

A man with a beard, seen from the side, is sitting at a wooden desk. He is reading an open book. On the desk, there is a grey mug and a smartphone. On the wall behind him is a calendar showing the days of the week: S M T W T F S.

# ANCHORED

*in the Word*

January 2023

# About Anchored in the Word

*Anchored in the Word* is a resource to help you read the Bible more consistently and fruitfully. Following this guide will lead you to read thoughtfully through entire New Testament over the year. You can do this by reading five days per week. If you want to read the whole Bible, appropriate passages from Old Testament are listed.

The guide is organized by week. Each week includes:

- A key verse taken from the week's reading. This is for you to meditate on and try to memorize.
- A brief introduction to the content of the week's reading.
- A space for notes for the week – you might use it for prayer requests, key lessons from the week, key ideas from Sunday's sermon, etc.

Then you will find a page for each day with the passage to read along with three questions. The passages are divided into roughly equal sections. Sometimes you will only read part of a chapter, or you might read parts of two chapters. Our goal was to make each reading about the same length, but make sure we ended at the end of a story or key idea.

Don't let the questions overwhelm you, they are just tools to help you. There are two main goals for the questions: (1) to stimulate our thinking, and (2) to help us discuss what we read together.

Remember to pray before, during and in response to reading. May God bless you as you read His Word!

All quotations are the from the Legacy Standard Bible (LSB) which you can read online at [read.lsbible.org](http://read.lsbible.org) or in many Bible apps.

# Week 1 (January 1-7)

VERSE OF THE WEEK

*And Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." (Mark 1:17)*

Mark introduces Jesus' identity, authority, and ministry. Jesus demonstrates His power to heal, cast out demons, and forgive sins. His ministry is sought after by many but hated by others. Jesus stresses the importance of hearing His word and then demonstrates the power of His words. The goal of this section is to provoke each reader to decide who Jesus is: "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?" (4:41)

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## **Week 1 / Day 1**

Read Mark 1:1-28

How does Mark show us that Jesus is worthy of attention?

According to the passage, what has Jesus come to do?

How can you make Jesus known to those around you?

*OT Readings for the day: Genesis 1-2; Psalm 19*

## **Week 1 / Day 2**

Read Mark 1:29-2:17

What do you think is the most surprising thing Jesus does in this passage?

How does Jesus demonstrate His claim to be able to forgive sins?

What difference do you think His authority should have in your own life?

*OT Readings for the day: Genesis 3-5*

## **Week 1 / Day 3**

□ Mark 2:18-3:19

How did Jesus justify His disciples picking and eating grain on the Sabbath?

What made the Pharisees and Herodians start planning to kill Jesus?

How can we make sure that rules benefit people instead of breaking people?

*OT Readings for the day: Genesis 6-8; Psalm 104*

## **Week 1 / Day 4**

□ Mark 3:20-4:20

What house is Jesus claiming to be overthrowing, and what could this mean for you?

According to this passage, how do you become a part of Jesus' family?

What can we learn about receiving God's Word from the parable in 4:1-20?

*OT Readings for the day: Genesis 9-11*

## **Week 1 / Day 5**

☐ Mark 4:21-41

What should we do with what we learn from Jesus?

What does Jesus teach about the kingdom in this passage?

How does the story of Jesus calming the storm with His words relate to the rest of chapter 4?

*OT Readings for the day: Genesis 12-15; Psalm 148*



# Week 2 (January 8-14)

VERSE OF THE WEEK

*But Jesus, overhearing what had been spoken, said to the synagogue official, "Do not be afraid, only believe." (Mark 5:36)*

This section of Mark continues showcasing Jesus' spectacular miracles and growing ministry. Mark demonstrates Jesus' authority over evil and His care for those who are held hostage to it. No one is beyond His help. Repeatedly Jesus confronts His disciples about their lack of faith. They struggle to understand His mission and identity. Jesus is questioned about washing and teaches that the heart is the source of evil that needs cleansing. Amazing miracles are performed in Gentile areas.

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## **Week 2 / Day 1**

Mark 5

List similarities/differences between the three miracles in this chapter.

What role did the person's faith have in obtaining a miracle?

How can we respond to troubled people in a way that honors Christ?

*OT Readings for the day: Genesis 16-18*

## Week 2 / Day 2

□ Mark 6:1-29

What makes Jesus marvel?

What can we learn about evangelism from this passage?

Herod made a rash promise that led to an unintended consequence. How might he have gotten out of this situation?

*OT Reading for the day: Genesis 19-20; Psalm 1*

## **Week 2 / Day 3**

□ Mark 6:30-56

What is Jesus teaching through the miracle of the loaves and fish?

What connection does Jesus make between the two miracles (see 6:50-52)?

What can we learn about prayer from this passage?

*OT Reading for the day: Genesis 21-23; Psalm 107*

## **Week 2 / Day 4**

□ Mark 7:1-30

What did Jesus say caused defilement?

How can tradition become more important than truth in our lives?

