

# WEEK 6: INTRODUCTION TO THE GOSPEL OF MARK

## HIGH SCHOOL

### GOAL

To develop a deeper understanding about the Gospel of Mark

### LESSON

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

**Extended Learning Opportunity:** Crash Course on Matthew & Mark's Gospels

[https://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/searchthescriptureslive/  
crash\\_course\\_on\\_matthew\\_and\\_marks\\_gospels](https://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/searchthescriptureslive/crash_course_on_matthew_and_marks_gospels)

### GOSPEL OF MARK:

*Teaching Tip - Repetition and review re-enforce long term learning. We will be reviewing some points from two weeks ago and learning additional information in this lesson as well.*

Saint Mark was one of the seventy apostles. He was a companion (*co-worker; a person who is frequently in the company of*) of St. Peter, St. Barnabas, and St. Paul. He used the teachings of St. Peter as the foundation for his gospel.

### AUDIENCE: Gentiles

This is a general term for anyone who was not a Jew.

### THE PURPOSE OF HIS GOSPEL WAS TO TEACH PEOPLE: Jesus is the Son of God

Since St. Mark did not have the need to teach the Gentiles that Jesus was the Messiah - they were not Jews and therefore were not waiting for the Messiah - he focused on Jesus being the Son of God in this gospel.

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## How does Mark prove that Jesus is the Son of God?

He emphasizes Jesus' miracles because they are acts of power.

For example:

- Mark 2:1-12 (Healing of the Paralytic)

### Characteristics of Mark's Gospel:

Mark's gospel is the shortest of all of the gospels. It is 16 chapters long. Mark is not as concerned about structure and organization as the other evangelists. He finds it far more important to just get all of this information down on paper, rather than how he organizes it.

He focuses more on the narratives (*stories*) in his gospel than on the teachings of Jesus. His stories are filled with detail and action! His gospel is fast paced and he frequently uses the word "immediately" to grab your attention. This doesn't mean that he didn't feel like Jesus' teachings weren't important, he most assuredly does, but he was putting forth an enormous amount of effort into teaching people that Jesus is the Son of God, so he focused on the miracles of Christ.

One of the reasons why we know that Mark was writing for Gentiles instead of Jews is because he translates Hebrew words into Greek and explains Jewish customs to his audience. If he was writing for Jews, this wouldn't be necessary. Think of it this way - if you traveled to a foreign country and were trying to explain the Fourth of July to them, you would need to explain our customs associated with this holiday: fireworks, cookouts, wearing red, white, and blue clothing, etc. They would have little to no concept of this holiday because it is uniquely American, while it would be completely unnecessary to explain these customs to friends here.

Helpful memory tool: Bible scholars refer to St. Mark as "the Storyteller." This can help you remember that his gospel focuses on stories and action.

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## Sequence of Events in Mark's Gospel:

1. **Prologue** - A prologue is an introduction to the events the author will be writing. In the prologue, we learn about St. John the Baptist and Christ's temptation in the wilderness. It is the preparation for Christ's ministry (*travels, teachings, and miracles*).
2. **Galilean Ministry** - Next, we learn about Jesus' travels through Galilee. (*See map in your Orthodox Study Bible, "The Holy Land in the Time of Jesus."*)
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6. **Christ's Passion, Death, and Resurrection** - Every year, we spend Holy Week learning about this during our services.

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## REVIEW:

- Who is Mark's audience for his gospel?
- How do we know this is his audience?
- What is the main purpose of Mark's gospel? (Jesus is...)
- What are three characteristics of Mark's gospel?
- What are the main sequence of events in Mark's gospel?



# WEEK 6: INTRODUCTION TO THE GOSPEL OF MARK

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

### GOAL

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### LESSON

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## REVIEW:

- Who is Mark's audience for his gospel?
- How do we know this is his audience?
- What is the main purpose of Mark's gospel? (Jesus is...)
- What are three characteristics of Mark's gospel?
- What are the main sequence of events in Mark's gospel?

## CREATE A TIMELINE

Using sentence strips, create a timeline of Mark's gospel. What happened first, next, and last? Guide the students on how to create the timeline themselves by explaining the project on the whiteboard.

