

# grow deep

### Mark Edition

The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. - Mark 10:45

#### Grow Deep Mark Edition

"This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how." —Mark 4:25-27



Jesus frequently taught people with very simple word pictures and stories. Seeds are planted. They sprout and grow. It's a mystery how something so small and fragile grows, but it does! God's kingdom is like that, too.

"Grow Deep" is a way to sow seed. This booklet lays out a daily plan of Bible readings from the Gospel of Mark. They are seeds of God's Word that He will grow in you.

Mark is 16 short chapters. You could read it in an afternoon. This reading plan, however, is designed to plant a few daily seeds into your thoughts. You'll be surrounded by a garden of material drawn from the work and teachings of Jesus. We've divided Mark into six weeks of readings designed to align with the season of Lent. There's even rest on Sundays (another growth activity). Whether it's the first time you're reading the Gospel of Mark or you're revisiting familiar territory, expect your relationship with Jesus to grow deeper through this process.

You don't have to be a scholar to grow deep. We're all unique, and each of us is growing at a different rate and depth. It's God's promise to produce the growth. Jesus teaches us not to be uptight about "how." His work is mysterious that way. We're convinced you'll meet Jesus and grow deep with Him when you consistently read and reflect on the Bible.

May God bless you as you Grow Deep in His word! The Lutheran Church of Webster Gardens

Pastors Joel Christiansen, Brian King, and Bill Geis February 2015

#### **My Commitment to Grow Deep**

We prepared this Mark edition with the season of Lent in mind. Traditionally Christians have made personal changes to their habits and schedules to intentionally make room for Jesus during Lent.

The Mark Edition of Grow Deep proposes the reading plan, but it is critical for you to support that plan with your commitment to follow through.

<u>We invite you to begin this journey with prayer</u>. This booklet is one among many resources available to encourage you in your journey. It is prepared with prayer that it may complement God's will for your life.

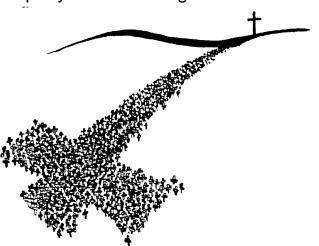
<u>We invite you to write down</u> a time you will set aside to read and reflect on Scripture each day. The readings in this booklet take less than 5 minutes a day; however, you'll want to allot time for reflection and listening to God.

I commit to daily reading and reflecting on Scripture at \_\_\_\_\_ each day.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

<u>We invite you to do this together</u> with other friends and with your church. We encourage you to sign up for our daily text messages which will accompany these readings. We

encourage you to share you tions in small groups, with you children and grandchildren, conversations with co-worke and even on your Facebook page. We welcome your sharing of inspirational thoughts, stories, pictures, and videos on our Facebook page as well.



#### Mosaic

Week 1 (Feb 22-28) Mark chapters 1 through 3

> Mark is a mosaic of the life and ministry of Jesus. He doesn't tell the story like a novel. The story flows more like titles in a mosaic or snapshots in a photo album. They



give us those "Kodak Moments" on which to reflect.

Who is this Jesus? He calls for disciples, and they follow Him. He rebukes demons, and they are driven away. He touches people with compassion, and they are healed.

What is my response to Jesus? This week's snapshots beg the question. Jesus Himself closes chapter 3 with these challenging words, *"Whoever does God's will is My brother and sister and mother."* (3:34).

Monday:	Mark 1:1-20
Tuesday:	Mark 1:21-45
Wednesday:	Mark 2:1-17
Thursday:	Mark 2:18-3:6
Friday:	Mark 3:7-19
Saturday:	Mark 3:20-35



**Seeds** Week 2: (Mar 1-7) Mark chapters 4 through 6

We sit down at the feet of the Master Teacher. He illustrates His teaching with a picture of sowing seed. Even as He speaks, He's sowing hope and life into the lives of people.

We begin the week meditating on short parables. Through them, Jesus teaches us about God's kingdom at work. This kingdom isn't some place far away. It's here. Jesus is staking His claim and nothing will stop Him. Storms bow to His authority. The demons run away squealing. The dead are raised to life.

Jesus has claimed His territory. He's sowing seeds on the lives He claims then... and now. "Go home," He says with more seed falling from His hands. "Tell them how much the Lord has done for you!" (5:19)

Monday:	Mark 4:1-20
Tuesday:	Mark 4:21-34
Wednesday:	Mark 4:35-41
Thursday:	Mark 5:1-20
Friday:	Mark 5:21-43
Saturday:	Mark 6:1-13



#### Hunger Week 3: (Mar 8-14) Mark chapters 6 through 8

Everywhere we look in the tapestry of this week's

readings we meet hungry people. The masses who followed Jesus without their lunch baskets are among the obvious. But there are hungry people we encounter throughout these stories. Some are hungry and know it; others are starving and don't even realize it.

