



Discussion Questions

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

KEY TAKEAWAY

Your worst chapter does not get to name your story.

ACTION STEP

Grab a series guide before you leave & invite one person to join you for the Mark series.

ICEBREAKERS

- If you had to write a biography of someone you personally know, who would be the most interesting person to write about?

THE DESERTER.

Have different people in your group read the following passages: Acts 13:5, 13; 15:36–40

- What opportunity had Mark been given in Acts 13? What went wrong?
- Acts doesn't tell us why Mark left. But what does Paul's reaction in Acts 15 tell us about how seriously he viewed Mark's decision?
- Without sharing anything you aren't comfortable sharing, have you ever had a failure that affected how you viewed yourself afterward? Why are we sometimes tempted to turn something we've done into a statement about who we are?



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THE DESERTER USEFUL ONE.

Have different people in your group read the following passages: Col 4:10; 2 Tim 4:9–11

- Compare Paul's attitude toward Mark in Acts 15 with what he says about him here. What changed?
- We don't get all the details of what happened during the years between these passages. What does Mark's story nevertheless show us about failure, restoration, and usefulness?
- How can a church become a place where failure is taken seriously and restoration is genuinely possible?

CONSIDER JESUS. READ HEBREWS 12:1–3

Have different people in your group read the following passages: Col 4:10; 2 Tim 4:9–11

- What do the commands to "look to Jesus" and "consider him" actually look like in everyday life?
- Over these next seven months in Mark, what is one thing you personally hope to understand more clearly about Jesus?
- This week: What is one specific thing you can do before next Sunday to intentionally consider Jesus?