

# Week 2: Mark 3-4

## Day 1: Mark 3:1-19

1. Why were the Pharisees watching Jesus closely?

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○ What does this reveal about their hearts?

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○ How are they responding to miracles taking place right in front of them?

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2. How does Jesus respond to them?

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○ From this question, what does Jesus seem to be equating inaction with?

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3. What two feelings does Jesus have toward the Pharisees?

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○ How can we balance those emotions in our own lives when people do wrong?

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○ Is all anger sinful? (Ephesians 4:26, James 1:19-20)

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4. Why does Jesus feel this way?

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5. What does Jesus do?

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6. How do the Pharisees respond?

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7. How did Jesus respond to the demons calling him the “Son of God”?

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8. Why would he want his identity to be a secret?

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9. Read Luke 6:12-13. Why did Jesus go up to the mountain?

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10. What was the job of the 12 disciples at this time?

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11. Why did Jesus call James and John “Sons of Thunder?” (Luke 9:54, an undesigned coincidence indicative of good eyewitness testimony)

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## Day 2: Mark 3:20-35

1. What did Jesus' family say about him?

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  - Did his family believe he had power?

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2. What did the Pharisees say about him?

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  - Did the Pharisees believe he had power?

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3. How does Jesus respond to the Pharisees?

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4. Who here is in danger of committing the unforgivable sin?

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5. Read Matthew 24:24 and Deuteronomy 13:1-3. Is saying a sign or a wonder or a prophet is not from God blaspheming the Holy Spirit?

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6. Looking at the rest of Scripture, do we have any examples of people who have sinned too much to be forgiven by God?

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7. What is the ministry of the Holy Spirit? (John 16:8, John 15:26)

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8. Have the Pharisees seen enough evidence that they should believe Jesus is sent from God?

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9. Looking at the context, what do you think Jesus is saying is the unforgivable sin?

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  - a. Is it a sin that is too big or is it possibly a heart that has hardened itself against God and does not want to accept Christ as Lord?

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10. Who does Jesus say are his true family?

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11. Do the blood relatives of Jesus have special privileges to him other than witnessing his entire life?

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12. What does it mean to you that we can be considered a part of God's family?

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## Day 3: Mark 4:1-20

1. Why did Jesus teach in parables?  
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2. Who are the outsiders when Jesus says this?  
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3. Read Ezekiel 33:11, 1 Timothy 2:3-4. Who does God want to be saved?  
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4. Does Jesus use parables to blind people or because they are blind?  
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5. What sin did we just speak about in the section before?  
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  - If someone understands the parables perfectly and rejects them, is this worse than if they simply think it's a neat story?  
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  - What, then, is the purpose of parables?  
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6. What advantage do we have today that the people of these crowds did not have? (John 16:7, Acts 2:4, Ephesians 2:22)  
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7. Who is the sower?  
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8. What are the four types of soil?  
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9. What does the soil represent?  
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  - What types of soil have you been in your life?  
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  - Can someone's "type of soil" change?  
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10. What kills the seed planted on the rocky soil?  
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11. What keeps the seed in the thorns from producing fruit?  
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  - What things might keep you from producing fruit for God's Kingdom?  
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12. What three things does the seed in the rich soil do?  
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13. Going back to verse 12, what soil do you think the person who hears but does not understand might be?  
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## Day 4: Mark 4:21-25

1. What is our job in this parable?

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- Do we create the light or do we simply make sure we are putting the light in a place of prominence?
  - What is the purpose of the light?
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2. Read John 1:1-9. What element does this bring to the parable in Mark?

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3. Jesus speaks of something being hidden and brought out into the open. What is he referring to?

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4. Read Romans 16:25-26 and Ephesians 1:9-10.

- What was hidden and what reveals it?
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5. Read Luke 24:26-27, John 5:39 and John 5:46-47

- What parts of the Scriptures (The Old Testament) are about Jesus?
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6. Do you take heed of what you hear? Are you careful what teachers you learn from?

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7. When we hear, what is given?

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- Based on the context, is Jesus promising material blessings here or spiritual blessings?
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## Day 5: Mark 4:25-34

1. What do you think is the main idea that Jesus wants us to take away from the parable of the growing seed?  
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2. Who is the farmer? (Read Mark 4:14)  
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  - Apart from planting/watering, does he cause it to grow?  
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3. What is probably the meaning of the harvest? (Read Matthew 13:39)  
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4. What does the parable of the growing seed teach us about evangelism (telling people about Jesus)?  
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5. How is the Kingdom of God like a mustard seed?  
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6. How has the Kingdom of God and Christianity impacted our world today?  
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  - Is it a large impact or a small impact?  
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7. Why did Jesus teach in parables? (verse 33)  
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**Research Question:** Is the mustard seed the smallest seed in the world? Is this literal or hyperbolic language and does it change the meaning of the text?

## Day 6: Mark 4:35-41

1. What did Jesus do to get away from the crowds?

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2. What was he doing in the boat?

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3. Why were the disciples afraid?

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4. What did they ask Jesus?

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- Have you ever asked God the same question?

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5. How did Jesus respond to them?

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6. Why does Jesus controlling the weather freak the disciples out so much? (Read Psalm 65:5-11, Psalm 89:8-9)

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- Who is Jesus showing he is with this action?

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7. Read Psalm 107:23-32

- What do the sailors in need say?

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- How is this similar or different from what the disciples ask?

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8. What did the disciples fail to believe?

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- Were they supposed to not wake Jesus up or was it something else?

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9. Were the disciples more afraid or less afraid after Jesus calms the storm?

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10. Did the disciples understand at this point who Jesus was?

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