

APPLICATION JOURNAL for MARK MANUSCRIPT (Part 1)

Mark 1: 1:1-8:30 | 24 Studies: Pages 1-21

ManuscriptBibleStudy.com

This application journal goes second after the observation guide. This journal should be printed on ONE side of the page to provide space on the back side for more journaling. Place them after the Mark manuscript with TWO separating tab—one for the Observation Guide and one for this Application Journal.

_____ #1: 1:1-8 (p. 1)	_____ #13: 4:35-41 (p. 10)
_____ #2: 1:9-15 (p. 1)	_____ #14: 5:1-20 (p. 10-11)
_____ #3: 1:16-22 (p. 2)	_____ #15: 5:21-43 (p. 12-13)
_____ #4: 1:23-34 (p. 2-3)	_____ #16: 6:1-13 (P. 13-14)
_____ #5: 1:35-45 (p. 3)	_____ #17: 6:14-29 (p. 14-15)
_____ #6: 2:1-12 (p. 3-4)	_____ #18: 6:30-44 (p. 15-16)
_____ #7: 2:13-22 (p. 4-6)	_____ #19: 6:45-56 (p. 16-17)
_____ #8: 2:23-3:12 (p. 5-6)	_____ #20: 7:1-23 (p. 17-18)
_____ #9: 3:13-35 (p. 6-8)	_____ #21: 7:24-37 (p. 18-19)
_____ #10: 4.-1-20 (p. 8-9)	_____ #22: 8:1-21 (p. 19-21)
_____ #11: 4:21-34 (p. 9-10)	_____ #23: 8:22-30 (p. 21)
_____ #12: Review of 1:1-4:34 (p. 1-10)	_____ #24: Review of 1:1-8:30 (p. 1-21)

STUDY #1 Applications: Mark 1:1-8 (p. 1)

How have you been prepared for Jesus coming into your life?

Are you being prepared for Him in any way now?

How can you “get ready” for Jesus—“clear the road for Him”?

Do you sense a need for repentance in your life? What does this mean for you?

STUDY #2 Application Journal: Mark 1:9-15 (p. 1)

The Holy Spirit is involved with Jesus in His time of affirmation (baptism) and in His time of testing (wilderness).

How have you experienced God's presence with you in good times? How about hard times?

God is at work in the wilderness experiences of our lives. Identify the present wilderness in your life.

What is happening spiritually? Are you being tempted? Are you experiencing God's presence or comfort?

How is God using this wilderness experience in your life? What are you learning, being prepared for?

Are you ready (prepared) to repent (respond, be changed) and believe (have faith, trust) in the gospel?

STUDY #3 Application Journal: Mark 1:16-22 (p. 2)

The Kingdom of God is at hand and Jesus shows up with authority. How are you responding to His authority in these areas?

Over your life's direction (priorities, how to spend your time, finances, decisions, relationships) Is there an area of your life you are withholding from His authority? Are you trying to hide something? Rebellious about anything?

Over truth. Is Jesus your ultimate authority for what is true? For your world view? Are you spending time learning His truth? Does it amaze you? Is it changing you?

STUDY #4 Application Journal: Mark 1:23-34 (p. 2-3)

The Kingdom of God is at hand and Jesus shows up with authority. How are you responding to His authority in these areas? (continued from last week)

Over the Spiritual Realm Do you have any fear of evil spirits. Do you know Jesus to be stronger than evil? Do you trust Him and His power.

Over the Physical How does this affect your view of illness, disease and pain?

Any further thoughts on Jesus's authority in your life? Are you finding joy/comfort in knowing His authority?

STUDY #5 Application Journal: Mark 1:35-45 (p. 3)

When Jesus was busy, tired and pressured, He sought time to pray.

"The gap between pressures and priorities is filled with prayer."

What are the pressures in your life--the urgent things?

Do you have time alone to pray? What keeps you from making time to pray?

How can you plan prayer into your life?

How do you presently set your priorities? Does what other people think influence you?
Ask God what He wants you to focus on.

