



**Missional Discipleship Bible Study  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Every Member Bible Study-  
The Gospel of Mark  
Pelican Rapids MN  
October 2007-October 2008**

**An Introduction**

Each board and committee of the congregation is asked to follow the church council's example and begin each meeting with significant Bible Study. The Bible studies are printed in the monthly newsletter mailed to each home and are available to be e-mailed to each board member. If the chapter(s) is read at home and the questions reviewed before the meeting, the Bible study can be completed in 20-30 minutes. It is the most important 20 minutes of your board meeting. Don't skip it. The church council found that over the last two years their meetings were shorter when we began with Bible study.

There are four groups or types of questions in each study. You may choose to discuss just one or two of the questions in each group. The purpose of the warm up questions is just to get conversation started and to get the group to warm up and get to know each other a little better. Start with one of these questions and go around the table and ask each person to respond to one of the easy questions. The questions get more difficult. The factual questions are simply asking for information from the reading. Missional questions attempt to apply the chapter read to our context here in Pelican Rapids. Discipleship questions, the most difficult questions, are to help us reflect on our spiritual walk with Jesus and to draw us closer to him. Just pick one question from each group for your study time.

The chair person of the board or the council liaison may lead the Bible study. Or the board chair may chose to ask other board members to lead the study. Everyone is encouraged to get the big picture, and read through the 16 chapters of the gospel of Mark in just one sitting. May God guide us through this study and help us to know and grow in faithfulness and commitment to our Lord.

**Pastor Laurie Skow-Anderson**

**Church Council and Boards Bible Study-Missional Discipleship 101**  
**Every member of the congregation is invited to join Trinity's leadership in**  
**Bible Study each month\*\*\*October 2007\*\*\*Mark 1**

**Quick Facts:** Mark is the shortest and earliest of the gospels written. It has only 16 chapters and was written between 55-65 AD. The word "gospel" in Greek is *εὐαγγέλιον*, means "good news." Jesus Christ's teaching, healing, life, death and resurrection is the good news for all humanity. From the greek word for gospel we get the word "evangelism."



**Read the entire book of Mark. If you don't have time, just read Mark 1.**

**1.Warm up question**

What is the strangest thing you have ever eaten?

**2.Factual questions**

What was unique about John the Baptist's diet?

What is John the Baptist's identity, purpose and mission?

What happened to John in vs 14?      What was Jesus' first miracle vs 24?  
Second miracle vs 30?

**Missional Questions**

3.What is the good news in this chapter?

How are people's lives changed or transformed by their encounter with Jesus?

How does this text send us out as witnesses/missionaries?

How does this reading help us look to the coming reign of God? To the future?

**Discipleship Questions**

4. Jesus finds a quiet place to pray vs 35. What is the greatest obstacle you face in your personal devotional and prayer life?

finding time     finding a quiet place     being consistent     being distracted  
 knowing what to do     having the desire

In Mark 1:40 Jesus had compassion on a leper and healed him with his touch. How have you known compassion in your life? How have you known healing in your life?

How can we be the hands of Christ and reach out with compassion and bring a healing touch to the most despised in our society?

**Church Council and Boards Bible Study-Missional Discipleship 101**  
**Every member of the congregation is invited to join Trinity's leadership in**  
**Bible Study each month \*\*\*November 2007\*\*\*Mark 2**

**Quick Facts:** Mark can be divided into two sections. The first, chapters 1-8 describe the beginning of Jesus' ministry and the power of his teaching and healing all proof that he is the Messiah. The second part of Mark, chapters 8:27-16:20, is an account of Jesus' predictions and preparation for his crucifixion. The first part occurs in and around Galilee and the second part moves toward Jerusalem. The second part also includes his teaching while in Jerusalem.



**Read the entire book of Mark. If you don't have time, just read Mark 2.**

**Warm up question**

1. Have you ever been really sick? When? Who was there to help you?  
What characteristics do you value most in a friend?

**Factual questions**

2. How did the friends get the paralyzed man to Jesus?

Is Mark 2:1-12 a healing story, a controversy story, or both? What was the controversy about?

What does Jesus have authority over in chapter 1? Chapter 2?

Who does Jesus call to be his disciples in Mark 2:13-17?

What laws does Jesus reinterpret?

**Missional questions**

3. What can we learn about church, community or culture from this chapter?

What is the good news in this chapter?

How does this chapter encourage us to be disciples to share the good news?

How does this chapter call for change in our personal or congregational life?

**Discipleship questions**

4. In what way is sin like paralysis?

What is the deal with the new wine in new wine skins? What does that have to do with our spiritual lives? Our faith's community's life?

2:18-28 is concerned about the behavior of Jesus and his disciples. Does our behavior matter? To the church? To the community? To God?

