

## WEEK 5: LIFE OF SAINT MARK

### HIGH SCHOOL

#### GOAL

To learn about the life of Saint Mark the Evangelist & Apostle

#### LESSON

**Materials Needed:** Orthodox Study Bible, whiteboard, dry erase markers

**Extended Learning Opportunity:** Apostle Mark

[https://orthodoxwiki.org/Apostle\\_Mark](https://orthodoxwiki.org/Apostle_Mark)

#### THE LIFE OF ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST & APOSTLE:

St. Mark is known as John Mark (Acts 12:12), John (Acts 13:5), or Mark in the Bible. He is the son of Aristopolus and Mary. St. Mark's uncle is St. Barnabas, who traveled together with him and St. Paul. He was also related to St. Peter through his father.

His house is the first Christian church where Christ celebrated Holy Communion (Gospels of Mark and Luke) and where the Holy Spirit descended upon them (Acts) at Pentecost. Mark was not one of Jesus' 12 disciples, but he had direct experience with Christ being in his home and being taught by His disciples. As an adult, Mark becomes an apostle (*"sent out" to spread the good news*) and eventually writes the Gospel of Mark after extensively traveling with the Apostles Paul, Barnabas, and Peter.

Mark traveled with both Paul and Barnabas during their first missionary journey, before going back to Jerusalem while they continued traveling.

*(Let's pause for a moment and read Acts 13:1-13. Now, let's find the map in the Orthodox Study Bible of Paul's First and Second Missionary Journeys. Find the places St. Mark visited: Antioch, Seleucia, Salamis, Paphos, Perga, Jerusalem)*

He continued traveling great distances for the rest of his life and oftentimes accompanied other apostles as well on these trips - to such places as Egypt (and additional areas of

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Africa), Antioch, Cyprus, Rome, Ephesus. He visited some of these places more than once and it is while Mark is in Rome that he writes his gospel. During this time period, there were only three known continents: Asia, Africa, and Europe and St. Mark preached in all three of them!

Eventually, Mark made his way back to Alexandria in Egypt. This was a city of immense intellectual and cultural richness. It is here that we find one of the wonders of the ancient world, the Lighthouse of Alexandria. It is also renowned for its Great Library because it was the largest of its time period. As we've caught a glimpse of Mark's travels on the map, it is no surprise that his shoes were well worn from walking since cars and planes were not an option then. He had gone to a cobbler (*one who makes and repairs shoes*) named Anianus. While repairing Mark's shoes, the cobbler accidentally hurt his hand with the hefty needle he was using, exclaiming, "O, the One God!" Mark seized the opportunity to talk to the cobbler about that One God. Before talking to Anianus about Christ, Mark first healed the cobbler's hand by taking mud, spitting on it, and then applying it to the wound while saying, "In the name of Jesus Christ, Son of God, heal this hand." Instantly, his hand was healed and they began to talk about God. Shortly thereafter, the cobbler's entire family was baptized and later Anianus is ordained a bishop of Alexandria by St. Mark.

Christianity was growing quickly in Alexandria and those who opposed it began to plot to kill Mark. Many people urged Mark to flee the city in order to protect him. He did leave for a short time, but eventually came back again. The non-Christians saw him as a threat to them because so many people were converting to Christianity. With extreme cruelty, Mark was arrested and tortured. They tied a rope around his neck and mercilessly dragged him through the streets of the city. The many rocks in the roads and the friction of being dragged for hours tore open his skin and his blood marked everywhere that he was pulled. That night, he was still alive and placed in a prison where he saw an angel who told him, "O Mark, the good servant, rejoice, for your name has been written in the book of life, and you have been counted among the congregation of the saints." Shortly after the angel disappeared, Christ appeared to St. Mark and brought peace upon him. The next day, a rope was placed around his neck again and he was dragged through the streets a second time until he fell asleep in the Lord.

The pagans were still not satisfied with his death and prepared to burn his body, but a severe storm began and those who had intended to burn Mark all ran away in fear.

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The Christians took this opportunity to bury St. Mark. Later, as often happened, a church was built over the relics of his body. In the 800's, his body was moved to Venice, Italy and placed in the church named after him, St. Mark's Cathedral. This is a very famous church for both it's beautiful iconography and also all the treasures that found their way there from other Christian churches. In 1968, the relics of St. Mark were once again returned to Egypt.

St. Mark taught as many people as he could about the life, teachings, miracles, death and Resurrection of Christ. (*He is an apostle.*) He also wrote these accounts down on paper in the Gospel of Mark. (*He is an evangelist.*) He was tortured and killed because of his firm beliefs and teachings about God. (*He is a martyr.*) We commemorate (*remember; honor the memory*) St. Mark on April 25th and also on January 4th (among the Seventy Apostles).