Like the leper,

- Do you ever find yourself second guessing God, trying to help Him out the way you think best? If so, how? When? Did you see this frustrate God's plan?
- Do you struggle to acknowledge that God has a bigger picture of circumstances than you do?
- Are you taking God seriously and obeying Him even if you don't understand why?

STUDY #6: Application Journal: Page 2-3, Chapter 2:1-12

Jesus responds to faith! He knows what we need!

1. What is an area of need in your life? Are you placing your faith in Jesus? How can you put your faith into action... "exercise faith".
2. Is Jesus going beyond your initial request to deal with a more important "inner" need: one you may not be focusing on or even aware of. What do you think He wants to do for you?
3. Do you know Jesus has authority to forgive you? Do you struggle with experiencing Jesus's total forgiveness? If so, write about your struggle in a prayer and ask for faith to believe Jesus' words: "My son/daughter, your sins are forgiven."
4. How have you experienced forgiveness as healing?

STUDY #7: Application Journal: Page 4-5, Chapter 2:13-22

Jesus redefines who is “in” and who is “out”.

The Kingdom of God is more like a hospital than a country club.

1. Do you know you are sick? Are you aware of your need? How present is this awareness?

2. Who are the modern day tax collectors and sinners (social outcasts)? Are you as comfortable including them as Jesus is? What can you do to challenge yourself to grow in this area?

Being with the Bridegroom brings joy.

1. What are some religious obligations/duties that rob your joy of being with Jesus?
2. What can you do to pursue the joy of relating to Him?

STUDY #8—Application Journal: Mark 2:23-3:12, (p. 5-6)

The Kingdom of God is responsive to real needs:

Traditions/habits can be inflexible. Do you have a set of do's and don'ts that make you inflexible or unresponsive to real needs?

Jesus rejects 'religious rules' (human rules, not the revealed will of God):

Is your life bound by adherence to other people's expectations of what "Christian" behavior should be?

Are you striving to follow Jesus or follow rules/church/denomination/person?

Summary:

Is your spiritual life more like the Kingdom of God or the Religion of the Pharisees? How?

Relationship vs. ritual

Love vs. Legalism

Joy vs. job

STUDY #9—Application Journal: Mark 3:13-35, (p. 6-8)

1. Have you feared committing the “unpardonable sin” (blaspheming the Holy Spirit)? How does the study of this passage help you?
The very fact that you are concerned is proof that you haven't. Only someone who is insensitive enough to the Spirit to the point of attributing God's work to demons is callous enough to be guilty of blasphemy of the Spirit. Such a person will NOT recognize their own sin (need), therefore persisting in the act of refusing forgiveness.

2. Have you heard the saying that “God does not have grandchildren, only sons and daughters.”? Being in God's family is not a matter of blood line, but of the heart. Are you following Jesus and seeking to do God's will?

3. What does it mean to you to be in the family of God? Consider your relationship with God and other followers of Jesus. Are you discovering life with your new family? What are some experiences of the blessings you've known as a member of the Kingdom family?

STUDY #10—Application Journal: Mark 4:1-20, (p. 8-9)

The type of soil indicates the condition of the heart.

What are some characteristics of the different soil types?

PATH

ROCKY SOIL

THORNS

GOOD SOIL

1. What is the condition of your heart (soil type)? Has it changed?
2. Does the seed (word) in your life find rocky places? Thorny places?
3. How can you improve the condition of your soil? Is something blocking your openness to God? Is something more important than Him? Is there something you think you need to address?
4. Pray for God to give you a soft and responsive heart towards Him. (write it out)

STUDY #11—Application Journal: Mark 4: 21-34, (p. 9-10)

1. How well do you hear the Word of God?

The more you listen and act on what you hear, (respond) the more clearly you will hear the word and God will give you more (of Himself, His word).

