

**Investigating**

**God's Word...**

**YEAR TWO**

**Mark**

**Sunday School Curriculum**

*Summer Quarter*

# Lesson Sequence

## *Summer Quarter*

The **Lesson Sequence** gives the teacher an overview of the entire quarter.

The central goal of the ***Investigating God's Word...*** curriculum is to enable children the opportunity to read and study the entire Bible—from Genesis to Revelation—by the time they “graduate” from 6th grade.

Week One	Mark 1
Week Two	Mark 2:1-3:12
Week Three	Mark 3:13-4:34
Week Four	Mark 4:35-5:43
Week Five	Mark 6
Week Six	Mark 7
Week Seven	Mark 8
Week Eight	Mark 9
Week Nine	Mark 10
Week Ten	Mark 11:1-12:17
Week Eleven	Mark 12:18-13:37
Week Twelve	Mark 14
Week Thirteen	Mark 15-16



### Suggested Schedule

<b>Welcome</b> <i>Four Gospels</i>	<b>2-3 min.</b>
<b>Drill Time</b> <i>The birth of Jesus</i>	<b>5 min.</b>
<b>W.O.W!</b> <i>Authority</i>	<b>5 min.</b>
<b>Historical Context</b> <i>Timeline</i>	<b>2-3 min.</b>
<b>Bible Investigation</b> <i>Mark 1</i>	<b>20-30 min.</b>
<b>Lesson-At-Home</b> <i>Matthew 28:18</i>	<b>2-3 min.</b>

# Lesson One

## *Mark 1*

### Overview

The Gospel of Mark opens with John the Baptist preparing the way for Jesus, in fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy. He calls people to repent and be baptized. Jesus is baptized by John in fulfillment of God's Word, initiating the descent of the Spirit like a dove and words of love and grace from the Father in heaven.

The rest of Mark 1 reads like a high-action motion picture. Jesus calls His first four disciples, and they immediately leave their nets and follow Him. He drives out evil spirits in Capernaum and amazes the people with his authoritative preaching. At the home of Simon and Andrew, Jesus heals Simon's mother-in-law and shows His authority over the sick and demon-possessed. He prays early in the morning in a solitary place and resumes His preaching ministry in the afternoon. Jesus travels all over Galilee, preaching in synagogues and driving out demons.

Mark 1 ends with Jesus healing a man of leprosy, who then tells the world of the miracle. His testimony forces Jesus out to the desert, where crowds still pursue Him.

### Preparation

Read and meditate on Mark 1 this week. **Use flannelgraph figures or other pictures to illustrate the lesson.**

### Teaching Encouragement

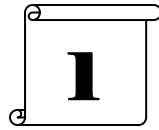
The Gospel of Mark is so engaging to children since the stories are told in almost rapid-fire sequence, especially in the beginning. In one sense, you just need to get out of the way and let God's Word speak to your students! From the very beginning of Mark, Jesus is shown to have absolute authority over the lives of people. Show your children this authoritative Jesus, and how He demands that they submit to Him. Your authority to teach your students about Jesus actually comes from Jesus Himself. He grants you the power to authoritatively read and teach the Bible to your children. Then, we pray that He will work by His Spirit through the Word to do powerful things in our children's lives, starting with conversion. Praise God for the authoritative Word of God!

The **Welcome** serves as both an opportunity to greet the children as well as an effort to help them get focused on God's Word.

Each week, you will begin with questions or an activity that will engage the children to help them think about God.

**Drill Time** gives the children the opportunity to recall and rehearse what they have been taught in the past—at home, school and/or church.

This element allows the **Investigating God's Word...** curriculum to cover much more Biblical "ground," since time is not expended repeating the same Bible stories over and over again from year to year.



## Welcome

**Greet the students. Welcome visitors.**

**Say:** *Who can tell me what a GOSPEL is? Allow answers. A Gospel is a book of the New Testament that tells the story of the life of Jesus Christ on earth. The word GOSPEL simply means "Good News." So GOSPELS are books about the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*How many GOSPEL books are there in the New Testament? Allow answers. There are four GOSPELS in the New Testament. We investigated the Gospel of Matthew last year. This year, we will study the next GOSPEL—the GOSPEL of Mark!*



## Drill Time

*Let's move on to DRILL TIME. Remember that this is our weekly opportunity to review what we have learned in the past!*

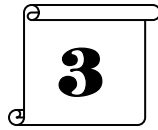
**Today's questions:** *Who is the mother of Jesus? Who was Mary married to? Where was Jesus born? Who came to worship Jesus because they saw a star in the east? Who wanted to kill Jesus after he found out He had been born?*

**Call on volunteers or select students to make attempts.**

**Answers:**

1. Mary.
2. Joseph.
3. In a stable in Bethlehem.
4. The wise men (or Magi).
5. King Herod.

**Say:** *We learned all about the amazing birth of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit. He was given the name Immanuel—which means, "God with us." He was born to bear the sins of His people. What amazing Good News it is that Jesus was born into our world as fully God and fully man! We'll study more about Jesus today.*



## W.O.W!

The **W.O.W!** is the **Word of the Week**.