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## REVIEW:

*Teaching Tip - Our brains will commit something to long term memory when we are asked to retrieve or remember it over and over again. Do not underestimate the importance of having the children recall the story in their own words at the end of class or even during a future class.*

- Ask a student to give a summary of the beginning of St. Mark's life.
- Ask a student to give a summary of St. Mark's adult life after Christ's death.
- Ask a student to give a summary of what happened at the end of St. Mark's life.

## WEEK 5: LIFE OF SAINT MARK

### MIDDLE SCHOOL

#### GOAL

To learn about the life of Saint Mark the Evangelist & Apostle

#### LESSON

**Materials Needed:** Orthodox Study Bible, whiteboard, dry erase markers

**Extended Learning Opportunity:** Apostle Mark

[https://orthodoxwiki.org/Apostle\\_Mark](https://orthodoxwiki.org/Apostle_Mark)

#### THE LIFE OF ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST & APOSTLE:

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His house is the first Christian church where Christ celebrated Holy Communion (Gospels of Mark and Luke) and where the Holy Spirit descended upon them (Acts) at Pentecost. Mark was not one of Jesus' 12 disciples, but he had direct experience with Christ being in his home and being taught by His disciples. As an adult, Mark becomes an apostle (*"sent out" to spread the good news*) and eventually writes the Gospel of Mark after extensively traveling with the Apostles Paul, Barnabas, and Peter.

Mark traveled with both Paul and Barnabas during their first missionary journey, before going back to Jerusalem while they continued traveling.

*(Let's pause for a moment and read Acts 13:1-13. Now, let's find the map in the Orthodox Study Bible of Paul's First and Second Missionary Journeys. Find the places St. Mark visited: Antioch, Seleucia, Salamis, Paphos, Perga, Jerusalem)*

He continued traveling great distances for the rest of his life and oftentimes accompanied other apostles as well on these trips - to such places as Egypt (and additional areas of

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Africa), Antioch, Cyprus, Rome, Ephesus. He visited some of these places more than once and it is while Mark is in Rome that he writes his gospel. During this time period, there were only three known continents: Asia, Africa, and Europe and St. Mark preached in all three of them!

Eventually, Mark made his way back to Alexandria in Egypt. This was a city of immense intellectual and cultural richness. It is here that we find one of the wonders of the ancient world, the Lighthouse of Alexandria. It is also renowned for its Great Library because it was the largest of its time period. As we've caught a glimpse of Mark's travels on the map, it is no surprise that his shoes were well worn from walking since cars and planes were not an option then. He had gone to a cobbler (*one who makes and repairs shoes*) named Anianus. While repairing Mark's shoes, the cobbler accidentally hurt his hand with the hefty needle he was using, exclaiming, "O, the One God!" Mark seized the opportunity to talk to the cobbler about that One God. Before talking to Anianus about Christ, Mark first healed the cobbler's hand by taking mud, spitting on it, and then applying it to the wound while saying, "In the name of Jesus Christ, Son of God, heal this hand." Instantly, his hand was healed and they began to talk about God. Shortly thereafter, the cobbler's entire family was baptized and later Anianus is ordained a bishop of Alexandria by St. Mark.

Christianity was growing quickly in Alexandria and those who opposed it began to plot to kill Mark. Many people urged Mark to flee the city in order to protect him. He did leave for a short time, but eventually came back again. The non-Christians saw him as a threat to them because so many people were converting to Christianity. With extreme cruelty, Mark was arrested and tortured. They tied a rope around his neck and mercilessly dragged him through the streets of the city. The many rocks in the roads and the friction of being dragged for hours tore open his skin and his blood marked everywhere that he was pulled. That night, he was still alive and placed in a prison where he saw an angel who told him, "O Mark, the good servant, rejoice, for your name has been written in the book of life, and you have been counted among the congregation of the saints." Shortly after the angel disappeared, Christ appeared to St. Mark and brought peace upon him. The next day, a rope was placed around his neck again and he was dragged through the streets a second time until he fell asleep in the Lord.

The pagans were still not satisfied with his death and prepared to burn his body, but a severe storm began and those who had intended to burn Mark all ran away in fear.

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The Christians took this opportunity to bury St. Mark. Later, as often happened, a church was built over the relics of his body. In the 800's, his body was moved to Venice, Italy and placed in the church named after him, St. Mark's Cathedral. This is a very famous church for both it's beautiful iconography and also all the treasures that found their way there from other Christian churches. In 1968, the relics of St. Mark were once again returned to Egypt.

