wouldn’t do that even if Jesus asked me.
- I. Other.

4. Why did John the Baptist die?

- A. Herod had him beheaded.
- B. Herodias had him beheaded.
- C. Jesus didn't save him.
- D. Jesus couldn't save him.
- E. Many of Christ's followers have had their earthly life cut short.
- F. John's ministry to prepare the way for Christ was complete.
- G. This placed him in heaven sooner (*Matt 27:50-53; Eph 4:8; Rev 4:4*).
- H. I have real problems with this story.
- I. Other.

5. Pick 2 things you like best about the story of feeding the 5,000.

- A. I love miracles.
- B. I love stories about miracles.
- C. The way Jesus deals with problems.
- D. The disciples still didn't know when Jesus would do a miracle.
- E. Instead of "no food" there was "more than enough."
- F. Jesus used what was available to do his miracle.
- G. The leftovers (12 baskets) matched the number of disciples.
- H. Other.

6. What would amaze you about Jesus walking on the water?

- A. Walking on the water.
- B. Jesus sending you into a storm on the lake without being with you.
- C. A ghost-like being coming toward you.
- D. The storm ended when Jesus got into the boat.
- E. Wondering how many different kinds of miracles Jesus could do.
- F. Nobody else walked on the water (compare with *Matt 14:28-31*).
- G. Nothing about Jesus amazes me anymore.
- H. Other.

7. When could Jesus have amazed you in your world, but he didn't?

8. When has Jesus amazed you? When has Jesus amazed others through you?

From Little Things to Big Things

OPENING QUESTION

What is one of your favorite foods? How often do you eat it?

READ Mark 7:1–37.

1. If you wanted to confront or discredit Jesus, what would you use?

- A. Someone clever, articulate, persistent, smart, and loud.
- B. I would call on the police or military, politicians, and the media.
- C. Question Christ's family lineage and seemingly illegitimate birth.
- D. His lack of education at the schools of the rabbis.
- E. Improper Sabbath observance.
- F. His disciples ate food without ceremonial washing.
- G. Blasphemy—claiming to be God.
- H. Attribute his miracles to the devil, demons, or sorcery.
- I. Other.

2. What's a religious tradition you like? How could doing this be wrong?

- A. Saying prayers before going to bed and before a meal.
- B. Dressing up for church.
- C. Placing no other book on top of the sacred Bible.
- D. Guarding the edges of the Sabbath.
- E. Potluck.
- F. The way we do baptism.
- G. The way we do communion.
- H. Attending church on Sabbath.
- I. Other.

3. What laws from God are you likely to disregard or forget?

- A. Honor your parents.
- B. Love your enemies.
- C. Worship God.
- D. Don't covet.
- E. Remember the Sabbath.
- F. Forgive as God has forgiven you.
- G. Bring all the tithes into God's storehouse.
- H. Treat others the way you want to be treated.
- I. Other.

4. What does it mean, “He declared all foods clean” (vs. 19)?

- A. According to Jesus, you can now eat whatever you want.
- B. The Old Testament dietary laws (*Lev 11; Deut 14*) no longer matter.
- C. The issue was ceremonial cleansing, not clean or unclean meat.
- D. Don't ask; don't tell (*1 Corinthians 10:23-31*).
- E. You must wash (your hands or the food) before you eat.
- F. The food needs to be healthy.
- G. Food doesn't need ceremonial washing in order to be clean.
- H. It's what comes out of your heart, not what goes into your mouth.
- I. Other.

5. What stands out the MOST to you about Jesus casting out the demon?

- A. Jesus casts out demons—Satan is subject to Jesus.
- B. Jesus helped Gentiles, not only Jews.
- C. Christ's harsh comments to the mother.
- D. The mother's interplay with Jesus.
- E. There is no mention of the disciples.
- F. The demon-possessed girl wasn't even present.
- G. The mother's persistent faith.
- H. Other.

6. What stands out the MOST to you about Jesus healing the deafmute?

- A. The miracle itself.
- B. The man was healed without saying or hearing anything.
- C. Intercession can be done for us.
- D. We can intercede for others.
- E. Jesus healed away from public view.
- F. Jesus told the people to keep this miracle a secret.
- G. The impossibility of keeping a miracle a secret.
- H. Other.