This element is included to help the children build their theological and Biblical vocabularies. These words are vital to the Christian's understanding of God and His World.

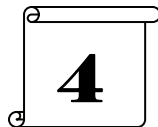
**Make sure the students can see the board.**

*Our W.O.W! (Word of the Week) this week is **AUTHORITY**. Write the word on the board. Who can tell me what this word means? Allow answers.*

***AUTHORITY** is the power and the right to command people's behavior. This power and right is given by God to certain people who then become our **AUTHORITIES**. An **AUTHORITY** is another name for a person in charge!*

*So what people have **AUTHORITY** over you? Allow answers. Parents, teachers, police officers, judges, governors, presidents, have all been given **AUTHORITY** to rule over others. Typically, your brothers and sisters and friends don't have **AUTHORITY** over you (unless an adult has given them some **AUTHORITY**).*

*Who is the highest **AUTHORITY** in the universe? [God.] Since God is the **AUTHOR** of life, He has all **AUTHORITY**. That's why we say that people can only have power to rule and command because He gives it to them. Watch for our W.O.W! as we read...*



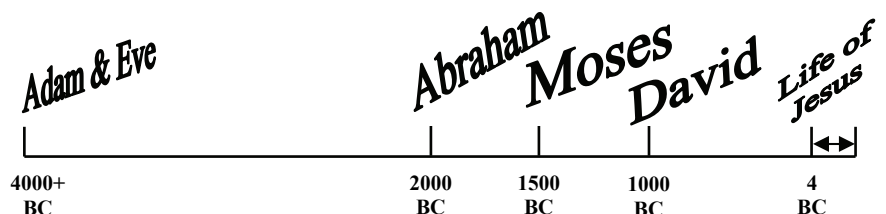
## Historical Context

Each week, the Bible Lesson will be placed in **historical context** by use of a timeline.

It is essential that the children learn how the story of redemptive history fits together. Bible stories must not be viewed as detached scenes—they are to be shown as a part of a much bigger picture. The timeline is a useful tool toward that end.

**Introduce this timeline to the students so they can see how the stories fit in historical context.**

*A Gospel of Mark Timeline*



# 5

## Bible Investigation

The **Bible Investigation** time is the heart and soul of the lesson. It plunges the student directly into God's Word, not simply a paraphrase of a Bible story.

All Scripture texts included in the curriculum are from the New International Version (NIV).

The Bible reading is taken in short sections, separated by times of **discussion**, **questions**, and **application points**.

This format allows ample opportunities to stop, think about and discuss what is being read.

**Have the students seated where they can all see the flannelgraph figures or pictures.**

**Introduction:** *Now we begin our study of the Gospel of Mark. What is a GOSPEL again? [A book of Good News about Jesus.] How many GOSPELS are there in the New Testament? [Four.]* God inspired a man named John Mark to write the book of Mark. He was a friend of the Apostles Peter and Paul.

*Let's begin reading. **Read Mark 1:1.***

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

**Discussion:** *That's just what we said! The Book of Mark is a Gospel of Jesus Christ. Who does Mark say that Jesus is? [The Son of God.]*

*Let's read on. **Read verses 2-3.***

<sup>2</sup>It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way"—<sup>3</sup>"a voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"

**Discussion:** *Mark says that the prophet Isaiah spoke about a messenger who would prepare the way for Jesus. Does anyone know the name of this messenger? **Allow answers.** His name is John the Baptist, and we will read about him in the next verses.*

**Read verses 4-8.**

<sup>4</sup>And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. <sup>6</sup>John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup>I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

**Discussion:** *What is John doing in the desert region? [Baptizing people and preaching repentance and forgiveness.] Did lots of people go to hear John preach? [Yes.] What did he wear and eat?*



The grey sidebar found on all pages is for the teacher to write notes as he or she prepares the lesson.

Other teaching tips or important exegetical information will also appear on the sidebar.

[He wore camel's hair clothing and a leather belt; he ate locusts and wild honey.] *More importantly, who is John talking about that will follow him and baptize people with the Holy Spirit?* [Jesus!]

*Listen to what happens next. Read verses 9-11.*

<sup>9</sup>At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

**Discussion:** *Who did John the Baptist baptize? [Jesus.] We read in the Gospel of Matthew that Jesus was baptized to fulfill God's Word, not because He needed to repent of sin. What happened as Jesus was coming out of the water? [The Spirit descended on Jesus like a dove; a voice from heaven spoke.] We actually see all three persons of the Trinity on display here: The Father speaks from heaven, the Son is baptized and the Holy Spirit descends. What a powerful point in history this is. Jesus is announced to the world as the Son of God!*

*Let's see what happens next. Read verses 12-13.*

<sup>12</sup>At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert, <sup>13</sup>and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

**Discussion:** *Where did the Holy Spirit lead Jesus? [Out into the desert.] What happened to Jesus in the desert? [He was tempted by Satan for forty days.] The other Gospels tell us that Jesus perfectly resisted the temptations of Satan, with the Word of God as His powerful weapon. Satan tried to take AUTHORITY over Jesus, but could not!*

*Let's read more. Read verses 14-15.*

<sup>14</sup>After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. <sup>15</sup>"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

