



What if we set out to explore the Kingship of Jesus together?

The challenge in a nutshell

- The Bible is a solid foundation for our lives. Reading the Bible together enables us to grow in our knowledge of God, and to be transformed both in our understanding of the world and in our everyday lives.
- This year, it seems to us that God is particularly keen for us to immerse ourselves in the Bible together. Not just in our own corner, but by sharing our reading together.
- To make this happen, we're inviting all ICF-Geneva members to read Mark's Gospel in its entirety between April 7 and May 26. This means reading between 1 and 3 chapters a week.
- To complete the experience, we propose to reflect on these readings together, with a short program of discussion and prayer. Each week, a program will be available to accompany us on this journey.
- We also offer a number of resources for further study or meditation on the themes found in Mark's Gospel (see below).
- Look now for someone with whom you can make an appointment once a week to experience this adventure. If you can't think of anyone, or if you don't yet have many contacts in the church, you can contact a pastor (Adrien, Monica, Ruben or Cédric) who can help you find someone or a group.
- N.B. To get things off to a smooth start and allow any latecomers to join in the adventure, we'll spend the first week reading only the first 13 verses of the Gospel.

Mark is unique among the four Gospels

- This Gospel begins abruptly and continues with great haste (in Mark, everything happens “immediately”).
- Jesus is often presented in a confrontational light: he speaks shockingly, sometimes rudely and incomprehensibly.
- Jesus is presented as a teacher, but his teachings are not often presented.
- Jesus frequently forbids people to talk about who he is and what he has done.
- In Mark, everything seems to go wrong. The disciples follow Jesus without flinching, but soon start contradicting him or not listening to him.
- Even the end of Mark is an enigma. The resurrection seems to leave the disciples in a state of shock.
- Mark overturns all our expectations to present us with a king unlike any other. A king with a crown of thorns.

***Mark turns all our expectations
on their head and presents us
with the challenge of following
King Jesus!***

Mark is a challenge to all followers of King Jesus

- We are confronted with our lack of attention and obedience to Jesus’ words.
- We are reminded to follow King Jesus in all its (socially, morally, spiritually, etc.) radical nature.
- It’s a call to return to a Gospel that is fundamentally determined by the cross of Christ. It’s about appropriating the shame and power of the cross!
- Mark is a cry to awaken a church that is compromising itself in social, community and cultural dynamics that dilute the radical nature of Christ’s message.

Reading Plan

Here is the reading plan for each week and suggested videos to watch that week:

1. From April 08 to 14: Mark 1:1-13

- a. Introduction to Mark's Gospel : <https://youtu.be/OVRixfameGY?si=nTlhEN9fXw1g0eW2>
- b. Introduction to reading the Gospels : https://youtu.be/xrzq_X1NNaA?si=MHkRUXNhCVwhY9d0

2. From April 15 to 21 : Mark 1:1-3:6

- a. Introduction to the notion of evil and evil spirits : <https://youtu.be/CamYtVpoTNk?si=Ytw-DYL7MYxloKLi>
- b. Introduction to the notion of sabbath : <https://youtu.be/PFTLvkbB3JLM?si=wCjMua1nYy75C-hU>

3. From April 22 to 28 : Mark 3:7-6:6

- a. Introduction to the notion of witness : <https://youtu.be/jhcmzjwbvyk?si=qGGdYal0abXWkIo4>

4. From April 29 to May 5 : Mark 6:6-8:30

- a. Introduction to the notion of holiness : <https://youtu.be/l9vn5UvsHvM?si=Rdqmqm03UW4F1MY8p>

5. From May 6 to 12 : Mark 8:22-10:52

- a. Introduction to the notion of justice : <https://youtu.be/A14THPoc4-4?si=8zzZe0Ztg8CFeN33>

6. From May 13 to 19 : Mark 11:1-13:37

- a. Introduction to the notion of Messiah : <https://youtu.be/QxOeq3of3O4?si=PaVOPfUQ3pdyb97e>
- b. Introduction to the temple : https://youtu.be/wTnq6I3vUbU?si=R-8Ocy1vq-0KvV_3

7. From May 20 to 26 : Mark 14:1-16:20

- a. Introduction to the tree of life : <https://youtu.be/TJLan-pJzfQ?si=OfJEstW2eGV0jzDa>

A few resources for further reading

Here are some books to help you study Mark's Gospel:

- *Jesus the King* (Tim Keller) - A very good book, very accessible and very relevant to the questions of our times.
- *Mark for Everyone* (N.T. Wright) - A good Bible-study book that provides a first-century context.

Here are the books that have been used to prepare the small studies that will accompany us on this journey:

- James Edward, *The Gospel According to Mark*, 2002.
- Timothy Gombis, *Mark (The Story of God Bible Commentary)*, 2021.
- Walter W. Wessel and Mark Strauss, *Mark (The Expositor's Bible Commentary)*, 2010.
- Ben Witherington III, *The Gospel of Mark: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary*, 2001.
- Darell Bock, *Mark (New Cambridge Bible Commentary)*, 2015.