

**New Testament Recovery Version
Study Guide**

For Vital Groups

Gospel of Mark

Series I- Gospel of Matthew to Gospel of John

Week 1 Mark 1:1-5:43

I. Key Verses:

- Mark 1:1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
- Mark 1:15 And saying, The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has drawn near. Repent and believe in the gospel.
- Mark 1:35 And rising very early in the morning, while it was still night, He went out and went away to a deserted place, and there He prayed.
- Mark 2:17 And when Jesus heard this, He said to them, Those who are strong have no need of a physician, but those who are ill; I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.
- Mark 3:35 For whoever does the will of God, this one is My brother and sister and mother.
- Mark 4:14 The sower sows the word.
- Mark 4:20 And these are the ones sown on the good earth: those who hear the word and receive it and bear fruit, one thirtyfold, and one sixtyfold, and one a hundredfold.
- Mark 4:39 And having awoken, He rebuked the wind and said to the sea, Be silent! Be still! And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.

II. Central Lane:

Please read the corresponding outline.(NT RcV pp. 165-166)

III. The Light of the Truth:

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

—Mark 4:1-20, 26-29; Mark 4:3 note 1, note 2; 11 note 1, 26 note 1, note 3.

Further Reading: Life-Study of Mark, Msg. 14.

IV. Life Supply:

The gospel announced by John the Baptist and preached by the Lord Jesus Himself is a matter of the Triune God in humanity as a seed of life sown into our hearts. If we would know what the kingdom of God is, we need to see this very important matter.

In order to make this matter clear, I would like to borrow a term from biology. This term is the word “gene.” The Triune God in humanity sown into our being is the gene of the kingdom. We know that without human genes it is impossible to have human life. Our birth, our being, and our existence all came from a gene. Now we must see that the Triune God in humanity has been sown into us to be the gene of the kingdom. Praise the Lord that this gene is within us! Eventually, the kingdom will issue from this gene.

Because the God-man as the gene of the kingdom has been sown into us, we spontaneously love one another and enjoy marvelous fellowship. We may say that the church in the Lord’s recovery is the real melting pot of the different races, nationalities, and cultures. Actually, we are not only melted together—we are blended and mingled together. Do you know why we love one another? We love one another because of the gene that is within us. This gene contains the element with which we love one another.

Day by day the seed of the kingdom is growing and developing within us. I am burdened that we all be impressed with the fact that this seed, this gene, has been sown into us and that this is the Triune God incarnate, the very God in humanity. The One who forgave the paralytic is now in us as the seed of the kingdom.

Oh, may we all be burdened to tell others this good news! We may forget many things, but we should all remember the gene that is within us. The Triune God in humanity has been sown into us as a seed of life to grow, develop, and issue in the kingdom. The kingdom, then, is the issue of the gospel and will be the goal of the gospel. Between the issue and goal we have the church life as the continuation of the issue of the marvelous gene that is within us.(*Life-Study of Mark, pp. 130-132*)

Week 2 Mark 6:1-11:26

I. Key Verses:

- Mark 6:34 And getting out, He saw a great crowd, and He was moved with compassion for them because they were like sheep not having a shepherd, and He began to teach them many things.
- Mark 8:34 And He called the crowd to Him with His disciples and said to them, If anyone wants to follow after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.
- Mark 9:35 And He sat down and called the twelve and said to them, If anyone wants to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.
- Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.
- Mark 11:23 Truly I say to you that whoever says to this mountain, Be taken up and cast into the sea, and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says happens, he will have it.
- Mark 11:24 For this reason I say to you, All things that you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and you will have them.

II. Central Lane:

Please read the corresponding outline.(NT RcV p. 166)

III. The Light of the Truth:

THE DENYING OF THE SELF

—Mark 8:34-38, Matt. 16:24-27; Matt. 16:24 note 1, note 2, note 3.

Further Reading: Life-Study of Mark, Msg. 25.

IV. Life Supply:

Taking up the cross is not a matter of suffering. Instead, it is a matter of applying to our life what Christ has done on the cross to terminate us. Therefore, to take up the cross is to apply this termination to ourselves. Day by day we need to apply such a termination. If we do this, we shall realize not that we are suffering, but that we are terminated, finished, put to an end.

Suppose a brother says, “I thank God that, in His sovereignty, He has given me a wife who causes me to suffer and bear the cross. My wife is a cross given to me by God, and now I must bear this cross.” This is a serious misunderstanding of what it means to bear the cross.