2. Is Jesus calling you to have “ears to hear”. What does He want you to HEAR from Mark study so far?

If you don't take care to listen and respond, even the little you do have will be taken away from you. We are always in the process of softening or hardening our hearts. There is no standing still in the Christian life. We are always either moving forward or backward.

3. Have you experienced what happens in your life when you don't respond to the word of God? What was that like? What has it been like when you've been open and responsive to the word? Where are you now? Is the kingdom growing or shrinking in your heart?

The word has the power to grow in our world from God not man. And what may looks small, will grow to be very large.

4. Do you see the Kingdom of God growing around you (the world, our country, city, church)? How do these Kingdom parables encourage you?

STUDY #12—Application Journal: Review of Mark 1:1-4:34, (p. 1-10)

STUDY #13—Application Journal: Mark 4: 35-41, (p. 10)

1. Paraphrase the disciple's question, "Do you not care that we are perishing?"
2. What question do you ask God when things are out of control and He seems to be sleeping?
3. What is your sea storm? The chaos in your life? The thing that can overwhelm you? Where are you fearful?
4. Have you experienced Jesus saving you from your circumstances? Write about it. What was your reaction?
5. Write a prayer asking God to help move your fear toward faith.

STUDY #14—Application Journal: Mark 5:1-20, (p. 10-11)

1. *In the last study we saw Jesus bring peace to external chaos (sea storm). In this study He brings peace to the internal chaos of a man broken by demons. Even though different from this man, we have all been internally broken to some degree by the evil in our world.*

Are you aware of any internal chaos? Is there a brokenness that you are experiencing?

2. Do you trust that Jesus can bring peace and healing to you in this area? Write a prayer asking for this.

3. Has there been a time when Jesus has liberated you from what has “bound” you or caused you fear and anxiety? When?

STUDY #15—Application Journal: Mark 5:21-43, (p. 12-13)

1. How can difficult circumstances affect our faith?

2. What circumstances cause you to struggle most with faith?
 - waiting for a long time to see God work?
 - an unexpected turn of events?
 - effort that seems to have no results?
 - pain, loss, boredom, stress, etc.?

3. Is there a difficult situation you are facing now?
(It can be an ongoing problem or a crisis.)
Is Jesus saying to you, "Do not fear, only believe." How are you doing with your response to Him?

4. How has Jesus brought you peace?

5. Pray that you would have faith and experience peace from Jesus in your present and future circumstances.

STUDY #16—Application Journal: Mark 6:1-13, (p. 13-14)

1. *Jesus is rejected by his hometown folks. They seem to be too familiar with him. They see, but cannot perceive, that He is from God.*

Can this happen to us? Can familiarity blind us? Can we begin to lose the impact of what we have heard or read many times. How can this effect our faith and Jesus's work in our lives?

2. Are you taking Jesus for granted? How can you cultivate your "eyes of faith"?

3. Write about all that you see God doing around you and in your life. Spend some time thanking and praising Him.

4. As Jesus's followers, we are all "sent out". What are the places, people, or situations God has sent you to? How are these helping you to depend on Jesus? Is there any opposition?

5. *Jesus did not want his disciples to be independent or self-sufficient in their ministry.* What does self-sufficiency and independence in ministry lead to? Have you seen examples of this?
Who has Jesus provided as partners for you? How has He asked you to be dependent on others, including those you minister to?

STUDY #17—Application Journal: Mark 6:14-29, (p. 14-15)

1. *Herod is an example of bad soil. He did not respond to what he was given. He did not follow his heart or conscience and repent and turn from sin. It led from bad to worse, and left him with no peace...only fear and guilt*

Have you experienced this kind of spiral in your life before, or seen it up close in someone you know?

2. How are you responding to conviction in your life? Are you hearing something, but choosing to do nothing about it?
3. *Remember that repentance is not just feeling sorry, or exceedingly sorry, for what you have done. Repentance must be tied with action/change.*
Is there something in your life that requires that action of repentance?

