

OBSERVATION GUIDE for MARK MANUSCRIPT (Part 1)

Mark 1: 1:1-8:30 | 24 Studies: Pages 1-21 | Who is Jesus?

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This observation guide may be printed (front to back if possible) and provided as part of the Mark notebook. Place it after the manuscript with a separating tab. It will help to provoke thought, especially for personal study. (The questions are not to be used a guide for group discussion.)

_____ #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)
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_____ #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 Observations: Mark 1:1-8 (p. 1)

Look for (Observe) and mark:

1. Where would you put a paragraph break?
2. Who is mentioned in this section?
3. Words that show place or setting.
4. Words with reference to time.
5. Repeated words and phrases.
6. Similar words and phrases.
7. How is John the Baptist described?
8. What sequence of events is happening “in the wilderness”?
9. Find 2 contrasts?
10. What are the 2 messages in this section? (hint: Look for the quotation marks.)

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

Look for (Observe) and mark:

1. Where would you put a paragraph break?
2. Where/ place or setting.
3. Who is involved in this section? Any connections between them? Note cast of characters in the wilderness.
4. Words with reference to time.
5. Repeated words (include last week's passage).
6. Similar phrases (include last week's passage).
7. Any descriptions?
8. Note sequence of events is happening "in the wilderness" in this section?
9. Contrast John's baptism of the people with Jesus's baptism.
10. What are 2 more "messages" in this section? (hint: quotation marks.)
11. Compare the 4 "messages" on this page, noting who they are from. Is there a progression?

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

Look for (Observe) and mark:

1. Find the thought breaks.
2. Who is mentioned?
3. Places and setting?
4. Any time words?
5. Find repetitions.
6. Find similar words/phrases.
7. Compare call of Simon and Andrew to call of James and John
8. What is contrasted?
9. What are the reactions to Jesus?

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

Look for (Observe) and mark:

1. Where would you put a paragraph break?
2. Who is involved?
3. When – refer back to last week’s passage. Other time oriented words.
4. Where – places and setting.
5. Repeated/similar words and phrases (include last week’s passage).
6. In last week’s passage we see that Jesus called and he taught.
 - a. What are the active verbs attributed to Jesus in this section?
7. What are the reactions/responses to Jesus---
 - a. From demons? From people?
8. Compare the healing of the man with to the healing of Simon’s mother-in-law.
9. Is there a continuing theme from last week?
10. Give a title to each of the four sections on page 2

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

Look for (Observe) and mark:

1. Find the paragraph breaks.
2. Who is mentioned?
3. Where - Places and setting?
4. When - Any time words?
5. Find repeated/similar words and phrases.
6. In vs. 35-39, what is Jesus doing and what is the result?
7. What are Simon and company doing?
8. Contrast Jesus with Simon and company.
9. In vs. 40-45, note all the actions of the leper.
10. Note all the actions of Jesus.
11. Compare vs. 41 with vs. 31. Similarities/Differences?
12. Compare vs. 34 with vs. 44. Similarities/Differences?
13. Compare vs. 38 with vs. 45. What happened?

STUDY #6 Observations: Mark 2:1-12 (p. 3-4)

Look for (Observe) and mark:

1. Is there a paragraph break?
2. Who is involved?
3. Where are they?
4. When – time words?
5. Repeated/similar words and phrases.
6. Are there any important words repeated in this section that we've seen before?
7. What are some new words (not seen in chapter 1) that are introduced in this story?
8. What are the different characters doing (note action words and sequences)?
Four men / Jesus / Scribes / Paralytic / crowd
9. Contrast the four men with the scribes?
10. What is the scribes' question?
11. What is Jesus's answer?
12. Compare Jesus's response to leper in vs. 41 on pg. 3 with his response to paralytic in vs. 5?
13. Compare the crowd's response here in vs. 12 with responses on pg. 2, vs. 22, 27-28.

STUDY #8 Observations: Mark 2:23-3:12 (p. 5-6)

Background: Herodians

Look for (Observe) and mark:

1. Find the paragraph breaks.
2. Who is involved?
3. When?
4. Where?
5. Find repetitions. Find similar words/phrases?
6. What question do Pharisees ask and what prompted it?
7. How does Jesus answer?
8. Compare what Jesus's disciples are doing with David actions? Similarities/differences?
9. Compare mention of Son of Man in vs. 28 with Son of Man in vs. 10 (pg 4).
10. What question does Jesus ask/to whom/their answer?

