



Reading through the New Testament—Week 5

February 12-18, 2023

Reading Plan available on
YouVersion Bible App
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Becoming more like Jesus—growing in His Word

In this week's reading, we close out the gospel of Matthew and begin the gospel of Mark. Although Mark is the second of the four gospels, it is believed it was actually written first. Mark, also called John Mark, was a traveling companion with Paul and Barnabas (Acts 13:5). Although he disappointed Paul by going back to Jerusalem during their first missionary journey (Acts 13:13), Paul later said to Timothy, "Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry" (2 Tim. 4:11). Although this second gospel account was written by Mark, he relied on the apostle Peter for much, if not all, of his information.

The gospel of Mark begins with the ministry of John the Baptist (1:1-8), continues with Jesus' baptism and temptation (1:9-13), followed by His powerful preaching and healing ministry throughout Galilee (1:14-8:30). The Galilean ministry climaxes with Peter's confession that Jesus is the Christ, God's promised deliverer (8:27-29). From that point on, Jesus teaches His disciples that He must suffer and die in Jerusalem to pay the ransom price for sins. The rest of the gospel describes Jesus' journey to Jerusalem and His passion there as our suffering Servant.

Mark wrote for at least three reasons:

1. To provide the church with an authoritative written account of the gospel story
2. To confirm Jesus' identity as the suffering Messiah and Son of God
3. To encourage believers to persevere through trials and suffering as Jesus did

As you begin your reading in Mark this week, you may find it helpful to watch this introductory video on Mark by the Bible Project: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/mark/>.

This Week's Sermon Outline

"This is Life" – Mark 2:1-12

Reading Through the New Testament – Week 6

Reading Through the New Testament

Mark 2:1-12

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. (vv. 1-4)

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When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven." (v. 5)

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Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." (vv.6-11)






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He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!" (v. 12)

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New Testament in a Year—February 12-18

Matthew and Mark

Chapter 26  27  28  1  2 

Additional Reflections from this week's reading

In Matthew 26 you read about Jesus' institution of the Lord's Supper. Notice that Matthew tells us that it was "while they were eating, Jesus took bread . . ." (26:26). The meal they were eating was the Passover meal. The Passover meal was a remembrance of God's deliverance of the people of Israel from their enslavement in Egypt. Think about the reality that when you receive the Lord's Supper in worship, it is a meal of "deliverance" from our enslavement to sin.

Also in Matthew 26 we read where Judas agrees to betray Jesus. Ultimately in despair over that action, we read in Matthew 27 where Judas hangs himself. Today the words we would use to communicate something like that is that Judas died by suicide. Today, it is estimated that there are over 700,000 suicides a year world-wide. Suicide is fast becoming one of the top health concerns in our country. If you, or someone you know, struggles with thoughts of suicide or despair, call 988 – the national suicide and crisis lifeline, or text 4949494. As you read this, please pray right now for any person who may have suicidal thoughts to receive help and find hope. If you are looking for additional resources for mental health check out <https://lookupindiana.org/>.

You probably know that Matthew 28:16-20 is referred to as "The Great Commission." In other words, it is Jesus' marching orders to people who are disciples of Jesus Christ to make disciples of others. In the Greek language of the New Testament, the phrase "make disciples" is a command, an imperative statement meaning this is a directive from Jesus about what He wants us to do. But not only does He tell us what He wants us to do, He tells us how – going, baptizing, and teaching. We probably understand the baptizing and teaching part of this statement, but what about the "going"? Think about how you can live your life on mission everyday as you "go" about your daily life.

Belonging in Community

Connect groups are communities—a group of Christians who meet together regularly—where we intentionally share in our faith walk. Through commitment and presence in fellowship, discussion, and prayer, you will experience connection.

Begin your time together by following up on anything that was shared during your last time together.

In this guide there are personal prompts for sections of this week's readings. Take some time to share any reflections or aha's you had from them. As people share - be sure to engage by finding ways that you connect with what they are sharing as well as looking for ways to give some healthy direction or feedback.

This week we are studying the account of Jesus healing the paralytic. In this story we see can see the power of friendship and community.

- Share a time when you had to rely on others to help you. What was that like for you?
- Share a time when you were able to walk with someone who needed your assistance. What was that like for you?

Letting our needs be seen can be a very vulnerable stance. We can easily believe the lie that our needs make us undesirable, less valuable, or easy to manipulate. This is especially true when we look at the need for forgiveness. Jesus however, sees this need in us.

- How do you respond when you know you need forgiveness for something?
- Take time to share areas where you are struggling feel weak, less valuable, or easy to manipulate. (I struggle with finances, eating healthy, not getting angry, being attracted to violent or sexual movies...)
- Allow your groups to come together as a community bringing you to the forgiveness that you have through Christ. As well as the ability to walk in righteousness because of Him.

Take some time to pray together as companions and friends.

Blessing the World

Last week Pastor Dugall taught us about missional living and how we can be a part of God's Mission in our daily lives. One of the things we learned about was *third spaces*: places that we intentionally do life and have a regular presence (that are not work or home.) Where is your third space?

This month we are collecting GREEN BEANS and CANNED CHICKEN for NINE and New Life Food Pantry as they meet food needs of our community.