Where we find hungry people, we find faith. Where we find people starving in denial, we find no faith. Jesus comes to arouse our senses and hunger for God. He shows compassion on the hungry and satisfies their deepest need.

Has Jesus fed your hunger? You'll know it in His satisfying call to serve the hungry in His stead. "You give them something to eat," He says. (6:37)

Monday:	Mark 6:14-29
Tuesday:	Mark 6:30-44
Wednesday:	Mark 6:45-56
Thursday:	Mark 7:1-23
Friday:	Mark 7:24-37
Saturday:	Mark 8:1-21



#### Greatness

Week 4: (Mar 15-21) Mark chapters 8 through 10

Children are prominent in Mark's mosaic work this week. Jesus upturns the benchmark for greatness by showing us the faith of a child.

Our journey begins this week with a question of faith, "Who do you say that I am?" Those who know greatness, know Jesus. Peter doesn't fully understand it, but in a moment of child-like-greatness he shouts out, "You are the Christ!"

Children don't need to understand it all, they just trust the ones they love. Jesus calls us to be children of such faith. He calls us to guard everything that gets in the way of that simple faith in a world where greatness is turned upside down.

Greatness is on the road ahead where we see a distant cross.

Monday:	Mark 8:22-30
Tuesday:	Mark 8:31-9:1
Wednesday:	Mark 9:2-13
Thursday:	Mark 9:14-32
Friday:	Mark 9:33-50
Saturday:	Mark 10:1-31

#### Questions

Week 5: (Mar 22-28) Mark chapters 10-13

> Scholars believe Mark's first readers lived in Rome under intense persecution. His mosaic style gave them images of Jesus to hold on to. They lived in a world



where so many questions remained unanswered. They lived by faith in Jesus rather than having all the answers to their questions.

As Jesus comes to Jerusalem He is bombarded by questions. Many of them are designed to derail His message and mission. But Jesus is greater than our toughest questions. He doesn't give us simplistic answers. He suffers with our endless and hopeless questions. He will take them to the cross.

Monday:	Mark 10:32-52
Tuesday:	Mark 11:1-19
Wednesday:	Mark 11:20-33
Thursday:	Mark 12:1-27
Friday:	Mark 12:28-44
Saturday:	Mark 13:1-37



The Cross

Week 6: (Mar 29-Apr 4) Mark chapters 14-16

We've arrived at the longest chapter of Mark. Everything in Mark's Gospel has been leading us to the cross.

The mosaic of Mark is ultimately a picture of Jesus taking the cross for us. That's Mark from beginning to end. That's the Bible from beginning to end. That's our faith from beginning to end.

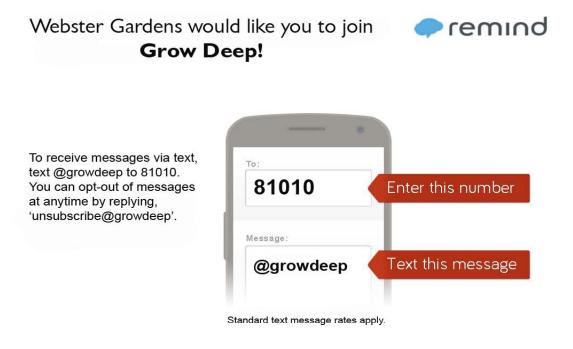
Mark gives us only one sentence spoken from Jesus after He was condemned to death. We see His suffering and death through the lives around the cross. We're around the cross, too. It is for our salvation that He takes the cross.

Mark plants the cross deep within his mosaic. He's sowing seeds again ... seeds intended to grow deep. By the grace of God they sprout and produce our cry of faith: Truly Jesus is the Son of God! (15:39).

Monday:	Mark 14:1-26
Tuesday:	Mark 14:27-42
Wednesday:	Mark 14:43-72
Thursday:	Mark 15:1-20
Friday:	Mark 15:21-47
Saturday:	Mark 16:1-20

#### Grow Deep Daily Reminder

From February 23 through April 4, Webster Gardens is providing daily text message reminders for the Grow Deep reading plan. You'll receive one text message each morning with the reading for the day along with a reflection thought or question to encourage you to Grow Deep with Mark. More than 150 people are already signed up. It's a great way to grow deep together. Here's how to sign up with your cell phone.



Or to receive messages via email, send an email to growdeep@mail.remind.com To unsubscribe, reply with 'unsubscribe' in the subject line.



#### WHAT IS REMIND AND WHY IS IT SAFE?

Remind is a one-way text messaging and email system. With Remind, all personal infomation remains completely confidential. They will never see your phone number, nor will they ever see theirs. Visit remind.com to learn more.

#### NOTES:

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