



LIFE GROUP STUDIES IN MARK CHAPTERS 14-16

- 1. TRUE DEVOTION 14:1-11**
- 2. THE RESCUE TO REMEMBER 14:12- 31**
- 3. BEARING GOD'S WRATH 14:32 -52**
- 4. THE INNOCENT CONDEMNED 14:53-72**
- 5. THE SUBSTITUTIONARY SAVIOUR 15:1-15**
- 6. MOCKED & CRUCIFIED 15:16-32**
- 7. GOD'S MESSIAH FORSAKEN 15:33-41**
- 8. HE IS RISEN INDEED 15:42-16:8**

OVERVIEW MATERIAL



1. [Bible Project – Gospel of Mark Overview.](#)



2. Andy's [overview sermon at One Hope](#) and [introductory videos.](#)



3. [ESV Study Bible Introduction to Mark](#)

VIDEO RESOURCES

1. [LUMO Gospel of Mark \(ESV\)](#) – These dramatized videos are



in chapters and can prove helpful in a bible study as an alternative way to absorb it!



2. [The Gospel of Mark read aloud by David Suchet](#) at St. Paul's at St. Paul's Cathedral in London in March 2017 (NIV).



BOOKS

Mark for You - Jason Meyer (Good Book Company)

With the Word - Warren W. Wiersbe

Mark – an Expository Commentary – R.C. Sproul (Ligonier Ministries)

WEBSITE

considerjesus.au has more resources.

LOOK CAREFULLY FOR ‘MARKAN SANDWICHES’!

Mark uses a ‘sandwich technique’ when he frequently interrupts the telling of one story by inserting another. At first, the second story may appear to be unrelated, but Mark has an important theological purpose for doing so. For instance, in chapter five, a synagogue ruler (Jairus) begs Jesus to heal his daughter (5:21-24). Mark then inserts the account of Jesus healing a woman with chronic bleeding (25-34), before returning to the raising of Jairus’ daughter (35-43). This connects to the theme of ‘faith’. Other such ‘sandwiches’ emphasise themes around discipleship, witnessing, or the dangers of falling away. Mark uses this unique way of recording events to highlight key themes.

It can be quite helpful to our understanding of these passages to realise that the middle content often proves to be the interpretive key to the whole.

See also: 3:20-35; 6:7-30; 11:12-21; **14:1-11**.



HELP, I’M LEADING A BIBLE STUDY!

What a privilege that is! It can seem daunting. It is best to think of yourself as a ‘facilitator’ of a discussion by asking the questions provided in these studies. You don’t have to be the bible expert! Ask God to help you be faithful in this task and that his Spirit would help your group understand what he is saying to them through it.

Start with the discussion questions, then read the first part of the passage and work your way through the questions. Leave time to pray!

Try asking everyone in the group to contribute. Share around the reading of passages and ask for just one answer from each person, to share the opportunity to answer. Think of it as sharing in a process of discovery. Remember that God’s word is living and active – powerful to change us from the inside out (Hebrews 4:12).

WHICH BIBLE VERSION?

One Hope Community Church uses both the English Standard Version (ESV) and the Christian Standard Bible (CSB). You will find people using various other English translations too (i.e. NIV, NLT, and NKJV). Comparing them can prove to be very helpful.

More expanded versions (like the *Amplified* or *The Message*) can prove distracting rather than helpful when studying with a group. Similarly, the notes in a study bible can be helpful for individual study, but it is best practice to avoid referring to them in a group setting.

It can help your group to all use the same translation when studying a passage – it can be worthwhile [printing out copies to hand around](#).

WHAT DO YOU MEAN 'THE ENDING AIN'T THE ENDING'?!

The section after Mark 16:8 (numbered 9-20) is a later addition to the original text. Most bible translations place this part in brackets or italics. You can still read this section, and it does not contain anything that contradicts the other gospels, but it is not authoritative and inspired like the rest.

Discover more in this article on '**Handling Snakes and Ancient Manuscripts**':

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/where-does-mark-end>

Opening Questions:

Are you a loyal fan or member of a sports team? Describe your passionate following. How do you demonstrate your devotion? What does it cost you?

READ 1-2

- What does this say about the situation Jesus was facing at this time?
- Why were the religious leaders so determined to kill Him? What prevented them?
- What opposition to Jesus do you see in our world today?

READ 3-9

- What is significant about this act of devotion?
- Why were some people upset about the use of perfume?
- What does this teach us about what Jesus values?
- In what ways can your devotion to Jesus be “costly” and memorable today?

READ 10-11

- Why do you think Judas chose to betray Jesus at this point?
- How does his account contrast with the story of the woman’s devotion?
- What warning should you take from Judas’ actions?

Application:

- Does your devotion to Jesus outmatch your devotion to sport or music or other passions?
- Reflect on what true devotion to Jesus looks like today.
- How does this story challenge or encourage you in your devotion to him? (Read and reflect on 1 Corinthians 15:58).

Pray together

Opening Question:

What's the most memorable meal you've experienced? Describe the occasion!