11. Find words that describe “mood” of this encounter.
12. Contrast Jesus’s view of the Sabbath with the Pharisee’s view of the Sabbath.
13. What does Jesus do on the Sabbath? What do Pharisee’s do on Sabbath?
14. Compare the crowd’s reaction to Jesus and the demon’s reaction, with the Pharisee’s reaction to Him.

STUDY #9 Observations: Mark 3:13-35 (p. 6-8)

Look for (Observe) and mark:

1. Find the paragraph breaks?
2. Who is involved?
3. Where?
4. Repeated/similar words and phrases.

vs. 13-19

5. What are the reasons Jesus appoints the twelve?
Compare to 1:38-39 (pg 3). Remember 1:17 (pg 2).
6. What do you notice in the list of 12 names?

vs. 20-31

7. What accusations are made of Jesus? By whom?
8. In what manner does Jesus respond?
9. Who is the parable about? Who’s kingdom and house is it?
10. Notice the “But”. What has to happen to plunder his house?
(See vs. 3:11, 3:15, 1:25, 1:34, 1:39)
11. Note the “Truly” statement in vs. 28. What will be forgiven?
What will not be forgiven?
12. What prompted Jesus to make this statement?

vs. 31-35

13. What is his mother and brothers’ reason for seeking Jesus? (see vs. 21)
14. Compare words describing where his family is with where the crowd is.
15. What question does Jesus pose and answer?

Bonus ? Compare Jesus response to the Pharisee’s accusation (vs 22) with his response to his family’s accusation (vs.21). Take another look at the “Truly” statement.

STUDY #10 Observations: Mark 4:1-20 (p. 8-9)

Look for (Observe) and mark:

1. Find the paragraph breaks?
2. Who is involved?
3. Where?
4. What is happening?
5. Repeated/similar words and phrases.

vs. 3-9

6. What places does the sower's seed fall?
7. What happens to it in each place?
8. What is the progression?
9. How does Jesus start and end the parable?

vs. 10-13

10. When? And who is here?
11. What contrast is made?
12. Any clues in the text as to what the "secret" is? Or clues to what it is not?
13. What does Jesus say about the parables in general and this parable in particular?

vs. 14-20

14. What repeated words are added to the parable's explanation.
15. What cause and effect is described for the "ones" in each environment?
16. Compare the parable to the explanation of the parable.

STUDY #11 Observations: Mark 4:21-34 (p. 9-10)

Look for (Observe) and mark:

1. Find the paragraph divisions? How does each start?

Vs.21-23

2. Note repetitions and similar words.
3. Find everything that is said about the lamp?
4. What is the contrast?
5. What phrase is repeated from the last study?

vs. 24-25

6. Note repetitions and similar words?
7. What progression is here?
8. What contrast is made?

vs. 26-29

9. What is being described by parable?
10. What is the metaphor?
11. What progressions are here?

Vs 30-32

12. Again, what is being described by the parable?
13. What is the metaphor here?
14. What is the progression here?
15. What words contrast?

Vs 33-34

16. Note repeated words from previous study.
17. Compare vs. 33 with 4:12.
18. Compare vs.34 with 4:10 and 4:14 and following.
19. What themes do you see tying some or all of these parables together? Include parable of the sower.

STUDY #12 Observations: Review of Mark 1:1-4:34 (p. 1-10)

Watch YouTube Video: “Why I Hate Religion, But Love Jesus” (by Jefferson Bethke)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1IAhDGYlpqY>

LYRICS: Note phrases that hit you and compare to our study in Mark (esp. on Phariseeism).

