



The Gospel Of Mark

7 more studies from the Book of Mark (Part 7)

Please Note the following:

1. It is not necessary to answer the Bible Study Questions before meeting together for the Bible Study. Some people like to prepare beforehand whereas others like to think through the Bible Passages in a group setting. It is also not compulsory to answer ALL the questions.
2. It is not necessary to look up all the Bible cross references listed in a particular question; your Growth Group Leader will summarize these Bible cross references for you.
3. Just a reminder that sometimes in our Growth Groups, people feel comfortable sharing very personal and sensitive things about their lives. This information **MUST BE CONFIDENTIAL and NEVER LEAVE THE GROUP**

Study 1 – Jesus Anointed at Bethany**Mark 14:1-11***(Geoff Davidson Sermon on 1st March 2026)***Read Mark 14:1-11**

1. What major Jewish festival is approaching, and why is that significant in Mark's Gospel? (v1)
2. What are the chief priests and scribes trying to do — and what are they afraid of? (vv1-2)
3. How does their secret plotting contrast with what the woman with the alabaster jar does?
4. What details does Mark give to highlight the cost and intentionality of the woman's action?
5. Why do some of those present react so strongly? Is there anything that sounds reasonable about their objection?
6. What does this moment reveal about how people can use good causes (like helping the poor) to resist wholehearted devotion?

7. **Reflection:** What does “*waste*” look like when measured by human standards and by God’s standards?

8. How does Jesus describe the woman’s action? Why is that description important?

9. What does Jesus mean by “*the poor you will always have with you*”?

10. According to Jesus, what has the woman actually understood about Him that others have missed?

11. Why do you think Jesus promises that her story will be remembered wherever the gospel is preached?

12. How do both the woman and Judas respond to Jesus emotionally and spiritually — and what do you think motivates their responses?

13. **Ponder:** In what subtle ways might we be tempted to resemble Judas more than the woman?

14. What does this passage teach us about the difference between religious activity and true worship?

15. **Reflection:** Is there something valuable — reputation, comfort, resources, control — that Jesus may be inviting you to pour out? How can you give Him your best?

16. How do the following Old Testament passages relate to **Mark 14:1-11**?

2 Samuel 24:18-25

Isaiah 53:3-9

Deuteronomy 15:7–11

Psalm 2:1–2

What's the **BIG IDEA** of **Mark 14:1-11**



What light globe moment did you have?

What **questions** do you have about the passages in this study?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

Finish in prayer: Lord Jesus, You are worthy of our very best. Thank You for loving us enough to go to the cross. Forgive us when our hearts are cautious, calculating, or distracted. Give us the courage to love You openly. Teach us to offer our time, our resources, and our lives as a beautiful thing in Your sight.

Guard us from cold hearts and divided loyalties. Help us to follow You faithfully, remembering that You first gave everything for us. In Your precious name, Amen.

Study 2 – The Last Supper [A Meal Unlike Any Other]**Mark 14:12-26*****(Ian Warrell Sermon on 8th March 2026)*****Read Mark 14:12-26**

1. What is the significance of this being the Festival of Unleavened Bread / Passover?
2. What does the detailed preparation (*the man carrying a jar, the furnished upper room*) reveal about Jesus?
3. How does this passage show both divine sovereignty and ordinary obedience?
4. Why is it important that Jesus celebrates Passover before His death?
5. **Ponder:** What Old Testament meal are they remembering? How does this OT event relate to Jesus?
6. Why do you think Jesus announces the betrayal during the meal?
7. What stands out about the disciples' response: ***“Surely you don't mean me?”***

8. What does this response reveal about self-awareness and humility?

9. **Reflection:** How do verses 18–21 balance God’s Divine plan (“as it is written”) and human responsibility (“woe to that man”)?

10. **Ponder:** What words or actions of Jesus would have shocked the disciples?

