DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY PLAN

The Gospel of Mark

Walk the whole Gospel of Mark chapter by chapter — sixteen discovery studies for established groups ready for longer readings.

16 Bible Studies by CoMission

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

The Gospel of Mark

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How a Discovery Bible Study works

This page is for whoever leads the study. Everyone else only needs the passage.

A Discovery Bible Study has no teacher. The person leading only asks the questions; the Bible does the teaching. That is what makes it simple enough for anyone to lead — no title, no training, no materials, no money.

EAT, DIGEST, GROW

Eat the Word — Read the passage aloud, read it again, then close the Bible and have someone retell it in their own words. Reading is the bite, re-reading the chewing, the retelling the swallow. If the group can't retell it, read it once more before going on.

Digest — Work through the four questions. This is where the passage turns into faith and obedience — answered from what the text actually says, not from what someone already knew.

Grow — Growth is God's part, not yours. One plants, another waters, but God gives the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7). Do the cycle faithfully and leave the growing to Him.

THE FOUR QUESTIONS

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**
2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**
3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**
4. **Who will I tell?**

THE SHAPE OF A MEETING

Look back — What are you thankful for? What is hard right now? How did you obey what we found last time, and who did you tell? Pray briefly for each other.

Look up — Read, re-read, retell — then the four questions.

Look forward — Each person says their own “I will…” out loud and names one person they will tell. Next time, the group asks about both. Asking is what turns a discussion into obedience.

THE ONE RULE: DON'T TEACH

The moment you start explaining, the group stops discovering. If someone says something that is not in the passage, do not correct them — ask, kindly, “Where do you see that in this passage?” and let them look. The text and the group sort it out. This is the rule that lets someone who has been in two studies lead the third.

Four to fifteen people. About an hour, once a week. Nothing else required.

How to use this plan

Who this is for

- **Established groups of committed disciples — not new believers.** The readings are whole chapters, much longer than the short passages in the starter plans. A group should already have the DBS habits — reading, retelling, the four questions, an "I will…" — before taking on a whole book.
- **The point is still faith, not knowledge.** A whole-book study is not a Bible-survey course. Resist the pull toward commentary, background trivia, and "covering material." The same simple question drives every study: *what is God showing us, and what will we obey?*

How to use it

- **One chapter per study, the DBS way.** Read the chapter (aloud, in sections, if that helps), **retell it in your own words**, then work the four questions. Because chapters are long, it's fine for the retelling to trace the chapter's main movements rather than every detail.
- **Let the follow-up prompts serve, not steer.** Each study's extra prompts under the four questions point at one thread in the chapter. If the group discovers a different thread, follow the group — the prompts are a help, never the agenda.
- **End every study in obedience.** An honest **"I will…"** and **one person you'll tell** — the same discipline as every other plan. Longer readings never excuse skipping the response.
- **Pace to the group, not the calendar.** One chapter a week finishes Mark in about four months. Linger where a chapter opens up — especially chapters 8, 14, and 15 — and never rush the cross.
- **Facilitate, don't teach.** With more text on the table the temptation to lecture grows. Keep asking, "Where do you see that in the chapter?" *Don't chew their food for them.*

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

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Mark 1 — The beginning of the good news

Mark 1

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   How does Jesus begin his ministry, and how do people respond to him throughout this chapter?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   Jesus calls ordinary fishermen and they leave everything at once. What would 'leaving the nets' look like for you?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   Jesus rises early to pray before a demanding day (v. 35). What will you change this week to seek the Father first?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   The healed man 'began to talk freely' about Jesus. Who will you talk to about him this week?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Jesus, you came announcing that the kingdom of God is near. As I begin this whole book, help me drop my nets like those first disciples and follow you.*

This study online

NEXT STUDY Mark 2 — Jesus forgives and calls sinners

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Mark 2 — Jesus forgives and calls sinners

Mark 2

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   What does Jesus claim authority to do in this chapter, and what offends the religious leaders about it?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   The four friends tore open a roof to bring their friend to Jesus. Whose faith has carried you — and who are you carrying?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   Levi left his booth and then threw a dinner so his friends could meet Jesus. What step of open, public obedience will you take this week?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Which 'tax collectors and sinners' in your life need a place at the table with Jesus?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Jesus, you have authority to forgive sins and you eat with people others reject. Thank you for calling me; help me follow you like Levi, without looking back.*

This study online

NEXT STUDY Mark 3 — Jesus chooses the Twelve

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Mark 3 — Jesus chooses the Twelve