7. What is a religious tradition you have practiced, but have found it doesn't make sense now, and may actually go against God's commands?

8. How do you prevent evil from coming out of you (vs 20-23)?

Jesus and Expectations

OPENING QUESTION

What do you expect Jesus to give you? What does he expect you to give him?

READ Mark 8:1–38.

1. How does feeding the 4,000 compare with feeding the 5,000 (6:30-44)?

- A. They're pretty much the same thing.
- B. Three days of teaching before feeding 4,000; one day before 5,000.
- C. The disciples needed repetition.
- D. Less power with 4,000—smaller group, more food to start; less left.
- E. The 4,000 were Gentiles; the 5,000 were Jews.
- F. Jesus told the Gentile woman he'd feed his children before the dogs.
- G. 1,000=army; 4=the world; 5=Pentateuch; 7=perfection; 12=kingdom.
- H. Jesus would have been hugely successful at catering food.
- I. Other.

2. Why didn't Jesus give the Pharisees a sign as they requested (vs 11)?

- A. Jesus couldn't provide the sign they wanted.
- B. Jesus wouldn't provide the sign they wanted.
- C. It would be wasted—the Pharisees wouldn't have believed.
- D. Jesus didn't do miracles on demand (except for vs 22).
- E. He had already done many signs (see *Mark 1-7*).
- F. The confirmation at his baptism was all that was needed (1:11).
- G. His focus now was on Gentiles, not Jews; certainly not Pharisees.
- H. Jesus preferred to preach rather than do miracles.
- I. Other.

3. Why were the disciples so slow in understanding Jesus (vs 14-21)?

- A. The disciples weren't very smart.
- B. They were too young.
- C. Their cultural expectations made it hard to understand Jesus.
- D. The literal things made more sense to them than the symbolic things.
- E. Jesus didn't always match their expectations of being the Messiah.
- F. The disciples had hard hearts, blind eyes, and deaf ears (vs 17-18).
- G. They easily forgot what Jesus had done in the past.
- H. Like the blind man in Bethsaida, they saw new things, but unclearly.
- I. Other.

4. Why did the blind man need “two touches” from Jesus to see clearly?

- A. He was a Gentile.
- B. Mud with medicinal spit (*John 9:6-7*) worked some, but not enough.
- C. Some miracles take longer.
- D. Sometimes a person needs a “second touch” from Jesus.
- E. This was a metaphor for the disciples following Jesus (*vs 27-38*).
- F. The blind man didn’t have enough faith.
- G. Jesus was running low on miracle power.
- H. Other.

5. Who is Jesus? Pick the MOST important response for you:

- A. God.
- B. Son of God and Son of Man.
- C. A good teacher and healer.
- D. The Messiah.
- E. My Savior.
- F. My Lord.
- G. My friend.
- H. The One coming for me.
- I. Other.

6. What makes it difficult to follow Jesus?

- A. I think it’s easy (*Matt 11:28-30*).
- B. It goes contrary to my natural human nature.
- C. I have to give up so much.
- D. This involves a cross for me.
- E. Jesus asks me to die.
- F. I lose my sense of control.
- G. It takes so long.
- H. Other.

7. When have you needed a “second touch” from Jesus? What happened then?

8. Is Christ’s message to his followers in *vs 34-35* still true for his followers today? What would that look like for you?

Do You “Get It”?

OPENING QUESTION

When you see an artist's picture of Jesus, how can you tell it's Jesus?

READ Mark 9:1–50.

1. Why did Jesus take Peter, James, and John to see his transfiguration?

- A. They were his favorite disciples.
- B. The other disciples weren't prepared to see this.
- C. The other disciples were busy with other assigned tasks.
- D. The other disciples wouldn't be able to keep it a secret.
- E. Jesus wanted humans to witness his supernatural transfiguration.
- F. Jesus wanted these three disciples to interact with Moses and Elijah.
- G. This confirmed God's message again—"This is my beloved Son."
- H. These three would understand what this was all about.
- I. Other.

2. Why did Jesus tell his disciples about his soon coming death and resurrection?

- A. They forgot easily and needed reminders.
- B. They couldn't fathom either one happening.
- C. Something this astounding takes time to sink in.
- D. Nobody had ever been resurrected.
- E. The disciples didn't expect this when they chose to follow Jesus.
- F. This would prepare them when these realities took place.
- G. This helped the disciples after they occurred.
- H. Jesus wanted some support for what he faced.
- I. Other.