St. Mark taught as many people as he could about the life, teachings, miracles, death and Resurrection of Christ. (*He is an apostle.*) He also wrote these accounts down on paper in the Gospel of Mark. (*He is an evangelist.*) He was tortured and killed because of his firm beliefs and teachings about God. (*He is a martyr.*) We commemorate (*remember; honor the memory*) St. Mark on April 25th and also on January 4th (among the Seventy Apostles).

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## REVIEW:

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- Ask a student to give a summary of the beginning of St. Mark's life.
- Ask a student to give a summary of St. Mark's adult life after Christ's death.
- Ask a student to give a summary of what happened at the end of St. Mark's life.

## WEEK 5: LIFE OF SAINT MARK

3RD - 4TH GRADE

### GOAL

To learn about the life of Saint Mark the Evangelist & Apostle

### LESSON

**Materials Needed:** Orthodox Study Bible, whiteboard, dry erase markers

**Extended Learning Opportunity:** Apostle Mark

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His house is the first Christian church where Christ celebrated Holy Communion and where the Holy Spirit descended upon them at Pentecost. Mark was not one of Jesus' 12 disciples, but he had direct experience with Christ being in his home and being taught by His disciples. As an adult, Mark becomes an apostle (*"sent out" to spread the good news*) and eventually writes the Gospel of Mark after traveling all over with the Apostles Paul, Barnabas, and Peter.

Mark traveled with both Paul and Barnabas during their first trip teaching people in far away places about Christ.

*(Let's pause for a moment and find the map in the Orthodox Study Bible of Paul's First and Second Missionary Journeys. Find the places St. Mark visited with Paul and Barnabas: Antioch, Seleucia, Salamis, Paphos, Perga, Jerusalem)*

He continued traveling great distances for the rest of his life and oftentimes accompanied other apostles as well on these trips - to such modern day countries as Egypt (and

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additional areas of Africa), Syria, Cyprus, Italy, Turkey. He visited some of these places more than once and it is while Mark is in Rome, Italy that he writes his gospel. During this time period, there were only three known continents: Asia, Africa, and Europe and St. Mark preached in all three of them!

Eventually, Mark made his way back to Alexandria in Egypt. This was an important city for much of history. It is here that we find one of the wonders of the ancient world, the Lighthouse of Alexandria. It is also renowned for its Great Library because it was the largest of its time period. As we've caught a glimpse of Mark's travels on the map, it is no surprise that his shoes were well worn from walking since cars and planes were not an option then. He had gone to a cobbler (*one who makes and repairs shoes*) named Anianus. While repairing Mark's shoes, the cobbler accidentally hurt his hand with the hefty needle he was using, exclaiming, "O, the One God!" Mark took the opportunity to talk to the cobbler about that One God. Before talking to Anianus about Christ, Mark first healed the cobbler's hand by taking mud, spitting on it, and then applying it to the wound while saying, "In the name of Jesus Christ, Son of God, heal this hand." Instantly, his hand was healed and they began to talk about God. Shortly after this, the cobbler's entire family was baptized and later Anianus is ordained a bishop of Alexandria by St. Mark.

Many people were becoming Christians in Alexandria now and the people who were not Christians didn't like this at all! They began a plan to kill Mark. Those closest to Mark begged him to leave the city in order to protect him. He did leave for a short time, but eventually came back again. The non-Christians saw him as a threat to them because the Christians believed very differently from them. With extreme cruelty, Mark was arrested and tortured. They tied a rope around his neck and mercilessly dragged him through the streets of the city. That night, he was still alive and placed in a prison where he saw an angel who told him, "O Mark, the good servant, rejoice, for your name has been written in the book of life, and you have been counted among the congregation of the saints." Shortly after the angel disappeared, Christ appeared to St. Mark and brought peace upon him. The next day, a rope was placed around his neck again and he was dragged through the streets a second time until he died.

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## WEEK 5: LIFE OF SAINT MARK

1ST - 2ND GRADE

### GOAL

To learn about the life of Saint Mark the Evangelist & Apostle

### LESSON

**Materials Needed:** Orthodox Study Bible, icon of St. Mark

**Extended Learning Opportunity:** Apostle Mark

[https://orthodoxwiki.org/Apostle\\_Mark](https://orthodoxwiki.org/Apostle_Mark)

#### THE LIFE OF ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST & APOSTLE:

Just like you have a first and last name in order to tell you apart from someone who has the same first name as you, Saint Mark is called John or John Mark in the Bible in order to tell him apart from other men named John.

His dad's name was Aristopolus and his mom's name was Mary. He also had an uncle named Barnabas and later Saint Mark would travel to many far away places with him and other apostles. Do you remember what apostle means? An apostle is someone who travels all over the world in order to tell people that Jesus is the Son of God.