Mark 3

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   Why does Jesus appoint the Twelve (vv. 14–15), and what two things are they appointed for?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   Jesus says whoever does God's will is his family. What does belonging to that family mean to you?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   Being 'with Jesus' comes before being sent. How will you deliberately be with him this week?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who could you invite to join you, the way Jesus gathered people around himself?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Lord, you called the Twelve first to be with you, and then to be sent out. Keep me close to you, and make me willing to be sent.*

This study online

NEXT STUDY Mark 4 — Parables of the kingdom, and a storm stilled

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Mark 4 — Parables of the kingdom, and a storm stilled

Mark 4

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   What do the four soils, the growing seed, and the mustard seed each show about how God's kingdom works?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   Which soil best describes your heart right now — and what are the 'thorns' in your life?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   Jesus asks, 'Why are you so afraid?' What fear will you hand over to him this week, trusting he is in the boat?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   A lamp is meant for the stand, not the basket. Where is your light currently hidden, and who needs to see it?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Jesus, make my heart good soil. And when the storm rises, remind me that you are in the boat and even the wind and waves obey you.*

This study online

NEXT STUDY Mark 5 — Power over demons, disease, and death

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Mark 5 — Power over demons, disease, and death

Mark 5

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   What three impossible situations does Jesus meet in this chapter, and what does each person do to reach him?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   Jesus tells the healed man, 'Go home to your own people and tell them.' Why might home be the hardest — and most important — place to testify?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   Jairus had to keep believing between the message of death and the miracle. Where do you need to 'only believe' and keep walking this week?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   The man told his story throughout the Ten Towns and 'all the people were amazed.' What has the Lord done for you, and who will you tell?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Jesus, nothing is beyond your reach — not the man among the tombs, not the woman no one could heal, not the little girl everyone had given up on. I bring you what looks hopeless in my life.*

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— DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

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Mark 6 — Sent out with nothing but him

Mark 6

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   What does Jesus tell the Twelve to take — and not take — when he sends them, and what do they do and report?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   In Nazareth, familiarity bred unbelief. Where has familiarity dulled your amazement at Jesus?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   Jesus said, 'You give them something to eat,' before the miracle. What need in front of you will you act on this week with what little you have?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   The Twelve went out two by two. Who could be your companion in going to others?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Jesus, you sent the Twelve with authority and almost nothing else, and you fed a crowd with five loaves. Teach me to depend on you, not on what I carry.*

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NEXT STUDY Mark 7 — What truly defiles

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Mark 7 — What truly defiles

Mark 7

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   According to Jesus, where does defilement really come from, and how is that different from what the Pharisees taught?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   Jesus warns about honoring God with lips while hearts are far away. Where has your faith drifted toward tradition without heart?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   What comes 'out of your heart' this week that you will name before God and turn from?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   The Syrophoenician woman was an outsider who received. Who do you quietly assume is outside Jesus' reach — and how could you bring them near?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Father, you look past washed hands to the heart. Clean me from the inside out, and give me the persistent faith of the mother who would not be turned away.*

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NEXT STUDY Mark 8 — Who do you say I am?

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Mark 8 — Who do you say I am?

Mark 8

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   What question does Jesus ask his disciples at Caesarea Philippi, and what does he immediately begin to teach after Peter answers?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   Peter confessed the Messiah but rejected the cross. Which parts of following Jesus do you welcome, and which do you resist?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   What would 'denying yourself' concretely mean for you this week — one real act, not a feeling?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Jesus warns against being ashamed of him. Where are you tempted to stay silent, and who will you speak to instead?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Jesus, you are the Messiah. Help me answer with my life and not just my words — to deny myself, take up my cross, and follow you.*

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NEXT STUDY Mark 9 — Glory on the mountain, faith in the valley

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Mark 9 — Glory on the mountain, faith in the valley

Mark 9

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   What does the Father say about Jesus on the mountain, and what failure are the disciples struggling with below?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   'I believe; help my unbelief' — where do belief and unbelief live side by side in you right now?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   Jesus says whoever wants to be first must be servant of all. Who will you deliberately serve this week, expecting nothing back?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who around you is 'in the valley' — struggling while others seem to be on the mountain — and how will you come alongside them?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Lord, I believe; help my unbelief. Let me listen to your Son on the mountain and serve like the least in the valley.*

NEXT STUDY Mark 10 — The first shall be last

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Mark 10 — The first shall be last

