

# The Gospel of Mark

**Group Guide:** Week 19, Part I, Mark 10:1-12

## INTRODUCTION

The turning point of Mark has happened and Jesus is teaching and preparing His disciples for His death. He is teaching to equip them for life after the cross. The disciples are still struggling to understand and have not grasped the reality of the cross or the depth of Christ's teachings. Crowds are flocking and the Pharisees are becoming more hostile in their attempts to trick Jesus. Christ remains steadfast in His teaching and hope for His followers to repent of their sins and live a life that is in line with the gospel.

## PRAYER

## READ

Have someone read aloud Mark 10:1-12

## SUMMARIZE

Ask two people to summarize the passage who didn't summarize last week or who have not summarized a passage yet.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *What comes to your mind when you hear the word divorce?*
2. In Mark 10:1-2 Jesus begins teaching as the crowds gather, as was His custom. *What are your customs? What influences and shapes your habits and daily tasks/encounters?*
3. *What is the significance between the change of action from "commanded" to "allowed" in the Pharisees response to Jesus?*

## N.T. FURTHER READING

Matt. 19:1-12, Luke 16:18

## O.T. FURTHER READING

Duet. 24:1-4

## FURTHER STUDY

As you read write out any words in this passage that would be helpful for you to look up in a dictionary.

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## NOTES

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4. In Mark 10:5-9, what is the reason Jesus gives for Moses allowing divorce? What was God's original design? How are those two different? Why would Moses allow divorce if that wasn't God's design or intent?

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5. What hope and encouragement can be found in this text for those who have been divorced or are hurting as a result of divorce?

6. Read Ephesians 5:21-33 then reread Mark 10:1-12. What encouragement can you glean from the two texts side by side? Think about the marriage of Christ and His Church in light of the Mark passage. The church is the bride of Christ: what about that truth is hard to believe, where do you doubt, what comfort do you find in it, how does it encourage you?

#### RESPONSE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*Personal:* What perceptions, thoughts, hurts, sins do you need to confess around divorce? How have you been judgmental, indifferent, swayed by culture? How has your relationship with the Lord and His bride been affected?

*Church:* Discuss ways that you or your home group can better mirror the marriage of Christ and the Church in your group.

*World:* What cultural ideas, opinions, statutes have Christians allowed that the Lord has not commanded? Where have Christians been swayed, tolerant or indifferent of cultural norms that are contrary to the Lord's design.

#### SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION:

Mark 10:29-31

#### PRAY TOGETHER

# The Gospel of Mark

**Group Guide:** Week 19, Part II Mark 10: 13-31

## INTRODUCTION

In this passage, Jesus continues to teach the disciples (and us). Jesus clearly corrects and informs the disciples on the importance of bringing children to Him. He also teaches the importance in all of us having a child-like faith. His teaching gets even more specific as He informs the rich young man that he must give up his earthly possessions to follow Him. This passage can lead us to wonder where we put our hope and trust, and what we are not willing to give up to follow Christ. However, we have assurance that all things are possible with God and there are great rewards for those that follow Him today. The missionary, Jim Elliot, may have had this and other Biblical passages in mind when he stated: “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.”

## PRAYER

## READ

Ask a group member to read Mark 10: 13-31.

## SUMMARIZE

Ask two group members who didn't summarize last week to summarize the passage this week.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the funniest or most endearing thing you've seen or heard from a child?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Why would the disciples rebuke those bringing children to Jesus? How does that happen today? What is your specific role in bringing children to Jesus?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What does it look like for an adult to “receive the kingdom of God like a child” (vs. 15)? What challenges do we as adults have in this regard?

## N.T. FURTHER READING

Matthew 19:16-30; Luke 18:1-6,17-30

## O.T. FURTHER READING

Gen. 18:14; Exodus 20:12-16; Deut. 5:16-20

## FURTHER STUDY

As you read write out any words in this passage that would be helpful for you to look up in a dictionary.

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## NOTES

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4. Jesus deals directly with the rich young man out of love (vs. 21), telling him that he must give up his earthly possessions and follow Christ. Give examples of how people today choose their “riches” over following Christ. Also, give examples where you and people you know have given up their earthly possessions to follow Him.

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5. In verses 23-27, Jesus teaches the disciples about difficulties of entering the kingdom of God and that with man it is impossible, but with God all things are possible. How does this passage help you with the assurance of salvation? Discuss any concerns you have.

6. In verse 28, Peter was able to say “we have left everything and followed you.” Jesus provides a comforting promise (vs. 29-31) for those that leave much, including family and suffer for His sake. What are you willing to leave to follow Christ? How is this passage comforting or challenging to you?

**RESPONSE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

*Personal:* What possessions or areas of your life do you need to prayerfully give over to the Lord? How can others be praying for you?

*Church:* How can we encourage each other to bring children to Christ as well as have a child-like faith ourselves?

*World:* See verse 21. In what specific situations do you need to follow Jesus’s example and give a difficult message out of love?

**PRAY TOGETHER**

**SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION:**

Mark 10:29-31