St. Mark's house is the first Christian church where Jesus celebrated Holy Communion and where the Holy Spirit descended upon disciples at Pentecost. Mark was not one of Jesus' 12 disciples, but he had direct experience with Christ being in his home and being taught by His disciples. As an adult, Mark becomes an apostle too and eventually writes the Gospel of Mark after traveling to lots of countries with the Apostles Paul, Barnabas, and Peter.

Let's look at a map for a minute to see some of the places St. Mark visited with St. Paul and St. Barnabas. (*Show map of Paul's First and Second Missionary Journey from the Orthodox Study Bible. He visited Antioch, Seleucia, Salamis, Paphos, Perga, Jerusalem*)

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He continued traveling great distances for the rest of his life and oftentimes accompanied other apostles as well on these trips - to such modern day countries as Egypt (and additional areas of Africa), Syria, Cyprus, Italy, Turkey. He visited some of these places more than once and it is while Mark is in Rome, Italy that he writes his gospel. During this time period, there were only three known continents: Asia, Africa, and Europe and St. Mark preached in all three of them!

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Many people were becoming Christians in Alexandria now and the people who were not Christians didn't like this at all! They began a plan to kill Mark. Those closest to Mark begged him to leave the city in order to protect him. He did leave for a short time, but eventually came back again. The people who were not Christians saw him as a threat to them because the Christians believed very differently from them. With extreme cruelty, Mark was arrested and tortured. They tied a rope around his neck and dragged him through the streets of the city. That night, he was still alive and placed in a prison where he saw an angel who told him, "O Mark, the good servant, rejoice, for your name has been written in the book of life, and you have been counted among the congregation of the saints." Shortly after the angel disappeared, Christ appeared to St. Mark and brought peace upon him. The next day, a rope was placed around his neck again and he was dragged through the streets a second time until he died.

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St. Mark taught as many people as he could about the life, teachings, miracles, death and Resurrection of Christ. (*He is an apostle.*) He also wrote these accounts down on paper in the Gospel of Mark. (*He is an evangelist.*) He was tortured and killed because of his firm beliefs and teachings about God. (*He is a martyr.*) We commemorate (*remember, honor the memory*) St. Mark on April 25th and also on January 4th (among the Seventy Apostles).

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- What happened at the beginning of St. Mark's life?
- Do you remember some of the places or people St. Mark traveled with in order to teach as many people as possible about Jesus Christ?
- What happened at the end of St. Mark's life?
- Let's look at an icon of Saint Mark. What are some clues we can find to help us know this is Mark? (*His name starts with an "M." He is either holding a book which is the gospel or he is writing on a scroll which is also his gospel. What kind of clothes is he wearing?*)

## WEEK 5: LIFE OF SAINT MARK

PRE-K - KINDERGARTEN

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### LESSON

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**Extended Learning Opportunity:** Apostle Mark

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St. Mark's house is the first Christian church where Jesus celebrated Holy Communion and where the Holy Spirit descended upon disciples at Pentecost.

How many of you have gone on a long car ride or plane ride to go see someone? Did it feel like it took forever? Guess what, they didn't have cars or planes back then and St. Mark had to do a lot of walking when he wasn't on a boat. Let's look at a map for a minute to see some of the places St. Mark visited with St. Paul and St. Barnabas. *(Show map of Paul's First and Second Missionary Journey from the Orthodox Study Bible. He visited Antioch, Seleucia, Salamis, Paphos, Perga, Jerusalem)*

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He continued traveling great distances for the rest of his life and lots of times was with other apostles as well on these trips.

Eventually, Mark made his way back to Alexandria in Egypt. We are not surprised to learn that his shoes were falling apart from walking so much and needed to be fixed. He had gone to a cobbler (*one who makes and repairs shoes*) named Anianus. While repairing Mark's shoes, the cobbler accidentally hurt his hand with a big, sharp needle and yelled out, "O, the One God!" Mark took this opportunity to tell the cobbler about that One God. Before talking to Anianus about Jesus, Mark first healed the cobbler's hand by taking mud, spitting on it, and then putting the mud on his big cut while saying, "In the name of Jesus Christ, Son of God, heal this hand." Instantly, his hand was healed and they began to talk about God. Shortly after this, the cobbler's entire family was baptized and became Christians.

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- Who can tell me about Saint Mark's life?
- Let's look at an icon of Saint Mark. What are some clues we can find to help us know this is Mark? (*His name starts with an "M." He is either holding a book which is the gospel or he is writing on a scroll which is also his gospel. What kind of clothes is he wearing?*)