How does the Gentile woman's encounter with Jesus teach us to bring our requests to Him?

*OT Readings for the day: Genesis 24-25; Psalm 4*

## Week 2 / Day 5

□ Mark 7:31-8:21

Why do you suppose the disciples, having witnessed the feeding of the 5,000, have such a hard time believing Jesus can supply the needs of 4,000 here?

Why do we have a hard time looking past our circumstances to God's omnipotence? What are some ways we can grow in this area?

What did their generation look for? What does Jesus mean by saying that it will not be given to them?

*OT Readings for the day: Genesis 26-27*

# Week 3 (January 15-21)

VERSE OF THE WEEK

*And sitting down, He called the twelve and said to them, "If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all." (Mark 9:35)*

A blind man is healed in an unusual manner to demonstrate the importance of seeing Jesus and His mission clearly. Peter makes a clear declaration: "You are the Christ." Jesus is the Messiah, but He must take up His cross before taking up His crown. His followers have the same responsibility. Most of this week's section is focused on Jesus' ministry to the disciples. They are taught the nature of true greatness, and Jesus demonstrates that the world's values are turned upside down in God's kingdom. Jesus enters Jerusalem as king, but in spite of this He is misunderstood and ignored. In chapter 11, Mark focuses on Jesus' conflict with the religious and political leaders in Israel. This conflict leads to Jesus' crucifixion.

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## Week 3 / Day 1

□ Mark 8:22-9:13

What event takes place just before Peter's confession?  
Why do you think these two stories are placed next to each other?

According to Jesus, why must a man "deny himself" and "lose his life"?

How is Jesus' transfiguration a taste of His coming kingdom?

*OT Readings for the day: Genesis 28-29*



## Week 3 / Day 2

□ Mark 9:14-50

Why are the disciples unable to help the demon-possessed boy?

Look for a question the disciples did not want to ask and another they did not want to answer. What does their fear reveal about them?

Who is the greatest according to Jesus?

*OT Readings for the day: Genesis 30-31; Psalm 11*

## **Week 3 / Day 3**

☐ Mark 10:1-22

How does Jesus answer the Pharisee' trick question about divorce?

What does it mean to receive the kingdom like a little child?

What keeps some "good" people from eternal life?

*OT Readings for the day: Genesis 32-34; Psalm 145*

## **Week 3 / Day 4**

□ Mark 10:23-52

Why is it hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God?

According to Jesus, why did He ("the Son of Man") come?

What does the blind man ask for? How is this story a fitting conclusion to today's reading?

*OT Readings for the day: Genesis 35-37; Psalm 12*

## Week 3 / Day 5

□ Mark 11

How does Mark show the significance of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem?

Why is Jesus upset with what is going on in the temple?

Many people believe they will escape the judgment of God simply because they are religious. How can this passage serve as a warning to them and to us?

*OT Readings for the day: Genesis 38-40*

# Week 4 (January 22-28)

VERSE OF THE WEEK

*And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. (Mark 12:30)*

Jesus responds to those who question his authority by showing that they have rejected Him and have refused to give God the worship He deserves. When deceivers are prominent, the disciples are supposed to live by staying on task, remaining watchful, and preaching the gospel. The final chapter of the reading begins with remarkable loyalty and ends with remarkable betrayal. The disciples desert Jesus as He is arrested and tried before the High Priest.

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## **Week 4 / Day 1**

□ Mark 12:1-34

If the tenants (vine-growers) are Israel and its religious leaders, who are the owner, the servants and the son?

How does Jesus prove the resurrection? What can we learn from His response for our own defense of the faith?

What are the two most important commands? What are the next steps you can take to grow in your obedience to them?

*OT Readings for the day: Genesis 41-42*

## **Week 4 / Day 2**

□ Mark 12:35-13:23

What is the connection between Jesus' warning about the scribes and His observation about the widow's offering?

Jesus warns there will be deliberate deceivers trying to lead His people astray. How can we guard against this danger?

How do we stay ready for the return of Jesus?

*OT Readings for the day: Genesis 43-44; Psalm 24*

## **Week 4 / Day 3**

□ Mark 13:24-14:9

What events will conclude the tribulation?

Why do you think the exact time of these events hidden from us?

What provoked the woman to pour out her perfume on Jesus? Have you ever made a financially costly sacrifice for Jesus?

*OT Readings for the day: Genesis 45-46; Psalm 108*



## **Week 4 / Day 4**

□ Mark 14:10-42

How did the disciples respond to Jesus' revelation of His betrayal? What does this reveal about them and the betrayer?

What did they do after receiving the first Lord's Supper?

What can we learn from this passage about how to prepare for difficulties that we know are coming?

*OT Readings for the day: Genesis 47-48; Psalm 25*

## **Week 4 / Day 5**

□ Mark 14:43-72

What mixed motives do you see in the main characters in today's reading?

What is emphasized about Jesus' trial before the religious leaders?

How does Jesus identify Himself? What is the significance of this?

*OT Readings for the day: Genesis 49-50*