3. Why couldn't the disciples cast out this particular demon?

- A. They had never encountered this type of demon previously.
- B. Their bickering for not being included on the mount disqualified them.
- C. The disciples didn't have access to the same power Jesus had.
- D. They hadn't been praying enough.
- E. They hadn't fasted enough.
- F. The demon had too strong of a hold on the boy.
- G. The father lacked the necessary faith.
- H. Their egos got in the way of God's miraculous powers.
- I. Other.

4. What did Jesus want to teach his disciples before his death (vs 30-32)?

- A. Jesus would be killed.
- B. Jesus would be resurrected.
- C. Jesus would leave earth and return to heaven.
- D. One of them would betray Jesus.
- E. Deepen their understanding of the beatitudes.
- F. The Holy Spirit would be poured out on them one day.
- G. They would be treated the same way Jesus was treated.
- H. Other.

5. Why did Jesus pick a child to illustrate something important (vs 35-37)?

- A. Children are so innocent.
- B. Children are perfect.
- C. The disciples were acting like children.
- D. Jesus just liked children.
- E. Children show the Godly characteristic of _____.
- F. Living illustrations have more impact than just words.
- G. To most people, children are the lowest on the human totem pole.
- H. Other.

6. Who might be a church outsider Jesus would consider part of his team?

- A. Exorcists.
- B. A Gentile believer—someone from a different denomination.
- C. A Gentile believer—someone from a different world religion.
- D. Prisoners.
- E. Someone with mental health issues.
- F. Artsy people.
- G. A community service person with no religious affiliation.
- H. Other.

7. When have you needed some supernatural power and it just wasn't there?

8. What has Jesus taught you, even if you didn't catch on immediately? What might Jesus want to teach you now?

Important Truths About Life

OPENING QUESTION

Who has given you important truths about life?

READ Mark 10:1–52.

1. Should a husband and wife be allowed to divorce?

- A. Yes.
- B. No.
- C. Only because of unfaithfulness/infidelity—cheating.
- D. If there is some type of abuse.
- E. It's better not to marry.
- F. For a civil marriage—yes; for a spiritual marriage—No.
- G. God allowed it because of the hardness of the human heart.
- H. This has been a problem throughout human history.
- I. Other.

2. What was the deal with Jesus and the children (vs 13-16)?

- A. Children are so cute.
- B. Children are so innocent.
- C. Children are more trusting than adults.
- D. Jesus loves younger aged people more than older aged people.
- E. Everyone wants Jesus' blessing.
- F. Jesus wants to bless everyone.
- G. It was the parents' fault for distracting Jesus.
- H. It was the disciples' fault for keeping the children from Jesus.
- I. Other.

3. What does it take to obtain eternal life?

- A. A lot of money helps.
- B. A lifestyle of helping others.
- C. Obey the last six commandments.
- D. Obey the first four commandments.
- E. Sell all you have, give it to the poor, then follow Jesus where he goes.
- F. Thread a camel (or cable) through the eye of a needle.
- G. Only God can make it happen.
- H. A greater attachment to eternal life than this earthly life.
- I. Other.

4. If you heard Christ's predictions (vs 29-34), how would you respond?

- A. I made the right choice to follow Jesus.
- B. I made the wrong choice to follow Jesus.
- C. It looks like I'll get a return of 10,000 percent (100 times).
- D. It looks like I'll get a return of persecution.
- E. I'd be astonished.
- F. I'd be scared.
- G. I couldn't imagine things could turn out this way.
- H. I'd work with Jesus to get him to think more positively.
- I. Other.

5. Why did James and John request the top two seats with Jesus?

- A. They had such a strong loyalty and devotion to Jesus.
- B. Jesus liked them the best of the 12 disciples.
- C. Jesus had chosen them to see him on the Mount of Transfiguration.
- D. They were the most qualified.
- E. Pure selfishness and ego.
- F. It's natural to lord it over others instead of serving them.
- G. They still had a lot to learn.
- H. Other.

6. Why did Jesus heal Bartimaeus?

- A. That's what Jesus does.
- B. Bartimaeus asked.
- C. Bartimaeus had faith in Jesus and acted on it.
- D. It was a lucky day for Bartimaeus.
- E. Bartimaeus called Jesus "Son of David" before the triumphal entry.
- F. The last time Jesus would see "Bart" was the first time he saw Jesus.
- G. "Bart" was a community service-oriented person with no religious affiliation.
- H. Other.