What if I told you Jesus came to abolish religion
 What if I told you voting republican really wasn't his mission
 What if I told you republican doesn't automatically mean Christian
 And just because you call some people blind doesn't automatically give you vision

I mean if religion is so great, why has it started so many wars
 Why does it build huge churches, but fails to feed the poor
 Tells single moms God doesn't love them if they've ever had a divorce
 But in the old testament God actually calls religious people whores

Religion might preach grace, but another thing they practice
 Tend to ridicule God's people, they did it to John The Baptist
 They can't fix their problems, and so they just mask it
 Not realizing religions like spraying perfume on a casket
 See the problem with religion, is it never gets to the core

It's just behavior modification, like a long list of chores
 Like lets dress up the outside make look nice and neat
 But it's funny that's what they use to do to mummies while the corps rots underneath

Now I ain't judging, I'm just saying quit putting on a fake look
 Cause there's a problem if people only know you're a Christian by your Facebook
 I mean in every other aspect of life, you know that logic's unworthy
 It's like saying you play for the Lakers just because you bought a jersey
 You see this was me too, but no one seemed to be on to me
 Acting like a church kid, while addicted to pornography
 See on Sunday I'd go to church, but Saturday getting faded
 Acting if I was simply created just to have sex and get wasted
 See I spent my whole life building this facade of neatness
 But now that I know Jesus, I boast in my weakness

Because if grace is water, then the church should be an ocean
 It's not a museum for good people, it's a hospital for the broken
 Which means I don't have to hide my failure, I don't have to hide my sin
 Because it doesn't depend on me it depends on him
 See because when I was God's enemy and certainly not a fan
 He looked down and said I want, that, man
 Which is why Jesus hated religion, and for it he called them fools
 Don't you see so much better than just following some rules
 Now let me clarify, I love the church, I love the bible, and yes I believe in sin
 But if Jesus came to your church would they actually let him in
 See remember he was called a glutton, and a drunkard by religious men
 But the son of God never supports self-righteousness not now, not then

Now back to the point, one thing is vital to mention
 How Jesus and religion are on opposite spectrums
 See one's the work of God, but one's a man-made invention
 See one is the cure, but the other's the infection
 See because religion says do, Jesus says done
 Religion says slave, Jesus says son
 Religion puts you in bondage, while Jesus sets you free
 Religion makes you blind, but Jesus makes you see
 And that's why religion and Jesus are two different clans

Religion is man searching for God, Christianity is God searching for man
 Which is why salvation is freely mine, and forgiveness is my own
 Not based on my merits but Jesus's obedience alone
 Because he took the crown of thorns, and the blood dripped down his face
 He took what we all deserved, I guess that's why you call it grace
 And while being murdered he yelled
 "Father forgive them they know not what they do."
 Because when he was dangling on that cross, he was thinking of you
 And he absorbed all of your sin, and buried it in the tomb
 Which is why I'm kneeling at the cross, saying come on there's room
 So for religion, no I hate it, in fact I literally resent it
 Because when Jesus said it is finished, I believe he meant it

Have each person in the group summary a section of Mark 1:1-4:34:

1:1-15:

1:16-34:

1:35-2:12:

2:13-22:

2:23-3:6:

3:7-19:

3:20-21 & 31-35:

3:22-30:

4:1-20:

4:21-34:

Summary what Mark is communicating in this first section:

STUDY #13 Observations: Mark 4:35-41 (p. 10)

Look for (Observe) and mark:

1. Who is involved?
2. When?
3. Where?
4. Note repetitions and similar words.
5. What contrasts do you see?
6. Note everything Jesus says in this paragraph.
7. Note what the disciples say.
8. Compare this story with the themes on pg. 2.
9. What key words does Jesus bring up?
10. Compare vs 39-41 with 1:25-27 (pg 2). What is similar and what is different?
11. What is the progression of events and reactions through this story?

The Pharisee's encounter Jesus and have four questions:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Jesus answers questions with:

1. *A question and an illustration of his power (healing paralytic)*
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

The case the Pharisees are building against Jesus.

The Kingdom of God

The Religion of the Pharisees

STUDY #14 Observations: Mark 5:1-20 (p. 10-11)

Adjure – to charge, bind or command on oath or under penalty of a curse.

Country of Gerasenes - near the city of Gergesa on E bank of sea of Galilee in area of

Decapolis which is predominantly of Gentile population.