**Discussion:** *What was Jesus doing in Galilee? [He was proclaiming the good news of God.] Jesus declared that the kingdom of God is near. What did He tell people to do about it? [Repent and believe the good news.]*

**Application:** *Boys and girls, that's what Jesus calls on you to do: To repent and believe in the good news. To repent means to turn away your sins. To believe in the good news means to put your*

*faith in Jesus as your Savior. The only way to be a member of the kingdom of God is to repent and believe in Jesus!*

*Let's continue reading. Read verses 16-20.*

<sup>16</sup> As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup> “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” <sup>18</sup> At once they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup> When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. <sup>20</sup> Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

**Discussion:** *Now we read about the first men who followed Jesus. What are their names? [Simon, Andrew, James and John.] What did these four men do for a living? [They were fishermen.] Jesus called them to leave their nets and follow Him as His disciples. Did they follow Jesus? [Yes.]*

**Application:** *What does it mean to be “fishers of men?” Allow answers. To be a fisher of men means to be someone who “catches” people in the gospel net. Jesus calls all of His disciples to make disciples of other people!*

*Let's move on. Read verses 21-22.*

<sup>21</sup> They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. <sup>22</sup> The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law.

**Discussion:** *What did Jesus do first when he arrived at the city of Capernaum? [He began to teach in the synagogue.] Did you hear our Word of the Week? The people were amazed at His teaching, as Jesus spoke as one with AUTHORITY. Does Jesus have AUTHORITY over the lives of people? [Yes.] Why? [Because He is the Son of God!]*

*Now listen to what Jesus does. Read verses 23-26.*

<sup>23</sup> Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, <sup>24</sup> “What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!” <sup>25</sup> “Be quiet!” said Jesus sternly. “Come out of him!” <sup>26</sup> The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

**Discussion:** *Jesus also has AUTHORITY over evil spirits! All He had to say was “come out” and the evil spirit came out of the man.*

**Application Points** are woven into the fabric of the discussion, rather than being left to the end of the lesson.



*Listen to what the people say. Read verses 27-28.*

<sup>27</sup> The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him.” <sup>28</sup> News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

**Discussion:** *Jesus taught with AUTHORITY and He showed His AUTHORITY over evil spirits too. This amazed the people, didn’t it? He was the talk of all of Galilee.*

*Now listen to what happens. Read verses 29-34.*

<sup>29</sup> As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. <sup>30</sup> Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her. <sup>31</sup> So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them. <sup>32</sup> That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. <sup>33</sup> The whole town gathered at the door, <sup>34</sup> and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

**Discussion:** *We see Jesus’ AUTHORITY on display again, don’t we? Jesus has all AUTHORITY over sickness and demons. Can you imagine the “whole town” gathered at your door? These people were in need of a Savior with power and AUTHORITY over sin and sickness. Jesus is showing that He is that AUTHORITY!*

*Let’s read more. Read verses 35-39.*

<sup>35</sup> Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. <sup>36</sup> Simon and his companions went to look for him, <sup>37</sup> and when they found him, they exclaimed: “Everyone is looking for you!” <sup>38</sup> Jesus replied, “Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.” <sup>39</sup> So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

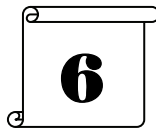
**Discussion:** *What did Jesus do very early in the morning? [He went to a solitary place to pray.] Why do you think Jesus needed to be alone? Allow answers. Jesus needed to spend time alone with His Father, didn’t He? That time equipped Him to go and preach the gospel to people.*

**Application:** *You and I need to spend time alone praying to God as well. We need to bring our cares and concerns to Him. Are you spending time with God in prayer? His children should meet with Him all the time!*

Let's finish our reading for today. **Read verses 40-45.**

<sup>40</sup> A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." <sup>41</sup> Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" <sup>42</sup> Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cured. <sup>43</sup> Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning: <sup>44</sup> "See that you don't tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them." <sup>45</sup> Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere.

**Conclusion:** *Even though Jesus told this cleansed leper not to tell others about Him, he did anyway, causing great crowds to follow Jesus. That forced Jesus out into the wide open desert. Did people follow Him there too? [Yes.] People were seeking Jesus because of His amazing power and AUTHORITY. The question is: Will they submit their lives to Jesus' AUTHORITY? Will you?*



## Lesson-At-Home

**Distribute the "Lesson-At-Home" bookmarks. Read the Scripture Memory verse (Matthew 28:18) together.**

### **Matthew 28:18 (NIV)**

<sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

**Say:** *There's our Word of the Week again! Who has all AUTHORITY on heaven and earth? [Jesus.] Who has all AUTHORITY over your life? [Jesus.] Learn this verse and submit your life to King Jesus!*

**Review the verse a couple of times.**

**Direct the students' attentions to the bottom half of the bookmark. It includes reminder points of today's lesson that can be discussed with their parents and reviewed during the week.**

**Close in prayer and dismiss the students.**

The **Lesson-At-Home** section is the closing time each week. Bookmarks are given to the students that include the Scripture memory verse and a lesson review. The lesson review contains words and phrases that can spark memories as well as conversation with parents.