7. What have you given up to follow Jesus (vs. 28)?

8. What position or role does Jesus want you to take now? What position or role will Jesus want you to fill in heaven?

Here Comes Jesus

OPENING QUESTION

How do people recognize you as you approach them—your face, walk, voice, clothes, something else?

READ Mark 11:1–33.

1. What does borrowing the colt for Christ indicate?

- A. Jesus owned nothing.
- B. Jesus owned everything.
- C. Jesus knew it wouldn't be a problem.
- D. People in the area knew Jesus in positive ways.
- E. This indicated Jesus was the Messiah (*Zechariah 9:9-10*).
- F. Riding an unbroken colt took courage.
- G. Riding an unbroken colt showed Christ's divinity.
- H. It was only temporary.
- I. Other.

2. Why did Christ enter Jerusalem as the triumphant Messiah?

- A. It was time.
- B. This gave the people a taste of the Messiah they wanted.
- C. It pushed the religious leaders to fully accept or fully reject Jesus.
- D. The ride on the colt started it.
- E. Bartimaeus started it (*Mark 10:47-52*).
- F. Jesus was the Messiah.
- G. It gave people a chance to shout, "Hosanna" (save now) (*Psa 118:26*).
- H. This would test the people's faith and expose their egos.
- I. Other.

3. Why did Jesus curse the fig tree?

- A. Jesus hated figs.
- B. Jesus hated hypocrisy—no fruit even though it had leaves.
- C. He was hungry.
- D. My Jesus would never do this.
- E. This passage shouldn't be in the Bible.
- F. It illustrated what was about to happen to the Jews.
- G. It illustrated what was about to happen at the temple.
- H. Contrary to what some think, Christ actually does judge.
- I. Other.

4. Why did Jesus cleanse the temple?

- A. It was time to force a change.
- B. The temple had become corrupt.
- C. The religious leaders had turned worship into a business.
- D. The Gentile area needed sanctification.
- E. Jesus got super mad.
- F. This would make it a place of prayer for all people (*Isaiah 56:7*).
- G. It proved he was the Messiah.
- H. Other.

5. Why did the fig tree wither?

- A. Jesus had cursed it.
- B. The tree saw Jesus coming toward it.
- C. Lightning had struck the fig tree.
- D. This reiterated Christ's judgment on the temple.
- E. This prefigured Christ's judgment on the Jews and Jerusalem.
- F. It was a lucky coincidence.
- G. It reminded Christ's listeners of the need to freely forgive.
- H. Other.

6. Why didn't Jesus answer the religious leaders' question?

- A. It was a trick question.
- B. Jesus didn't know the answer.
- C. He turned the tables by asking them the source of authority for John.
- D. It sounds like a playground squabble.
- E. Jesus always answered questions with a question of his own.
- F. He wanted to play with them for a few more days.
- G. Those listening wouldn't have understood.
- H. Other.

7. What do you like about Jesus in this chapter? What do you not like about Jesus in this chapter?

8. When and where do you see Jesus riding triumphantly today? When and where do you see Jesus cleansing corruption today?

Question

OPENING QUESTION

What is one question you want to ask God when you get to heaven?

READ **Mark 12:1–44.**

1. What do you consider the MAIN point in the evil farmers story (vs 1-12)?

- A. Farmers are evil people.
- B. God has left this world under the care of evil people.
- C. Once people get power, they use it against others.
- D. God repeatedly tries to connect with evil people.
- E. God demands his share of the harvest.
- F. Evil people are ruthless, even killing the owner's son.
- G. A day of reckoning will come for evil people.
- H. God comes to earth when all his other options are exhausted.
- I. Other.

2. Should those who follow God pay taxes to the government?

- A. Yes.
- B. No.
- C. Only if the Holy Spirit moves them to do so.
- D. Only when the government is good.
- E. Sure—it's only money; the government prints it like Monopoly money.
- F. God's economy is different from a government's economy.
- G. Pay your taxes to God first.
- H. Gifts and offerings to the church are like paying taxes to God.
- I. Other.