11. What does “***This is my body***” communicate?

12. What does “***This is my blood of the covenant***” echo from the Old Testament?
(see Exodus 24:8)

13. Why does Jesus say His blood is “***poured out for many***”? (cf. Isaiah 53:12)

14. What future hope is expressed in verse 25?

15. Why is it significant that they sing a hymn before going out to the Mount of Olives?

16. What psalms were traditionally sung at Passover? (cf. Psalms 113–118 — the Hallel)

17. **Reflection:** Does this passage explain why we celebrate the Lord's Supper?

18. How do the following Old Testament passages relate to **Mark 14:12-26**?

Exodus 12:1-14

Exodus 24:1-8

Isaiah 53:10-12

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm 116 and Psalm 118 – Hallel Psalms (optional)

What's the **BIG IDEA** of Mark 14:12-26



What light globe moment did you have?

What **questions** do you have about the passages in this study?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

Finish in prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for being our Passover Lamb. Thank You for giving Your body and pouring out Your blood so that we might be forgiven and brought into a new covenant with God. As we remember this meal, help us never to treat Your sacrifice lightly. Give us grateful hearts, humble faith, and a deeper love for You. Strengthen us to trust You, even when the road ahead is difficult. Help us to fix our eyes on the promise of Your coming kingdom. In Your precious name, Amen.

Study 3 – Failure and Faithfulness at Gethsemane**Mark 14:27-52*****(Sermon on 15th March 2026)*****Read Mark 14:27-31**

1. What does Jesus say the disciples will do and where is He quoting from?
2. What bold claim does Peter make? How does Jesus predict Peter will do?
3. What bold claim do all the disciples make, including Peter in verse 31?

Read Mark 14:32-42

4. What instructions does Jesus give the disciples in Gethsemane? (verses 32-34)
5. What's impressive about Jesus' prayer in verses 35 to 36?
6. What are the disciples doing each time Jesus returns to them? Why 3 times?
7. What reason does Jesus give for the disciples need to pray and what is their problem? (verse 38)

8. What does verse 42 reveal about Jesus?

Read Mark 14:43-52

9. Who is in the arresting party in verse 43? And who leads it?

10. How is the betrayal carried out? (verses 44 to 46)

11. What happened to one of the servants and how did Jesus respond? (verses 47 to 49)

12. How do the disciples respond to Jesus' arrest in verse 50? Is this surprising? (see Mark 14:27).

13. What unusual detail does Mark mention in verses 51 to 52? Why?

14. **Ponder:** Compare the response of Jesus with the response of the disciples? What do you think makes the difference?

15. How do the following Old Testament passages relate to **Mark 14:27-52**?

Zechariah 13:7

Isaiah 53:3-12

Psalm 41:9

Psalm 42:5-11 and Psalm 43:1-5

Genesis 22:1-18

Psalm 75:7-8

Jeremiah 25:15-17 (Optional)

Psalm 88 (Optional)

What's the **BIG IDEA** of Mark 14:27-52



What light globe moment did you have?

What **questions** do you have about the passages in this study?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

Finish in prayer: Gracious Father, thank You for showing us the faithfulness of Your Son when others failed. Forgive us for the times we are sleepy, fearful, or overconfident. Teach us to watch and pray, and to trust Your will even when the path is hard. Strengthen us by Your Spirit to stand firm, and fill us with gratitude that Jesus stood alone for us. In His precious name we pray, Amen.

Study 4 – The Courage of Christ and the Collapse of Peter**Mark 14:53-72*****(Sermon on 22nd March 2026)*****Read Mark 14:53-72**

1. Where is Jesus taken, and who gathers there? (verse 53)
2. What is Peter doing while Jesus is on trial? (verses 54, 66)
3. What problem do the council members have with the witnesses? (verses 55 to 59)
4. What key question does the high priest finally ask Jesus? (verse 61)
5. How does Jesus respond to? (verse 62)
6. What is the council's reaction to Jesus' statement? (verses 63 to 65)
7. How many times does Peter deny Jesus? (verses 68, 70, 71)

8. What triggers Peter to realize what he's done? How does he feel? (verse 72)

9. Why is the trial considered unjust or irregular?

10. What Old Testament imagery is Jesus using in verse 62?

11. Why is Jesus' simple statement "***I am***" so significant?

12. What contrast does Mark want us to see between Jesus and Peter?

13. Why is Peter's denial especially tragic in context? (cf. Mark 14:29-31)

14. **Reflection:** In what situations are Christians tempted to follow Jesus "***at a distance***"?