Sentence strip #1

1. Prologue:  
Getting ready for  
Christ's ministry

2. Galilean Ministry:  
Jesus traveled in Galilee  
teaching and healing people

3. Beyond Galilean Ministry:  
Jesus traveled north of Galilee  
to teach and heal people

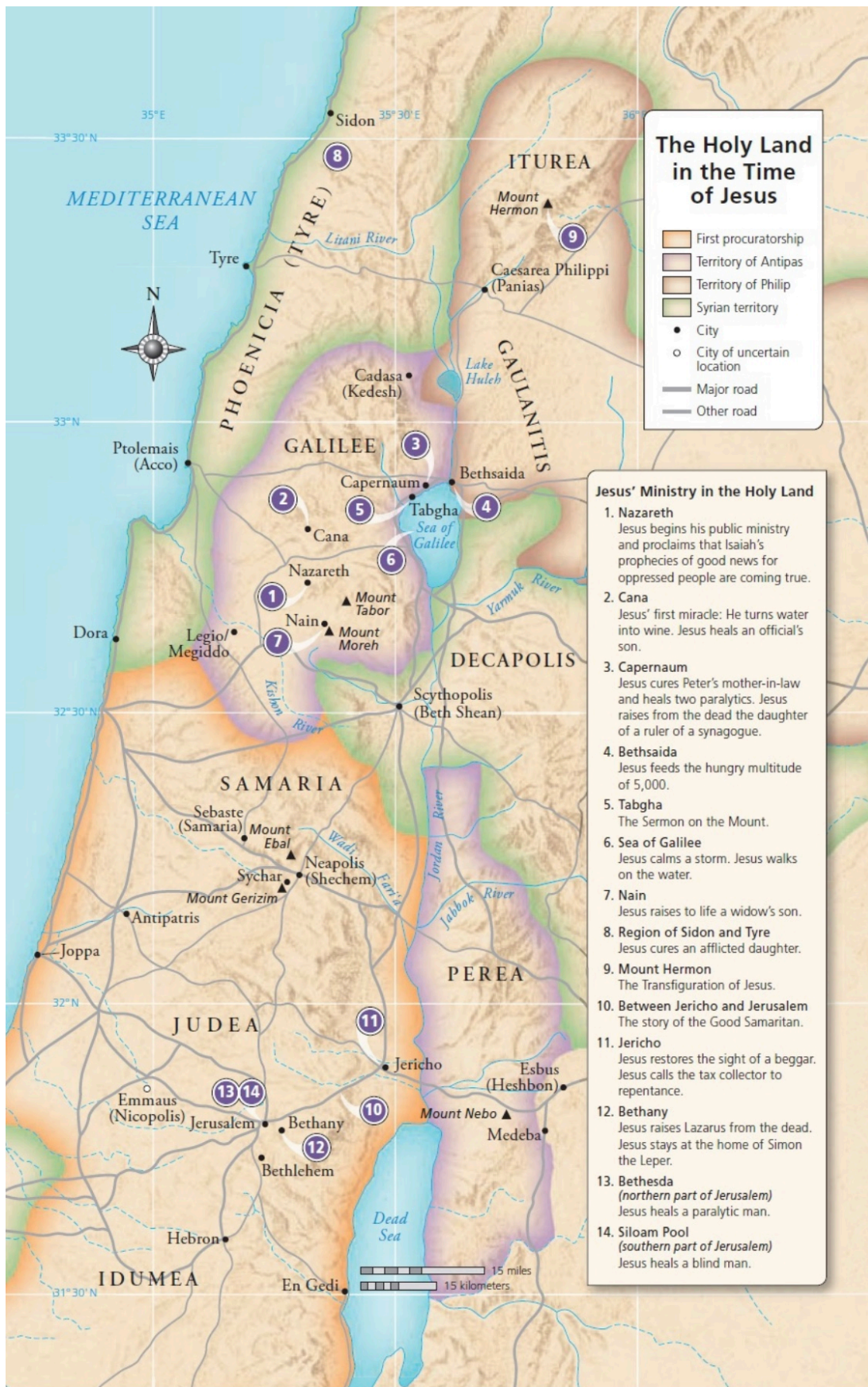
Sentence strip #2

4. Journey to Jerusalem:  
Jesus taught and healed  
people on his way to  
Jerusalem

5. Ministry in Jerusalem:  
Jesus taught and healed  
people in Jerusalem

6. Passion, Death and  
Resurrection of Jesus





## WEEK 6: INTRODUCTION TO THE GOSPEL OF MARK

3RD - 4TH GRADE

### GOAL

To develop a deeper understanding about the Gospel of Mark

### LESSON

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**THE PURPOSE OF HIS GOSPEL WAS TO TEACH PEOPLE: Jesus is the Son of God**