3. Why did the Sadducees pose their hypothetical question to Jesus?

- A. They were smarter than the Pharisees who couldn't trip up Jesus.
- B. They didn't know the answer and hoped Jesus would give it to them.
- C. This happened to one of them and he worried about the results.
- D. They didn't even know their short Bible: Genesis-Deuteronomy.
- E. Unaware Jesus was God, they tried to back him into a corner.
- F. A limited understanding: no belief in angels or the resurrection.
- G. They knew the answer, but wanted to see if Jesus also knew it.
- H. The Sadducees dealt only with hypotheticals—not real things.
- I. Other.

4. Which is the most important commandment?

- A. Yahweh is the one and only true God.
- B. Love God with all you have, all you are, and all you do.
- C. Love your neighbor.
- D. Love yourself.
- E. Worship God.
- F. Serve others.
- G. Love your enemies.
- H. Do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.
- I. Other.

5. Which type of person is the BIGGEST hypocrite?

- A. Religious people who make mistakes.
- B. Christians who live for themselves instead of living for Christ.
- C. People who change, but maintain an image of what they were.
- D. Someone with strong feelings, but who doesn't act on them.
- E. A married person who puts themselves before their spouse.
- F. An atheist who encounters God.
- G. A friend who talks about you behind your back.
- H. Other.

6. Why do you give what you give?

- A. It's all I have.
- B. I see a need and I try to fill it.
- C. It makes me feel good.
- D. God has given me so much that I want to pass it on.
- E. I take care of myself and my family/friends first.
- F. I've found that if I give more, I receive more.
- G. I give from my surplus.
- H. I give even if I have to go without.
- I. Other.

7. If everything belongs to God (vs 17), how do you give what you have to him?

8. What would happen if all the poor people gave the church everything they have? What would happen if all the wealthy people stopped giving?

Watch Out!

OPENING QUESTION

What's an impressive building you've seen in person?

READ Mark 13:1–37.

1. What were the disciples referring to when they asked “When?” (vs 4)?

- A. The destruction of the temple.
- B. The destruction of the city of Jerusalem.
- C. The end of the world.
- D. The end of their lives.
- E. The Crusades in the Middle East.
- F. The fall of the United States.
- G. A future nuclear war.
- H. World War III.
- I. Other.

2. Categorize these signs of Christ's return as S=Strong; W=Weak; N=Not.

- _____ False Christs/Messiahs.
- _____ War.
- _____ Earthquakes.
- _____ Famines.
- _____ Persecution.
- _____ Imprisonment.
- _____ Gospel to the whole world.
- _____ Family betrayal.
- _____ Other: _____.

3. Betrayal by which of the following groups would hurt you the MOST?

- A. Family.
- B. Friends.
- C. People from my church.
- D. Law enforcement.
- E. Those from another country.
- F. Those from another ethnic group.
- G. None of them.
- H. All of them.
- I. Other.

4. What is the “abomination of desolation” (vs 14)?

- A. Nobody knows.
- B. Something very, very bad.
- C. Something that obliterates.
- D. Figure out the meaning of *Daniel 9:27* and you’ll know.
- E. Antiochus Epiphanes sacrificing a pig on the sanctuary altar.
- F. Muslims, Communists, Catholics, and/or Capitalists doing their thing.
- G. The Battle of Armageddon.
- H. Church and State walking together in lockstep fashion.
- I. Other.

5. Prioritize from 1-8 what would making fleeing for your life difficult:

- _____ My life being threatened.
- _____ Leaving my home.
- _____ The people who are out to get me.
- _____ Not knowing where to go.
- _____ Leaving family and friends.
- _____ Bad weather.
- _____ An uncertain future.
- _____ Other: _____.

6. What is a good way to watch for Christ’s return?

- A. Stay alert at all times, like a gazelle watching for a lion attack.
- B. Stop stressing; forget about it.
- C. Be more serious about your relationship with Jesus.
- D. Pray a lot.
- E. Proclaim the good news about Jesus to everyone you see.
- F. Each day do what you think Jesus wants you to do.
- G. Keep a low profile.
- H. Other.

7. When has God spoken through you (vs 11) and it seemed like what came out of your mouth wasn’t from you?

8. Why will God’s people be threatened? How do you think you will respond if/when that happens?

From Bad to Worse

OPENING QUESTION

When have you experienced something that went from bad to worse?