15. What fears most commonly lead believers to compromise or stay silent about Jesus?

16. What encourages you most about Jesus' faithfulness in this passage?
17. How does Peter's failure give hope to struggling believers today?
18. What practical steps help us remain faithful under pressure?
19. How do the following Old Testament passages relate to **Mark 14:53-72**?

Daniel 7:13-14

Psalm 110:1

Isaiah 53:7-9

What's the ***BIG IDEA*** of **Mark 14:53-72**



What light globe moment did you have?

What ***questions*** do you have about the passages in this study?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

Finish in prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for the faithfulness of Your Son, Jesus, who stood firm even when all else failed. Forgive us for the times we deny or follow Him at a distance. Strengthen our hearts to trust and obey You, and help us rely on Your grace when we fall. Restore us, guide us, and keep us faithful to the end. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Study 5 – The Innocent King Condemned

Mark 15:1-20

(Sermon on 29th March 2026)

Read Mark 15:1-20

1. What do the religious leaders do? (verse 1)
2. What question does Pilate ask and what do you make of Jesus' reply? (verse 2)
3. How does Jesus respond to the accusations? Why does he reply in this way? Why is Jesus' silence significant? (verses 2 to 5)
4. Who is Barabbas, and why is he imprisoned? (verse 7)
5. What custom does Pilate follow? What does Pilate realise about the chief priests? (verses 6 and 8 to 11)
6. **Ponder:** Why do you think the crowd want to release Barabbas and crucify Jesus? (verses 11 to 13)
7. Why is Pilate hesitant to condemn Jesus? (verses 10 and 14)

8. What do we discover about Pilate's character in verse 15?

9. What do the soldiers do after Jesus is sentenced? What irony is there in their mocking of Jesus? (verses 16 to 20)

10. **Reflection:** What irony is present in the choice of Barabbas over Jesus?

11. **Reflection:** What role do envy and crowd pressure play in this passage?

12. Where do we see "***Barabbas choices***" today — choosing what is wrong over what is right?

13. What pressures might tempt Christians to stay silent about Jesus like Pilate did?

14. How does Jesus' willing suffering strengthen your trust in Him?

15. In what ways is Jesus still mocked or rejected in our culture today?
16. How should believers respond when following Jesus brings opposition or ridicule?
17. How do the following Old Testament passages relate to **Mark 15:1-20**?

Isaiah 53:3-7, 12

Psalm 2:1-6

Isaiah 50:6

Psalm 22:6-8

What's the ***BIG IDEA*** of **Mark 15:1-20**



What light globe moment did you have?

What **questions** do you have about the passages in this study?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

Finish in prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for our Lord Jesus, the innocent King who was mocked and condemned in our place. Forgive us for the times we have followed the crowd or stayed silent when we should stand for Him. Fill us with gratitude for His saving love and give us courage to honour Christ as our true King. In His precious name we pray, Amen.

Study 6 – Surely this man is the Son of God!**Mark 15:21-47*****(Sermon on 3rd April 2026 – Good Friday)*****Read Mark 15:21-47**

1. Who was forced to carry Jesus' cross? Why? Is there a teaching here? (verse 21)
2. What do they offer Jesus to drink, and what does He do? Why? (verse 23)
3. Why is "***dividing up his clothes***" significant? (verse 24)
4. What title is written above Jesus? What's the irony here? (verse 26)
5. Who is crucified alongside Jesus? (verse 27). **Optional: Read Genesis 40.** What is the connection to Jesus and the two criminals?
6. What kind of mocking does Jesus endure and from whom? How does that make you feel? (verses 29 to 32)

7. What unusual event happened in verse 33? (cf. Amos 8:9) Why do you think that happened?

8. What words does Jesus cry out in verse 34? Where are these words from? What would be going on for Jesus at that moment?