Look for (Observe) and mark:

1. Divide story into scenes.
2. Who is involved?
3. Where?
4. Any time oriented words?
5. Look for repetitions and similar words – you may find more as you study.
6. Note everything that describes the man (vs 3-5).

vs 6-13

7. What verbs describe the actions of the demon-possessed man?
8. Look carefully at what the demon-possessed man says to Jesus (vs 7).
What do you notice? What is ironic?
9. What is the flow of conversation between Jesus and the demon-possessed man?
10. Note the pronouns that are used?
11. What words describe the tone of this dialogue?

vs 14-20

12. What do the herdsmen and people do? How do they respond?
13. Compare the description of the man in vs 15 with vs 3-4.
14. Compare the request the people make of Jesus (vs 17) with the request the man makes in vs. 18.
15. What did Jesus tell the man to do? What did he do? What was the result?
16. Trace who begged Jesus for something, what it was, and how Jesus responded?
17. Is there a common theme in this story and the last study on the sea storm?
18. (For fun!) Who drowned in this study? Who did not drown in the last one?

STUDY #15 Observations: Mark 5:21-43 (p. 12-13)

Ruler of the synagogue was a lay official responsible for the supervision of the building and arranging the service. This designation was also given an honorary title for distinguished members of the synagogue.

Look for (Observe) and mark:

1. Divide story into scenes.
2. Who is involved?
3. Where?
4. Any time oriented words?
5. Look for repetitions, similar words and phrases.
6. Note general flow of this section and its two stories.
How does the story of the woman fit with the story of Jairus?
7. What contrasts can be made between who Jairus is and who this woman is?
8. Compare what each needs from Jesus and how they go about getting it?
9. Trace what each do and feel in vs. 25-34.
 - The woman
 - Jesus
 - The disciples
10. Compare Jesus's statement to the woman (v. 34) with his statement to Jairus (v. 36).
11. Who continues on journey and what do they find at Jairus's house?
12. Again, trace what Jesus does here? vs 36-43 Especially notice the verbs.
13. Note the emotion words and who they refer to.
14. Compare v. 43 with v. 19 from the last study. And with 3:11-12 (pg 6).
15. In this passage find all references or allusions to:
 - fear
 - faith
 - unbelief
 - chaos/brokenness
 - peace/healing

Challenge Find references to the above in the sea storm and the demoniac stories.

STUDY #16 Observations: Mark 6: 1-13 (p. 13-14)

Look for (Observe) and mark:

1. Divide story into scenes.
2. Who is involved?
3. Where?
4. When?
5. Look for repetitions, similar words and phrases.
6. What is Jesus doing in both settings? Remember 1:38 (pg 3)

vs 1-6a

7. Find the words that describe emotion.
8. What are the questions asked by those who heard Jesus?
9. Note the first word of each of the first 3 questions?
What is the implied answer to these 3 questions?
10. In the 4th and 5th question, what do we learn about Jesus's blood family?
11. What is the implied answer to these questions?
12. Note Jesus's verbal, nonverbal, and emotional response.
13. Contrast hometown folks with Jairus and woman in last week's study.
14. Compare 6:5 with 4:25 (pg 9)
15. Compare 6:6 with 3:5 (pg 6)

vs 6b-13

16. Note verbs in vs. 7-8 referring to Jesus
17. Compare vs 7 to 3:14-15 (pg 6)
18. What were the directions regarding packing for the journey?
19. What were the directions regarding lodging?
20. What did the 12 do on journey? Compare to 1:15 (pg 1) and 1:38-39 (pg 3).
21. Compare and contrast these 2 sections that you just studied with each other.

STUDY #17 Observations: Mark 6:14-29 (p. 14-15)

Herod Antipas, son of Herod the Great and Malthace, was tetrarch of Galilee and Perea from 4 BC –AD 39. He built his capital, Tiberias, on site of ancient cemetery, making it unclean for all Jews. Herod's former wife was from Nabatea and there was political tension over rejecting her for Herodias. Herod Philip, Herodias's 1st husband, was son of Herod the Great and Cleopatra. He was tetrarch of Iturea and Trachonitis. This makes Herodias's daughter Herod's niece. Herodias, in her ambition, pushed for Herod to petition Rome for the title "king". This was denied by Augustus and led to Herod's dismissal and exile.

Look for (Observe) and mark:

1. Divide story into subsections.
2. Who is involved?
3. When and where does this occur? What can we tell?
4. Look for repetitions, similar words and phrases.
5. What had King Herod heard about?
6. What were the opinions of who Jesus was? Which did Herod hold?
7. What circumstances landed John in jail? See 1:14 (pg 1) for timing.
8. Contrast Herod and Herodias?
 - relationship with John
 - spiritual openness (think of soils)
9. How would you describe Herod's birthday party?
 - guest list
 - entertainment
 - host
 - grand finale
10. Trace Herod's emotions throughout passage.
11. What insights into Herod's character can you find?
12. Follow the progression of his actions, starting with marrying Herodias.
13. Compare v29 with v14.
14. Contrast Jairus's request of Jesus in 5:23 (p 12)

With the girls request of Herod, and the results.