STUDY #18—Application Journal: Mark 6:30-44, (p. 15-16)

1. *The disciples are still only looking to the natural and not the supernatural to solve their problems. They say “We don’t have what it takes, the resources are not available.”*

In what ways are you looking only to your physical or natural resources and not beyond to God’s resources? What resources does God have for your situation?

2. *Are we doing what we can with our “5 loaves and 2 fish”? Jesus doesn’t just want our resources. He wants our involvement and dependence.*

What does Jesus want you to do with the little you might have? Is He prompting you to step out in generosity, service, and faith in some area? How so?

3. Can you remember a situation where God miraculously supplied what you needed, especially in the service of others? How has that experience affected you?
4. Meditate on Psalm 146:16. *“You open your hand and **satisfy** the desires of every living thing.”*

STUDY #19—Application Journal: Mark 6:45-56, (p. 16-17)

1. Can you relate to the disciples?

Jesus has revealed Himself to us. We've seen Him work in our lives, answer prayer, bring good out of bad, heal, and provide, etc. Then a hard or new situation comes, and we are afraid/worried.

Has this happened to you in the past? Is it happening now?

2. *Not understanding who God is, or taking our eyes off of His power and character can lead to fear. Fear can keep us from moving ahead with God.*

Do you think fear has ever sidetracked you from seeing God work or growing in Him? When? Is it now?

3. How can you increase your eyes of faith and thereby dispel fear?
4. Meditate on Isaiah 41:13. *"For I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you."*

STUDY #20—Application Journal: Mark 7:1-23, (p. 17-18)

“Traditions of men” void the Word of God because they place the emphasis on rigid spiritual dos and don’ts, using our own power and insight to make us righteous, versus living within the grace of God and His work in us.

1. Have you experienced the “tradition of men” in any religious system or even church you’ve attended? How so? What was the result in your life?

2. *It is a very human thing to try to find formulas that make us acceptable to God, ie: “commandments of men”.*
Are you tempted to think like this yourself—that there are things you must do to feel acceptable to God? Describe your struggle . Read Romans 3:21-28.

3. How do you find yourself placing more emphasis on your external versus internal spiritual life?
*External – What do I look like? What do they think of me?
Do I do things to look good, or because it is expected?*
*Internal – Am I repenting? Am I praying and listening to God and His Word?
Am I keeping my heart soft toward God?*

4. *We often pray for God to change our external circumstances, instead of praying that He would change our hearts.*
Think of something you are going through. Pray that God would work in your heart, changing you on the inside.

STUDY #21—Application Journal: Mark 7:24-37, (p. 18-19)

The Greek woman wanted what Jesus offered and showed persistent, expectant faith. She is a contrast to the Pharisees who are relying on rules and the disciples who continue to not understand. She knew Jesus was her source – her bread—even if she was a Gentile.

1. Do you see Jesus as your source – the One you seek out to meet your needs? What needs are you taking to Him at present?
2. What happens when it looks like the answer might be “no”? What is your reaction when there is lots of time between asking for help and seeing God work?
3. What would expectant, assertive faith (vs. timid faith) look like for you?
4. Pray for expectant faith that trusts God is working for your best as you put your hope in Jesus.

The healing of the deaf man with a speech impediment is an example in the physical world of Jesus’ spiritual message, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” It is also a fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophesy that God would come to save and “the ears of the deaf would be unstopped and the tongue of the mute sing for joy”.

5. How is your hearing? Are you hearing from God through His Word and prayer? Is your hearing sharp (responsive/good soil) or dull (unresponsive/poor soil)? Do you need His healing touch to your spiritual ears? Write about your hearing and pray for improvement.

STUDY #22—Application Journal: Mark 8:1-21, (p. 19-21)

When put in a very familiar situation, the disciples seem to have forgotten what Jesus already showed them. Their attitude may have improved but they have failed to learn something. Notice the contrast to the Greek woman who knew Jesus had crumbs (bread) for the Gentiles.