9. What misunderstanding is going on in verses 35 to 36?

10. What happens at the moment of Jesus' death? (verse 38) Why is that significant?

11. What great confession is there in verse 39? Why is that significant?

12. Why is it significant that the ladies are present? (verses 40 to 41)

13. Who ensures that Jesus receives a proper burial? (verses 43 to 46) Why is this risky?

14. Why is verse 47 important?

15. **Reflection:** How does Jesus crucifixion affect you?

16. What does the cross teach us about the seriousness of sin?

17. Do the actions of Simon Cyrene, the Centurion and Joseph of Arimathea give you your response to Jesus' death on a cruel cross?

18. How do the following Old Testament passages relate to **Mark 15:21-47**?

Numbers 21:4-9

Leviticus 16:1-19 (especially vv15-22)

Psalm 22

Isaiah 53:1-12

What's the ***BIG IDEA*** of **Mark 15:21-47**



What light globe moment did you have?

What ***questions*** do you have about the passages in this study?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

Finish in prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for the great love shown to us in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you that through His suffering and death the way to you has been opened. Help us to trust Jesus more deeply, to live gratefully under His kingship, and to follow Him with courage and faith. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Study 7 – He is Risen! He is not here.**Mark 16:1-8***(Sermon on 5th April 2026 – Easter Sunday)***Before we begin:** Why is Easter a special time for you?**Read Mark 16:1-8**

1. Who comes to the tomb? Why is that significant? What actual day of the week is it and why is that significant? (verses 1 & 2)
2. What concern do the women have on their way to the tomb? (verse 3)
3. What do they discover when they arrive? (verse 4)
4. Whom do they see inside the tomb? (verse 5)
5. What announcement does the young man make? Should they/we be surprised? (verse 6)

6. What instructions are the women given? Again, should they/we be surprised? Why does the young man say “**and Peter**” (verse 7)

7. What do you make of the women’s response in verse 8?

8. **Ponder:** Why is the rolled-away stone significant?

9. Why is the resurrection announcement central to the gospel?

10. What contrast do we see between the women’s expectations and God’s action

11. What “**stones**” do people today assume are impossible for God to move?

12. When are believers tempted to respond with fear rather than faith?

13. How does the resurrection strengthen your confidence in Jesus' promises?

14. What does this passage teach us about God's grace toward failing disciples (like Peter)?

15. How can we be more faithful in sharing the good news of the risen Christ?

16. **Ponder:** Why does Mark end (at verse 8) with fear and silence?

17. **Optional:** Why are verses 9 to 20 in italics in your Bible and rarely preached on?
You can leave this question for your Bible Study leader if you prefer.

18. How do the following Old Testament passages relate to **Mark 16:1-8**?
Jonah 1:1-17 (especially v17)

Psalm 16:9-11

Isaiah 53:10-12

Psalm 22:22-24

What's the ***BIG IDEA*** of **Mark 16:1-8**



What light globe moment did you have?

What ***questions*** do you have about the passages in this study?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

Finish in prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you that the stone was rolled away and that our Lord Jesus is risen indeed. Fill us with joy and faith in the power of the empty tomb. Turn our fear into bold witness, and help us to live each day in the hope of the risen Christ. In His victorious name we pray, Amen.

**Studies prepared by Paul O'Rourke
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Resources:

The MacArthur Study Bible

New Bible Commentary (Carson, France, Moyter & Wenham)

The Gospel of Mark (William Barclay)

The Gospel of St. Mark Commentary by C.E.B. Cranfield

Preaching Mark by Phil Crowter

The Gospel of Mark by Ben Witherington III

Matthew Henry's Commentary