Bonus Compare the Kingdom of God with the Kingdom of Herod.

STUDY #18 Observations: Mark 6:30-44 (p. 15-16)

Background: 200 Denari = 8 mo. to a year's wages of a day laborer

Look for (Observe) and mark:

1. Find the paragraph break.
2. Who is involved?
3. Where is it taking place? Other location words?
4. When did this happen? Other time words?
5. Find repetitions. Find similar words/phrases?
6. What are the disciples returning from? What are they called here?
7. What is Jesus plan for them?
8. What do you find out about this crowd?
9. How does Jesus react to the crowd?
10. What problem arises? What is the disciple's solution?
11. What is Jesus' solution and the disciple's reaction?
12. What does Jesus do and how does He involve the disciples?
13. What were the results?
14. What imagery do you find?
15. Note all the numbers mentioned.
16. Write down words that describe this "feast."
17. Compare with Herod's feast from last study.

STUDY #19 Observations: Mark 6:45-56 (p. 16-17)

Background: 4th watch of the night = 3am – 6am

Gennesaret – refer to map in pouch. It is between Capernaum and Tiberias.

Look for (Observe) and mark:

1. Find paragraph break(s).
2. Who is involved?
3. When did this happen? Other time words?
4. Where is it taking place? Other location words?

5. Any repetitions?
6. List Jesus' actions in vs. 45-46.
7. What is the disciples' situation?
8. Note verbs describing Jesus' actions toward the disciples in vs 48-51.
9. What is the disciples' reaction/emotions?
10. What is Jesus' response?
11. Compare this passage to the sea storm, 4:35-40 (p 10).
12. Who is making the comment in vs. 52?
13. Compare "hearts were hardened" in this vs with "hardness of heart" in 3:5 (pg 6).
What is similar?
14. Where does the boat land? Where had they been headed?
15. Note the verbs showing the actions of the people in Gennesaret.
Who do they remind you of? 5:27-28 (p 12).
16. Compare these people to the disciples.
17. What is Jesus not doing in Gennesaret?

Herod's feast	Jesus' feast

Exodus 33:17-23

¹⁷ And the LORD said to Moses, “This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.” ¹⁸ Moses said, “Please show me your glory.” ¹⁹ And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name ‘The LORD.’ And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.” ²⁰ But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.” ²¹ And the LORD said, “Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, ²² and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³ Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen.”

Job 9:8, 10-11

⁸ He alone stretches out the heavens
and treads on the waves of the sea;
and marvelous things beyond number.
¹⁰ He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed,
miracles that cannot be counted.
¹¹ When he passes by me, I cannot see him;
when he goes by, I cannot perceive him.

Exodus 3:14

¹⁴ God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.”
And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel,
‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

Isaiah 41:4, 13

⁴ Who has performed and done this,
calling the generations from the beginning?
I, the LORD, the first,
and with the last; I am he.
¹³ For I, the LORD your God,
hold your right hand;
it is I who say to you, “Fear not,
I am the one who helps you.

STUDY #20 Observations: Mark 7:1-23 (p. 17-18)

Corban: A custom instituted by the religious leaders to increase revenues for the temple and the religious institutions. A person would pledge (vow) all his money to the temple but would retain complete control of it over his lifetime. The basic purpose was to place a ban on something, reserving it for sacred use and withdrawing it from profane use by another person. Thus he could invest, spend, or hoard his fortune; at least until his death. At that time it would go into the temple treasury and would be under the control of the religious leaders. This sort of thing was admired as a very pious act but had the result of leaving behind family who would not be cared for financially (especially one's parents). If a son should regret such a vow and seek to revoke it, the scribes would hold the vow as valid and say it must be honored, because it was made to God.