1. Is there something God is trying to teach you? Is He taking you through it for the second (or third, or maybe fourth) time? What do you think God wants you to learn? Are you improving in your response?
2. Identify a struggle, problem, or trial that you face often. Instead of praying that God would fix or take it away, try praying that He'd help you "see" and learn what He wants for you in it.

Jesus warns to WATCH OUT for the corrupt approach (leaven) of the Pharisees and Herod. The Pharisees, who were coming from a place of unbelief, wanted a sign for irrefutable proof. Miracles are not given to make faith unnecessary. God works in response to faith. If our faith depends on answered prayer, displays of God's power, outward signs—we are not really putting our trust in God Himself.

3. Watch out! Do you ever find yourself having an attitude toward God that says "If You do _____ (fill in the blank), then I will trust You/serve You/praise You/follow You/etc." Is there something you are tempted to put in the blank? (eg: that God provides for you in the way you expect Him to, protects your children, keeps you healthy, etc.)

The disciples are focusing on the fact of having no bread, to the point that they cannot see the RESOURCE ("the one loaf") they have in their boat. They are not remembering what Jesus has already done with bread or perceiving anything with spiritual eyes? They are not putting together the big picture?

4. How can you relate to the disciples? How are you prone to only see the present moment and not REMEMBER? How can you improve your memory and "see" the bigger picture of what God is doing in your life and in the world?

STUDY #23—Application Journal: Mark 8:22-30, (p. 21)

The way Jesus chooses to heal the blind man contains a parable for the disciples. They are not yet seeing Jesus clearly. “Having eyes to see, do you not see?” he asks them in the study last week. They are in need of a second touch so they are taken through a second round of similar experiences to fully open their eyes.

The events climax with a description of three kinds of spiritual vision:

- 1) blindness – like the Pharisees,*
- 2) dim vision – like the disciples, and the “people”*
- 3) clear sight – like Peter’s declaration.*

1. What has been your journey of sight? When were you blind? Was there a time when you saw Jesus dimly, not understanding who he was very well? What was it that helped you to see Him clearly?

The disciples are well aware of the popular opinions about Jesus, but when asked, are now able to see, (as Peter answers) that Jesus is the Messiah, the anointed one promised by God, the hope of Israel.

2. Who do people around you say that Jesus is? But who do you say that Jesus is? Do your words and your life reflect what you know about Jesus? How would you like them to be more consistent with your knowledge of him?
3. What, in the Mark study, has helped affirm or reaffirm to you that Jesus is the Christ?

We have just reached the half-way climax in the Gospel of Mark. It’s hard to stop here so we won’t. Next fall we’ll keep following Jesus in Mark’s Gospel to find out what the implications of His Messiahship are. Recognizing that Jesus is the Christ in chapters 1-8 forms the basis of responding to Jesus’ call on our lives, which is the focus in Mark 9-16.

STUDY #23—Application Journal: Mark 8:30-9:1, (p. 21-22)

Peter understood what Jesus was saying and did not like it. It did not match up with his Jewish hopes and convictions about the Messiah. He wanted victory but not victory through suffering.

Our temptation, like Peter's, is to look at life through what the world says is GOOD, SUCCESSFUL and IMPORTANT. Trusting God means being open to something different. Isaiah 55:8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD."

1. Pick a situation in your life at present. In this situation, what would it look like to :

Set your mind on "Things of Man"

-
-
-
-
-

Set your mind on "Things of GOD"

-
-
-
-
-

Jesus then calls us all to follow Him, our suffering Messiah. It's an upside down path; counter to human nature.

Live to save your life = forfeit soul Lose life for Jesus and the gospel = save it

2. In what ways can you be tempted to "save your life" ...
by "gaining the world"?

by "being ashamed of Jesus and His word"?

3. PRAY that you would value real life and
Deny yourself (the will of God comes before worldly gain)
Take up your cross (be prepared to suffer, even die for Jesus and gospel)
Follow Jesus, our suffering savior

Romans 8:17 "Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory."

STUDY #24—Application Journal: Review of Mark 1:1-8:30, (p. 1-21)