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For example:

- Mark 6:45 - "**Immediately** He made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side..."
- Mark 10:52 - "Then Jesus said to him, 'Go your way; your faith has made you well.' And **immediately** he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road."

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## WEEK 6: INTRODUCTION TO THE GOSPEL OF MARK

1ST - 2ND GRADE

### GOAL

To develop a deeper understanding about the Gospel of Mark

### LESSON

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#### GOSPEL OF MARK:

*Teaching Tip - Repetition and review re-enforce long term learning. We will be reviewing some points from two weeks ago and learning additional information in this lesson as well.*

Sing song: "Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John" <https://youtu.be/nRK-v9M-CAI>

Who are the 4 evangelists? What did they write? Which gospel are we going to learn about this school year?

Saint Mark was one of the seventy apostles. He was a companion (*co-worker; a person who is frequently in the company of*) of St. Peter, St. Barnabas, and St. Paul. While St. Mark was traveling with St. Peter, he heard everything St. Peter was teaching to people over and over again. He used these stories when he was writing his gospel.

#### THE PURPOSE OF HIS GOSPEL WAS TO TEACH PEOPLE:

**Jesus is the Son of God**

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Helpful memory tool: Bible scholars refer to St. Mark as "the Storyteller." This can help you remember that his gospel focuses on stories and action.

## Sequence of Events in Mark's Gospel:

In the Gospel of Mark, we learn about some of the places where Jesus taught people and did miracles.

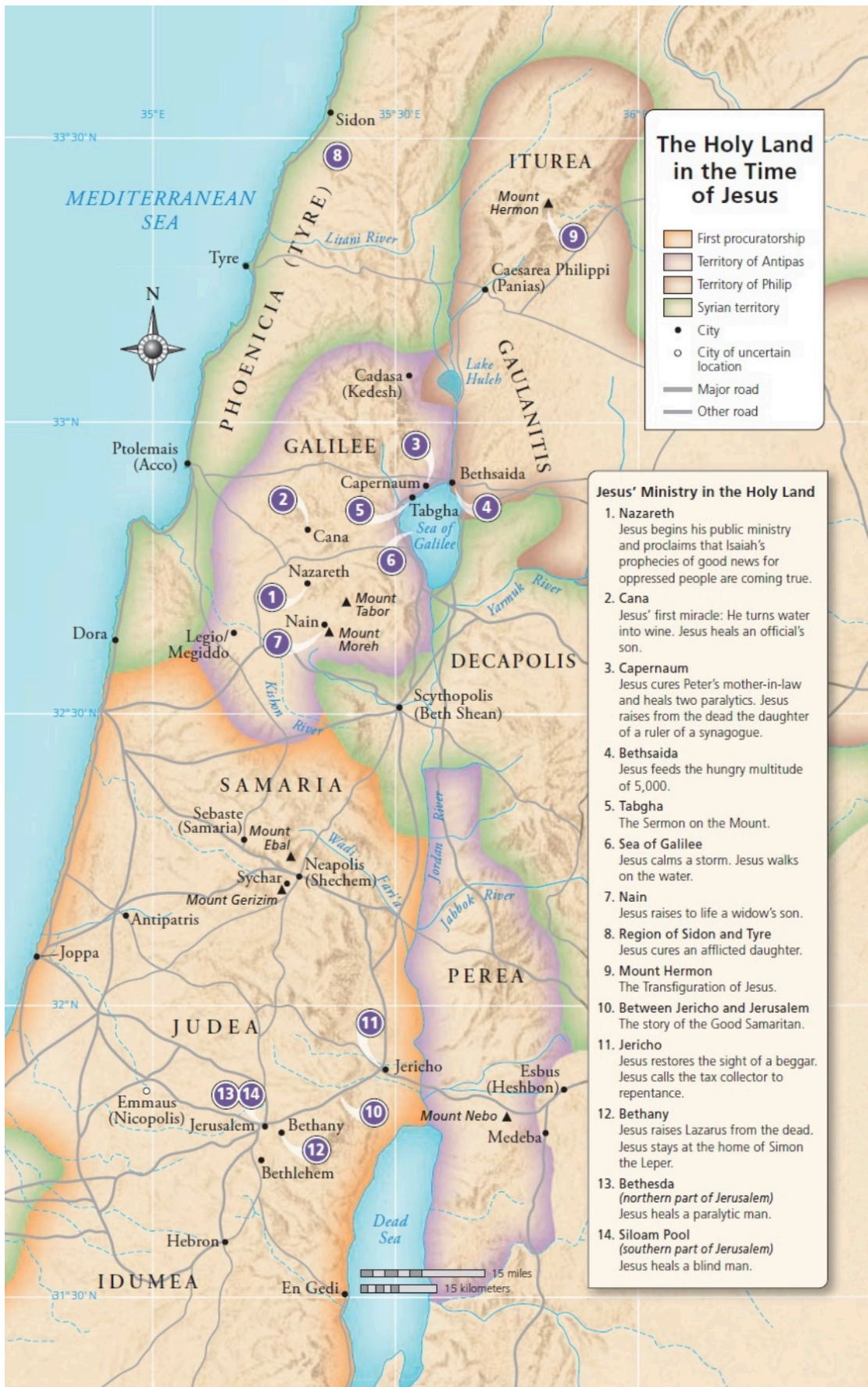
We learn that he traveled all over an area called Galilee. Let's find it on our map! He also traveled to some places north of Galilee before traveling south to Jerusalem. Finally, we learn about the death and Resurrection of Christ at the end of the gospel. We learn about this during Holy Week as well during the services leading up to Pascha!