Look for (Observe) and mark:

1. Find the paragraph breaks.
2. Who is involved?
3. Do we know when?
4. Find words showing places. Where did they come to shore in last passage?
5. What are the situation, background, and the question the Pharisees/scribes ask?
6. Compare with the last encounter Jesus had with the Jerusalem scribes (p.7) 3:22.
7. Find repetitions and similar words/phrases (vs. 1-13).
 Note the different phrases referring to the "tradition of the elders".
 Who uses which phrase?
8. Find all the verbs that show what the Pharisees do with "tradition of the elders".
9. What verb phrases does Jesus use to describe the Pharisees relationship with God and His commandment/Word?
10. Do you see a structure in Jesus answer (vs. 6-13)? What is it?
11. (vs. 14-23) Find rep
12. Repetitions/similar words and phrases in this section.
13. What is Jesus' answer/statement to the people?
14. Compare the content of what he tells the Pharisees to what he tells the people.
15. Compare the "feel" of this statement with his response to the Pharisees.
16. What do you notice about the disciples?
17. What clarification does Jesus give the disciples? What is Jesus contrasting?
18. Note the editorial comment by Mark. See Acts 10:9-16.

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

³ He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,

for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

STUDY #21 Observations: Mark 7:24-37 (p. 18-19)

Phoenicia –Greek population and culture. (Syrophenician – because Phoenicia was administrated by the province of Syria. To be distinguished from Libophoenicia with center in Carthage, North Africa.)

Reference to “dogs” is the word for “little pet dogs”, not wild ones.

Look for (Observe) and mark:

1. Divide into scenes.
2. Who is involved?
3. Where? Refer to maps. Look at vs 3:8 (pg 6).
4. When – any references to time?
5. Look for repetitions, similar words and phrases.

vs 24-30

6. What do you observe about Jesus’ journey, in light of last study on defilement?
7. Find all the verbs showing the progression of Syrophenician woman’s actions.
8. Contrast this Greek woman with the Pharisees.
9. What are key words in Jesus’ statement to her and her answer back to Him?
(Food for thought – Where have we seen “bread” and “crumbs” before in Mark?)

10. What do you notice about Jesus' response to this woman?

11. Compare this Greek woman to the disciples.

vs. 31-37 * Note – the region of Decapolis on the Sea of Galilee could be near where the Gerasene Demoniac's deliverance took place.

12. What is the situation and the request?

13. What is unique about what Jesus does here?

14. What reminds you of other miracles?

See: p16 vs 41,
p13 vs 41,
p 3 vs 41-4,
p 4 vs 3

15. Note words describing the people's reactions.

16. Compare their proclamation with Isaiah 35:4-6a. (see back of sheet)

Isaiah 35:4-6a

*"say to those with fearful hearts,
'Be strong, do not fear; your God will come,
He will come with vengeance;
With divine retribution
He will come to save you.'
"Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy."*

STUDY #22 Observations: Mark 8: 1-21 (p. 19-21)

Background – Jews counted men. Gentiles counted people.

Leaven – in both Jewish and Greek culture was a common metaphor for corruption.

The word for baskets here is a Greek word for Gentile baskets.

Look for (Observe) and mark:

1. Divide into scenes.
2. Who is involved?
3. Where? Remember where Jesus was in last study.
4. When – any references to time?

5. Look for repetitions, similar words and phrases.

vs 1-9

6. What is the description of the situation and Jesus' response?
7. How do the disciples respond? Compare to 6:36-37 (p 16).
8. Trace the actions of Jesus (find verbs).
9. Note the numbers mentioned.
10. Compare to the feeding of the 5000. 6:34-44 (p 15-16)

vs. 10-13

11. Note what the Pharisees are doing and why.
12. Note all the ways Jesus responds.

vs. 14-21

13. Find all the words referring to bread.
14. What is Jesus' concern? How does it relate to the last paragraph?
15. Compare Jesus' concern to the disciples' repeated concern?
16. Note the list of questions that Jesus asks the disciples. Which is repeated?
What are the key words in these questions that have been repeated in Mark.
17. What does Jesus want the disciples to remember?

STUDY #23 Observations: Mark 8:22-30 (p. 21)

Background – Bethsaida was large village of mixed population on shore of the Sea of Galilee in the territory of Herod Philip.

Caesarea Philippi – 25 miles N. of Bethsaida in Iturea (territory of Herod Philip). Herod the Great built a temple to Caesar Augustus in this area. Here Caesar is lord.