READ **Mark 14:1–72.**

1. What made the anointing of Christ a likely place for things to go bad?

- A. The Passover was about to begin and it brought lots of anticipation.
- B. The Passover was about to begin and it brought lots of traditions.
- C. Simon, a leprous Pharisee Jesus had healed, hosted the meal.
- D. The perfume drew everyone's attention.
- E. The woman with the perfume drew everyone's attention.
- F. Too much money got wasted.
- G. Jesus had to bail out the woman yet again.
- H. Jesus paired the immoral woman's action with the Gospel.
- I. Other.

2. Why did Judas betray Jesus?

- A. Nobody knows.
- B. He no longer believed Jesus was the Messiah.
- C. The priests planted Judas among the disciples as a double agent.
- D. Judas figured this would push Jesus to set up his kingdom.
- E. Revenge because Jesus didn't include Judas in his innermost circle.
- F. Judas owed the priests a favor.
- G. He did it for the money.
- H. He had to fulfill prophecy.
- I. Other.

3. What TWO things surprise you the most about Christ's last supper?

- A. Jesus predicted there would be a place for his group, and there was.
- B. The disciples were able to prepare the special Passover meal.
- C. Jesus turned the Passover mood somber by predicting his betrayal.
- D. Jesus turned the Passover mood somber by predicting his death.
- E. Jesus transformed this tradition—Passover to Communion.
- F. Jesus gave enough hints to reveal who the betrayer was.
- G. The disciples couldn't figure out what Jesus told them.
- H. Jesus spelled out new symbolism for the bread and wine.
- I. Other.

4. Why was Peter so certain he would NOT betray Jesus?

- A. He had never betrayed Jesus previously.
- B. Peter's trust in Jesus had deepened; betrayal seemed impossible.
- C. Peter would fight to the death rather than betray Jesus.
- D. Three times in one night? No way!
- E. He had walked on water with Jesus and also saw Jesus transfigured.
- F. The suggestion that he would betray Jesus stiffened his resolve.
- G. Peter was more of a "talker" than a "doer."
- H. It was a gentleman's bet he had with Jesus.
- I. Other.

5. What happened that night in the Garden of Gethsemane?

- A. Jesus prayed.
- B. The disciples prayed.
- C. This is where the real battle between Christ and Satan occurred.
- D. Assisted by the religious leaders, Judas rounded up his mob.
- E. Jesus flashed his divinity (*John 18:6*).
- F. The disciples got some things right and some things wrong.
- G. It turned into an "all-nighter" for lots of people.
- H. Other.

6. What made Jesus guilty and deserving of death?

- A. Nothing.
- B. You can't keep fighting the existing powers without consequences.
- C. He claimed to be the Messiah and the Son of God.
- D. So many witnesses.
- E. It was predetermined he was guilty—a kangaroo court.
- F. His own disciples turned against him.
- G. Jesus provoked the high priest to tear his clothes (*Lev 21:10*).
- H. Other.

7. When have you betrayed Jesus?

8. Have you ever had a "Garden of Gethsemane" experience? If so, how did you survive?

Christ Gets Crucified

OPENING QUESTION

How do you usually respond when someone falsely accuses you?

READ Mark 15:1–47.

1. Why didn't Jesus respond to the charges made in front of Pilate?

- A. Jesus was guilty of the charges.
- B. Jesus really was the "King of the Jews."
- C. Christ was waiting for his attorney to arrive.
- D. Christ's silence actually created curiosity in Pilate.
- E. Arguing wouldn't have accomplished anything.
- F. Silence is golden.
- G. Christ's next step was to lay down his life.
- H. Christ's calmness showed a contrast that revealed his innocence.
- I. Other.

2. What did the consideration of freeing Barabbas reveal?

- A. Justice often doesn't happen.
- B. The leading priests were doing whatever it took to eliminate Jesus.
- C. Mobs are powerful.
- D. The innocent get crucified while the guilty go free.
- E. Pilate had a soft spot in his heart.
- F. Mobs can be shaped by key people.
- G. Barabbas illustrated that Jesus takes the place of the guilty.
- H. Even if a court has convicted you, there's a chance you can go free.
- I. Other.