**Church Council and Boards Bible Study-Missional Discipleship 101**  
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**Bible Study each month\*\*\*December 2007\*\*\*Mark 3**

**Quick Facts** Mark is one the three synoptic gospels. Matthew, Mark and Luke all tell the story of Jesus' life from their perspective and from the oral tradition they had heard. Written much later, it is believed that Matthew and Luke "copied" parts of Mark gospel. Compare the birth stories and the resurrection accounts in each of the three gospels to see the differences. Jesus mission was to shake up the strongly held religious and social convictions of his time. He told the truth and the truth upsets people. The demons know who Jesus is, but the religious leaders of the day did not. "Apostles" in Greek is ἀποστόλους which means, 'sent ones.'



**Read the entire book of Mark. If you don't have time, just read Mark 3.**

#### **Warm up questions**

1. What is your favorite thing to do on your day off?  
How do you usually spend the Sabbath?  
What is the craziest thing you have ever done?

#### **Factual Questions**

2. Did Jesus break another law?  
What sin were the Pharisees and Herodians planning to commit?  
Why was Jesus angry in 3:5?  
What did the unclean/evil spirit call Jesus 3:11?  
Who thought Jesus was crazy 3:20-22?  
What is the unforgivable sin 3:28?  
Who can be a part of Jesus' family 3:35?

#### **Missional questions**

3. Why did Jesus appoint the 12 disciples? What was their mission?  
What is the good news in this chapter?  
Has anyone ever said that you were crazy because you wanted to try something new or different in the church? What happens to people who try to shake thing up at Trinity?  
What can we learn about our church, community and culture from the Mark 3?

#### **Discipleship questions**

4. Have you ever had a conflict between what God wanted you to do and what your family expected of you?  
How do you need to change your understanding of the Sabbath?  
Are you a disciple of Christ? A sent one? If so, what is your mission?

Church Council and Boards Bible Study-Missional Discipleship 101  
Every member of the congregation is invited to join Trinity's leadership in  
Bible Study each month \*\*\*January 2008\*\*\*Mark 4

**Quick Facts:** Jesus teaches using parables. Parables are just brief stories drawn from common experiences with a twist. The parables help the reader imagine the new reality of the Kingdom of God.<sup>1</sup>



**Sometime during this Bible study, try to read the entire gospel of Mark in one sitting. Read Mark 4.**

### Warm up questions

1. Have you ever been caught in a natural disaster? Flood, tornado, forest fire, snow storm? What happened?

### Factual questions

2. Why did Jesus teach from a boat?  
What are the 4 types of soil in the parable?  
What does the parable mean?  
What is the Kingdom of God like?  
Where was Jesus during the storm?

### Missional questions

3. What does the parables of the seeds about God's preferred future for our church?  
In the parable of the sower and seed, everyone responded to Jesus' mission differently. Not everyone agreed. How do we respond to people who do not understand the mission of our congregation or disagree with the direction the church is moving?  
What is the good news in this chapter?

### Discipleship questions

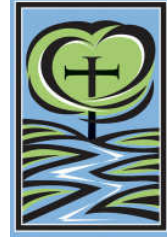
4. What is the worst personal storm that you have ever had to face?  
How did Jesus help you?  
Depending on your translation the word to "listen" or to "hear" occurred 9 times in this chapter. How important is listening to God in your life? How have you heard God this week? Are you spending time in silence listening for God?

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<sup>1</sup> The New Interpreter's Bible, NIB vol 8, pg 568

**Church Council and Boards Bible Study-Missional Discipleship 101**  
**Every member of the congregation is invited to join Trinity's leadership in**  
**Bible Study each month\*\*\*February 2008\*\*\*Mark 5**

**Quick Facts:** Mark is written in short easy to read sentences. Mark was probably written as a missionary book to people who knew next to nothing about the new Christian faith. This gospel was probably written to a non jewish perhaps Roman audience.<sup>2</sup>



**Sometime during this Bible study, try to read the entire gospel of Mark in one sitting. Read Mark 5.**

**Warm up questions**

1. Just for fun guess and then flip through the gospel of Mark and count the number of times Jesus casts out a demon or evil spirit. How close was your guess? **About 5**  
Have you ever seen the movie The Exorcist? What do you remember?

**Factual questions**

2. How many demons possessed the man?  
What was wrong with Jarius' daughter?  
How many years did the bleeding woman suffer?

**Missional questions**

3. Who reports the exorcism? How did the folks respond to the news?

Did the people want Jesus to stay? See vs 17  
Where does Jesus send the man who had been demon possessed?  
What mission did Jesus give him?  
What did Jesus say healed the bleeding woman?  
Why do you think Jesus tell Jarius' family to tell no one about the miracle?