Christ – Greek for Messiah, “the one anointed by God”, “whose coming marks the fulfillment of divine promise and realization of Israel’s hopes.”
(Lane)

Look for (Observe) and mark:

1. Divide into scenes.
2. Who is involved?
3. Where? Refer to 6:45 (p 16).
4. Look for repetitions, similar words and phrases.

vs 22-26

5. What is the request? Does it sound familiar? See 7:32 (p 19).
6. Trace all that Jesus does and says.
7. What is unique here?
8. What does Jesus' question in v 23b remind you of, in the previous study?
9. Compare similarities/differences of this healing with the healing of the deaf man (p19) 7:32-37.
10. What are some repeated experiences the disciples have been through with Jesus in Mark's gospel so far?

vs. 27-30

11. Note the questions that Jesus asks.
12. What does the response to the first question remind you of? See 6:14-15 (p14).
13. Who answers Jesus' question to the disciples?
Remember who is behind the Gospel of Mark. Compare vs. 29 to 1:1.
14. Observe your own feelings about Peter's response.
15. Think of other situations in Mark where Jesus has "strictly charged" in some way to tell no one.

Compare the 2 Feedings

Mark 6:33-44	Mark 8:1-9
Differences:	
Similarities:	

Two Times Around

6:38-7:37

8:1-30

6:42-44

8:8-9

6:45 & 6:53

8:10

7:1-14

8:11-12

7:26-28

8:16-21

7:32-35

8:22-26

7:37

8:29

STUDY #24: Review of Mark 1

Mark 1: 1-8:30 / Pages 1-21

Divide sections among group members (individually or in pairs) and then discuss.

What Happened?	Issue/Conflict?	Who is Jesus?	Application for Us?
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Jesus shows up

#1: 1:1-8

#2: 1:9-15

Jesus' authority

#3: 1:16-22

#4: 1:23-34

Jesus seeks sinners

#5: 1:35-45

#6: 2:1-12

#7: 2:12-22

Jesus confronts religion

#8: 2:23-3:12

#9: 3:13-35

Jesus defines family & his kingdom

#10: 4.-1-20

#11: 4:21-34

Jesus encourages faith over fear/unbelief

#12: 4:35-41

#13: 5.1-20

#14: 5:21-43

#15: 6:1-13

What Happened?	Issue/Conflict?	Who is Jesus?	Application for Us?
Jesus' Party vs. Herod's Orgy			
#16: 6:14-29			
#17: 6:30-44			
Jesus takes on hard heartedness, hypocrisy & unbelief			
#18: 6:45-56			
#19: 7:1-23			
Jesus provides for responsive Gentiles but not non-responsive Pharisees			
#20: 7:24-37			
#21: 8:1-21			
#22: 8:22-30			
Jesus ensures that his disciples "get it" regarding his identity			
#23: 8:22-30			
In a one sentence statement, what is Mark seeking to communicate in chapters 1:1-8:30?			
→ _____			

For Group Discussion

Review: Divide up the 23 studies for about 15 min. of review and take notes on sheet above.

Share: Go around the circle and share brief (!) reviews with the larger group so all can take notes.

Then Individually write out the statement above. Share in the group and "vote" on the best one.

Application Discussion, Prayer & Journaling

Mark recounts Peter's first-hand experience of how the disciples came to grips with the question: *Who is Jesus?* It is this question that he would have us, the readers, confront as well.

Share in the group. *Pick the passage that has been the most interesting, surprising or challenging for you. Why? What are the things that have struck you most about what Jesus is like?*

How specifically has the Mark study changed your view of Jesus and your relationship with him?

Break up in pairs or threes: *How has knowing who Jesus made a difference in your life?*

Values? Priorities? Relationships? Etc.? And how do you want to be further changed by him?

Pray for each other for openness to the kind of change Jesus wants to bring into your life next.

Mark Manuscript Study Feedback for Group Members

Do you feel your Bible Study skills improved over the year? How so?
How comfortable marking on the manuscript?

Do you (or would you) prefer studying the Observation Questions during group time or before coming to group?

Did you write on the Application Journal pages during the week? Approximately what percent of the time? Are they helpful? Any suggestions to improve their usefulness.

Any thoughts about the notebook? Did it work for you? Any ways to improve it?

Any other suggestions or thoughts about your Mark group experience?

Would you be interested in leading a study or two in your group next year?
If so, would you write your name here, or let your Mark group leader know.