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## REVIEW:

- Who are the four evangelists? (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John)
- What did they write? (The 4 Gospels)
- Which gospel are we learning about this year? (The Gospel of Mark)
- What word does St. Mark like to use a lot in his gospel? (Immediately)





### The Holy Land in the Time of Jesus

- First procuratorship
- Territory of Antipas
- Territory of Philip
- Syrian territory
- City
- City of uncertain location
- Major road
- Other road

- #### Jesus' Ministry in the Holy Land
- 1. Nazareth**  
Jesus begins his public ministry and proclaims that Isaiah's prophecies of good news for oppressed people are coming true.
  - 2. Cana**  
Jesus' first miracle: He turns water into wine. Jesus heals an official's son.
  - 3. Capernaum**  
Jesus cures Peter's mother-in-law and heals two paralytics. Jesus raises from the dead the daughter of a ruler of a synagogue.
  - 4. Bethsaida**  
Jesus feeds the hungry multitude of 5,000.
  - 5. Tabgha**  
The Sermon on the Mount.
  - 6. Sea of Galilee**  
Jesus calms a storm. Jesus walks on the water.
  - 7. Nain**  
Jesus raises to life a widow's son.
  - 8. Region of Sidon and Tyre**  
Jesus cures an afflicted daughter.
  - 9. Mount Hermon**  
The Transfiguration of Jesus.
  - 10. Between Jericho and Jerusalem**  
The story of the Good Samaritan.
  - 11. Jericho**  
Jesus restores the sight of a beggar. Jesus calls the tax collector to repentance.
  - 12. Bethany**  
Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead. Jesus stays at the home of Simon the Leper.
  - 13. Bethesda (northern part of Jerusalem)**  
Jesus heals a paralytic man.
  - 14. Siloam Pool (southern part of Jerusalem)**  
Jesus heals a blind man.

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PRE-K - K

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Saint Mark was one of the seventy apostles. While St. Mark was traveling with St. Peter, he heard everything St. Peter was teaching to people over and over again. He used these stories when he was writing his gospel.

The purpose of St. Mark's Gospel is to teach people that Jesus is the Son of God. He does this by sharing many of the miracles Jesus did.

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