Mark 10

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   What does Jesus say about greatness in this chapter, and how does he contrast his kingdom with the rulers of this world?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   The rich man went away sad because he had great wealth. What is the one thing you would find hardest to let go for Jesus?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   Blind Bartimaeus threw off his cloak and asked plainly for mercy. What will you ask Jesus for plainly this week — and what 'cloak' must you throw off?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   The disciples rebuked those bringing children. Who might you be unintentionally keeping from Jesus?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Jesus, you came not to be served but to serve, and to give your life as a ransom for many. Unclench my hands from what I own and what I want, and teach me your way down.*

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NEXT STUDY Mark 11 — The King comes to his temple

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Mark 11 — The King comes to his temple

Mark 11

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   How does Jesus enter Jerusalem, and what does he do in the temple the next day — and why?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   Jesus wanted the temple to be a house of prayer for all nations. What has 'crowded out' prayer in your life or your group?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   Jesus ties prayer to forgiveness (v. 25). Who do you need to forgive this week, before you pray for anything else?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   The crowd cried 'Hosanna!' but the leaders questioned his authority. Who in your world still questions who Jesus is, and how could you welcome them to look closer?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Jesus, you entered Jerusalem humble and riding a colt, and you cleared your Father's house so it could be a house of prayer for all nations. Clear out whatever crowds prayer from my life.*

This study online

NEXT STUDY Mark 12 — The greatest commandment

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Mark 12 — The greatest commandment

Mark 12

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   How does Jesus answer the question about the greatest commandment, and what does he point out about the widow's offering?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   In the parable of the tenants, the owner keeps sending messengers. How has God patiently kept reaching out to you?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   The widow gave 'everything she had to live on.' What would giving God your whole self — not your leftovers — change this week?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Jesus told the scribe, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' Who do you know who is 'not far' — and what conversation might help them the rest of the way?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *God, you are one, and you ask for all of me — heart, soul, mind, and strength — and for love toward my neighbor. Like the widow, let me give you everything, not what is left over.*

This study online

NEXT STUDY Mark 13 — Stay awake comission.cc/en/study/whole-book-mark/13/

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Mark 13 — Stay awake

Mark 13

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   What does Jesus tell his disciples to watch out for, and what does he promise about his words and his return?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   Jesus says 'no one knows the day or hour.' How does not knowing change the way a servant lives — and the way you live?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   'What I say to you, I say to everyone: Watch!' What does staying spiritually awake look like for you this week, concretely?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   The good news 'must first be preached to all nations' (v. 10). What part can you play in that this week — near or far?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Lord, heaven and earth will pass away, but your words will never pass away. Keep me watchful, faithful, and unafraid until you come.*

This study online

NEXT STUDY Mark 14 — The night he was betrayed

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Mark 14 — The night he was betrayed

Mark 14

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   Trace what Jesus goes through in this chapter — the anointing, the supper, Gethsemane, the arrest, the trial. What does he say about why this is happening?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   The woman 'did what she could' and was criticized for wasting it. What extravagant act of love for Jesus might others call a waste?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   Jesus asked the disciples to watch and pray so they wouldn't fall into temptation — and they slept. Where are you 'sleeping' when you should be praying, and what will you change this week?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Peter denied Jesus by a fire among strangers. In which setting are you most tempted to hide that you belong to him — and who there needs to know you follow Jesus?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Jesus, in Gethsemane you said, 'Not what I will, but what you will.' Thank you for the cup you drank for me. Keep me watching and praying, so that I do not fail you like Peter did.*

This study online

NEXT STUDY Mark 15 — The cross comission.cc/en/study/whole-book-mark/15/

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Mark 15 — The cross

Mark 15

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   What do the different people around the cross — Pilate, the soldiers, the crowd, the centurion — say about Jesus, and what happens at the moment he dies?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. What does open access to God mean for you personally?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   Joseph of Arimathea 'went boldly to Pilate' when others hid. What bold, costly step of identifying with Jesus will you take this week?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   It was a Roman soldier who confessed, 'Surely this man was the Son of God.' Who unexpected in your life might be closer to that confession than you think?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Jesus, you were mocked, beaten, and crucified — and you stayed on the cross for me. Like the centurion, I confess: truly you are the Son of God.*

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NEXT STUDY Mark 16 — He is risen comission.cc/en/study/whole-book-mark/16/

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Mark 16 — He is risen

Mark 16

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   What do the women find at the tomb, what are they told, and what are they told to do?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   The message includes 'and Peter' — the one who denied him. What does that one name tell you about Jesus' heart toward those who have failed?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   The women were told 'go, tell.' Having walked the whole Gospel of Mark, what is the one obedience you will carry forward from this book?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who will you tell that Jesus has risen — starting this week?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Risen Lord, the tomb is empty and fear does not get the last word. Send me, like the women at the tomb, to go and tell.*

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