3. Why were the soldiers so mean to Jesus?

- A. That's just the way soldiers are.
- B. That's just the way those particular soldiers were.
- C. They had anger issues for being stationed in Judea.
- D. Pilate had told them to rough up Jesus.
- E. Satan was behind all of this.
- F. They were just having some fun.
- G. They weren't mean; they actually worshiped Jesus.
- H. These soldiers didn't expect they would ever see Jesus again.
- I. Other.

4. What happened while Jesus was on the cross?

- A. His followers deserted him.
- B. He became a spectacle for the day.
- C. Pilate had a change of heart.
- D. The Roman soldiers had a change of heart.
- E. The Jewish leaders had a change of heart.
- F. Jesus got labeled as “The King of the Jews.”
- G. Christ’s teachings and good works got thrown in his face.
- H. Other.

5. What happened when Christ died?

- A. This shocked most who were watching.
- B. God the Father forsook Jesus at this moment.
- C. Elijah showed up.
- D. There was a great earthquake (*Matthew 27:51-53*).
- E. The temple curtain ripped, exposing an empty Most Holy Place.
- F. Lots of people cried.
- G. The Roman centurion confessed his faith in Jesus.
- H. Other.

6. What caught your attention regarding Joseph of Arimathea?

- A. He was one of the religious leaders who killed Jesus.
- B. His courage to ask Pilate for the dead body of Jesus.
- C. Pilate gave Joseph the corpse.
- D. Joseph was friends with Nicodemus (*John 19:38-40*).
- E. Joseph personally took Jesus down from the cross.
- F. He simply fulfilled God’s instructions about the dead (*Deut 21:22-23*).
- G. His change after Christ’s death—silent admirer to strong supporter.
- H. Other.

7. Why was Jesus crucified?

8. Does Christ’s crucifixion make you sad or mad? Hopeful or hopeless?

One Surprise After Another

OPENING QUESTION

How much do you like surprises?

READ Mark 16:1–20.

1. Why did the three ladies go to Christ's grave that Sunday morning?

- A. To put burial spices on Christ's dead body.
- B. To chit-chat with the Roman soldiers who were guarding the grave.
- C. Their fears hadn't crippled them like the disciples' fears had.
- D. This was their way to grieve and mourn Christ's death.
- E. They were functioning as spies for the disciples.
- F. To steal the body of Jesus, and then say he had been resurrected.
- G. They didn't have much of a plan.
- H. They expected Jesus to be resurrected at any moment.
- I. Other.

2. What surprised the women the MOST when they got to the tomb?

- A. The large stone had been rolled away.
- B. Jesus wasn't there.
- C. The Roman soldiers weren't there.
- D. Nobody was there.
- E. An angel told them surprising things.
- F. Jesus had been resurrected.
- G. A praise team had gathered and started to sing.
- H. They became the first messengers of Christ's resurrection.
- I. Other.

3. What message did the angel give to the women?

- A. Don't be afraid.
- B. Jesus has been resurrected.
- C. Tell everyone about this.
- D. Jesus will see you up north in Galilee.
- E. Repent and believe the Gospel.
- F. There's a special message for Peter (for some reason).
- G. You probably saw this coming, didn't you?!
- H. You should have seen the Roman soldiers this morning!
- I. All of them.

4. Why did Jesus first appear to women after his resurrection?

- A. They were the ones who showed up.
- B. Women usually believe before men do.
- C. Women were always significant players in Christ's ministry.
- D. The men remained in hiding due to their fears.
- E. It is perplexing who Jesus appeared to, and didn't appear to, that day.
- F. Women would spread the word faster than men.
- G. It's just like Jesus to surprise us.
- H. Other.

5. Who missed out on seeing Jesus the day he rose from the dead?

- A. All 12 of the disciples.
- B. Pilate and his wife.
- C. Annas and Caiaphas.
- D. Barabbas.
- E. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus.
- F. Cleopas and his wife (*Luke 24:13, 18*).
- G. Mary.
- H. Other.

6. What final instructions did Mark record from Jesus?

- A. Read the Bible.
- B. Pray.
- C. Do miracles.
- D. Stay where you are.
- E. Take the Gospel to the whole world.
- F. You will be treated the same as I was treated.
- G. I will be with you.
- H. Other.

7. If you had seen Jesus die, what would it take for you to believe he had been resurrected? What does it take for you to believe that today?

8. How would you end this Gospel if you were Mark?