A married brother does not need to learn how to suffer. Rather, he needs to realize that, as a husband, he has already been terminated in Christ and that now he should live as a terminated husband, simply enjoying Christ’s termination. Then he may say to his wife, “Dear, I am not trying to be a good husband, to be a kind and gentle husband. I am here as a terminated husband. The more I am willing to experience Christ’s termination, the better I shall be as a husband, for then Christ will live in me. As He lives in me, He will be your husband through me.”

To come after the Lord is to partake of Him, enjoy Him, experience Him, and let Him become our very being. In order to come after the Lord in this way, we need to deny ourselves. We need to apply to ourselves the termination Christ has accomplished on the cross. This means that to bear our cross is to apply Christ’s termination to ourselves. When we do this, we become a crossed-out person, not a suffering person. Then we can testify, “I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.”

To us, bearing the cross is to remain under the killing of the death of Christ for the terminating of our self, our natural life, and our old man. In so doing we deny our self that we may follow the Lord. (*Life-Study of Mark, pp.222-223*)

Week 3 Mark 11:27-16:20

I. Key Verses:

- Mark 12:10 Have you not even read this Scripture, "The stone which the builders rejected, this has become the head of the corner.
- Mark 13:30 Truly I say to you that this generation shall by no means pass away until all these things happen.
- Mark 13:31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall by no means pass away.
- Mark 14:22 And as they were eating, He took bread and blessed it, and He broke it and gave it to them, and said, Take; this is My body.
- Mark 14:23 And He took a cup and gave thanks, and He gave it to them; and they all drank of it.
- Mark 14:36 And He said, Abba Father, all things are possible to You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will.
- Mark 14:61 But He was silent and did not answer anything. Again the high priest questioned Him and said to Him, Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?
- Mark 14:62 And Jesus said, I am. And you shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power and coming with the clouds of heaven.
- Mark 15:24 And they crucified Him and divided His garments, casting lots for them to see what each should take.
- Mark 16:16 He who believes and is baptized shall be saved, ...

II. Central Lane:

Please read the corresponding outline.(NT RcV pp. 166-167)

III. The Light of the Truth:

THE CRUCIFIXION

—Mark 15:12-15, 24-27, 33-34, 37-38; Mark 15:1 note 2; 15 note 2, 30 note 1, Matt. 27:26 note 2;

Further Reading: Life-Study of Mark, Msg. 48, 49.

IV. Life Supply:

When the Lord Jesus cried, "My God, My God, why did You forsake Me?" it was during the time He was bearing our sins (1 Pet. 2:24), being made sin for us (2 Cor. 5:21) and taking the place of sinners (1 Pet. 3:18). This means that God judged Him as our Substitute for our sins. In the sight of God, Christ became a great sinner. ... I believe that it was during the last three hours Christ was on the cross, from twelve o'clock until three o'clock in the afternoon, the hours when darkness came over the whole land, that God made Him sin. God made Christ not only our Substitute; God even made Him sin on our behalf. Because Christ was our Substitute and was made sin in the sight of God, God judged Him.

First John 1:7 says that the blood of Jesus, God's Son, cleanses us from every sin. The name "Jesus" denotes the Lord's humanity, which was needed for the shedding of the redeeming blood, and the title "His Son" denotes the Lord's divinity, which was needed for the eternal efficacy of the redeeming blood. Thus, the blood of Jesus, the Son of God, indicates that this blood is the proper blood of a genuine man for redeeming God's fallen creatures, with divine surety as to its eternal efficacy, an efficacy which is all-prevailing in space and everlasting in time.

In addition to dealing with so many negative things, the death of Christ also has a positive aspect. In John 12:24 the Lord Jesus speaks concerning this: "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." This refers to Christ's death. His all-inclusive death released the divine life that was within Him, and this life has produced many grains.

On the negative side, Christ's all-inclusive death has solved the problems of sins, sin, the old man, the old creation, Satan, the world, and the ordinances. On the positive side, Christ's eternal death released the divine life from within Him.

How great is the death of Christ! This death has cleared up all the negative things in the universe and has released the eternal life to produce the new man, who will be the ultimate consummation of the seed of the kingdom, the kingdom gene, an ultimate consummation that will be God's eternal kingdom. (*Life-Study of Mark, 418, 422, 426-427*)