READ 12-21

- What was the Passover meal about?
- How does Jesus demonstrate his sovereign control of the Passover preparations?
- How might the disciples have felt knowing one of them would betray Jesus?
- What does this moment reveal about Jesus' patience and love for flawed people like us?

READ 22-25

- What does Jesus mean when He says, "This is my body... this is my blood"?
- How does the Lord's Supper help us remember?
- What promise does Jesus give in v25? How does this give you hope for the future?

READ 26-31

- What does the prophecy (from Zechariah 13:7) teach about the suffering Jesus was about to face?
- Why does Jesus predict Peter's denial?
- What does Peter's confidence reveal about the danger of relying on ourselves?
- How can we respond when we see our own weakness like Peter's?

Application:

- How might this help you reflect when receiving the Lord's Supper?
- What is the connection between the Lord's Supper and our own experience of failure or denial like Peter?

Pray together

Opening Question:

What makes you angry? Share and discuss (if appropriate)!

Read 14:32-42

- What does Jesus' experience in Gethsemane mean for you?
- Compare the disciples' experience & how does Jesus respond to their failure?
- Have you ever been sleepy while you prayed? How can you be more alert in prayer?
- What does this passage teach us about God's purposes?

Read 14:43-52

- Who is this young man in verses 51-52 and why is this recorded?
- What do you notice about the way Jesus responds to his betrayal and arrest?
- Why do you think all the disciples fled?
- What does this moment show us about Jesus standing alone to bear God's wrath?
- How does recognising Jesus' experience deepen your gratitude for him?

Application:

- Reflect on Jesus choosing to face God's wrath for you. What does that mean for you?
- How might this shape your prayer and obedience this week?

Pray together

Opening Question:

Share an example of false accusations or injustice (either personally or otherwise). What impact did it have on you or those involved?

Read 14:53–65

- What stands out to you about the trial of Jesus?
- Why can't the council find consistent testimony against Him?
- What does Jesus reveal about Himself in his silence, and when he finally speaks?
- Falsehood and hypocrisy are terrible traits. How are they present today?
- What does Jesus' innocence teach us about His role as the true Messiah?

Read 14:66–72

- Why do you think Peter was so afraid in this moment?
- How does Peter's denial fulfil Jesus' prediction?
- What emotions do you imagine Peter felt when the rooster crowed?
- What do we learn about human weakness and the need for God's grace?
- Where do you see yourself in Peter's story?

Application:

- In what ways do we end up judging Jesus instead of recognising him as our judge?
- In what areas of your life might you be grieving the Lord?
- Reflect on this innocent King willingly condemned for guilty people. How does this deepen your trust in Jesus?

Pray together

Opening Question:

Have you ever been given a second chance because someone else took the blame or absorbed the consequences? Discuss!

Read 15:1-5

- Why does Jesus remain mostly silent before Pilate?
- What does His calmness show about His purpose?
- Describe the contrast between Jesus and His accusers.

Read 15:6-15

- What do you notice about the crowd choosing Barabbas over Jesus?
- How is Barabbas a picture of substitution — the guilty going free because the innocent takes their place?
- What does Pilate's decision reveal?
- How does this passage help us understand what Jesus accomplished on the cross?

Application:

- Read and reflect on Jesus taking your place (1 John 4:10).
- How does His substitution change the way you see yourself and live this week?

Pray together

Opening Question:

Have you ever been treated unfairly? What impact did it have on you?

Read 15:16–20

- Why did the soldiers mock Jesus' kingship?
- Why is it significant that the true King accepts humiliation?
- What does this teach us about the nature of His kingdom?

Read 15:21–32

- What detail are we given about Simon and why?
- What details are we given about the crucifixion and why?
- Describe the irony present here.
- How does the cross reveal God's love and mission?

Application:

- Reflect on this suffering servant King. What here is essential to share with someone you know?
- Read and reflect on 1 Corinthians 1:21-24. What does this mean for our message as Christians today?

Pray together

Opening Question:

Have you ever felt completely alone? What helped you through it?

Read 15:33-38

- What is the significance of the darkness that covers the land?
- What does Jesus' cry in v34 reveal about the depth of His suffering?
- Why is the tearing of the temple curtain such an important moment?
- How does Jesus' suffering open the way for us to come to God?

Read 15:39-41

- Why is the Centurion's declaration significant?
- What does it show about who Jesus truly is?
- What do you notice about the women who stayed and watched?
- How does their faithfulness speak to or inform our situation today?

Application:

- Read and reflect on Isaiah 53:3-12. How does this shape your relationship with God and your understanding of the gospel?

Pray together

Opening Question:

What is a moment in your life where unexpected hope broke through a dark situation?

Read 15:42-47

- Why is Joseph of Arimathea's courage significant?
- What does the careful burial of Jesus show about His followers?
- How does this detail reinforce the reality of Jesus' death?

Read 16:1-8

- What were the women expecting to find at the tomb?
- How does the angel's message overturn their expectations?
- How does the women's fear and amazement help us see the power of this moment?

Application:

- Jesus is alive. How does this truth impact or change things in your life?
- Read and reflect on 1 Corinthians 15:12-19. Why is the resurrection essential?
- How might you live in light of the resurrection this week?

Pray together

N.B. If the question arises about the final section in Mark:

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