

# Book of the Week: Small Group Guide

Week 5: Gospel of Mark

July 5, 2026

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**Icebreaker Question:** Share a time when you received really good news that you couldn't wait to tell someone. What made you want to share it immediately?

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## Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. **Jesus is More Than a Miracle Worker** - While Mark's Gospel is full of powerful miracles, Jesus came for a greater purpose than just healing and performing wonders.
  2. **Jesus is the Messiah** - Not the political liberator people expected, but the suffering servant who came to die for our sins.
  3. **Leadership Through Service** - "Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant" (Mark 10:43).
  4. **The Gospel Demands a Response** - Mark ends with a cliffhanger, asking: What will YOU do with this good news?
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## Discussion Questions

### Understanding the Gospel of Mark

1. Pastor Mark described Mark's writing style as full of action - "and then, and then this." Why do you think Mark chose this rapid-fire approach rather than including Jesus' birth narrative like Matthew and Luke?
2. The disciples often misunderstood who Jesus was, expecting a political Messiah. How do we sometimes misunderstand Jesus' purpose in our own lives today?

### Jesus' Identity and Mission

3. Read Mark 8:27-30. Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do you say I am?" How would you personally answer this question? Has your answer changed over time?
4. The sermon highlighted that Jesus "came not to be served, but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). How does this challenge our culture's view of success and greatness?
5. Why do you think Jesus often told people not to tell others about His miracles, yet the crowds continued to grow?

## The Death and Resurrection

6. The sermon asked, "How is a dead Jesus good news?" How would you explain this to someone unfamiliar with Christianity?
7. Mark 16 ends with the women fleeing the tomb in fear, saying nothing to anyone. Why do you think Mark chose this abrupt ending? What point might he be making?

## Personal Application

8. Pastor Mark contrasted how people disobeyed Jesus when He said "don't tell" about miracles, but then stayed silent when told to "go tell" about the resurrection. Which do you relate to more - being bold when you should be quiet, or being quiet when you should be bold?
  9. The Roman centurion, an enemy of the Jewish people, was the one who declared, "Surely this man was the Son of God." What does this tell us about who can recognize Jesus?
  10. If you've already accepted Jesus as Savior, when and how did that happen? If comfortable, share your spiritual birthday story.
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## Memory Verse

**Mark 10:45** - "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

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## Closing Prayer

Pray together for:

- Boldness to share the gospel
- Hearts willing to serve others
- Those in your lives who don't yet know Jesus
- Gratitude for your spiritual birthdays

End by praying the prayer from the sermon together, whether as a first-time commitment or a recommitment to following Jesus.