**Discipleship questions**

4. What demons are chasing you?

What do you need to ask Jesus to heal you from today?<sup>3</sup>  
\_\_physical problem      \_\_family problem    \_\_ financial problem  
\_\_emotional problem    \_\_spiritual problem

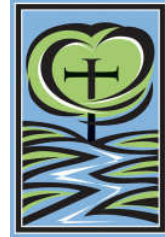
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<sup>2</sup> The New Student Bible, NRSV, pg 901

<sup>3</sup> Serendipity Bible for Groups, NIV pg 1388

**Church Council and Boards Bible Study-Missional Discipleship 101**  
**Every member of the congregation is invited to join Trinity's leadership in**  
**Bible Study each month \*\*\*March 2008\*\*\*Mark 6**

**Quick Facts** The 12 shared Jesus' authority and mission. Their teachings and healings were extensions of Jesus' own ministry. The church recognizes an obligation to continue Jesus' work. The church's mission is the gospel not institutional survival.



**Sometime during this Bible study, try to read the entire gospel of Mark in one sitting. Read Mark 6.**

**1. Warm up questions**

What is your hometown?

What is the largest party that you have ever given?

How many people came?

What is your favorite water sport?

**2. Factual questions**

What kind of response did Jesus get in his hometown?

What were the disciples to take with them when they went out two by two?

What happened to John the Baptist?

How did Jesus feel about the crowds that followed him? See vs 34.

How do the disciples respond to Jesus walking on the water?

**3. Missional questions**

What three things Jesus disciples do when they were sent out? See vss12-13

As Jesus' disciples today, what three things do we need to do?

What is our role as Christians in feeding the hungry?

What are the storms that face our church? Our community? Where is Jesus in the storm?

**4. Discipleship questions**

Where is Jesus sending you?

Why was Herodias angry with John the Baptist?

John the Baptist was a truth teller. What are the risks we take when we tell the truth?

Jesus walked on the water and fed 5000. What miracle would like Jesus to do in your life?

Jesus went up on the mountainside to pray. How is your prayer life? Where do you

pray?

**Church Council and Boards Bible Study-Missional Discipleship 101**  
**Every member of the congregation is invited to join Trinity's leadership in**  
**Bible Study each month \*\*\*April 2008\*\*\*Mark 7**

**Quick Facts:** For Lesson 7

Mark 7 is a controversy story. The Pharisees challenge Jesus' authority. Mark was written to the Gentiles who haven't kept the Jewish purification laws or customs. Jesus removes this food barrier enabling the Gentiles to become believers.

**Read Mark 7. Sometime during this Bible study try to read the entire gospel of Mark in one sitting.**



### 1. Warm Up Questions

What is your favorite messy food? BBQ ribs, corn on the cob, spaghetti...  
If you were to become deaf would you miss hearing the most?

### 2. Factual Questions

Where was the woman with the demon possessed daughter from? Why is this important?  
What does the word "Ephphatha" mean?  
How did the people disobey Jesus? vs 36

### 3. Missional Questions

What traditions do we hold on to that are human made and not of God?  
Have we set aside the commands of God in order to observe our own traditions? vs 9  
What comes out of the church is unclean? Vs 13  
What boundaries does Jesus cross in this chapter?  
What boundaries do we need to cross in Pelican Rapids?  
Are "foreigners" welcomed in our church? Jesus never turned away a person in need, as church do we?  
In what ways is the church deaf? Mute?

### 4. Discipleship Questions

Are you trying to hide a secret sin from God? What comes out of you that is unclean?  
What is the difference between outward piety and inward devotion to God in one's heart?  
What authority does Jesus have in your life?  
What word or message is hard for you to hear?  
What are the hardest words for you to say?  
Have you ever told anyone about your experiences of God? Your relationship with Christ?

**Church Council and Boards Bible Study-Missional Discipleship 101**  
**Every member of the congregation is invited to join Trinity's leadership in**  
**Bible Study each month\*\*\*May 2008\*\*\*Mark 8-9**

**Quick Facts:** For Chapters 8-9 Here the movement in Mark changes. Jesus begins to prepare his disciples for his suffering and death.



**Read Mark 8-9. Sometime during this Bible study, try to read the entire gospel of Mark in one sitting.**

**1.Warm Up Questions**

Do you or did you ever have a nickname? What was it?

What is your middle name?

What is the highest place you've ever climbed?

**2.Factual Questions**

Name the three miracles that Jesus performs in chapters 8-9.

How does Jesus begin to prepare his disciples for his suffering and death?

What is Peter up to in Mark 8 and 9?

**3.Missional Questions**

When the going gets tough what do the tough do?

According to Jesus, what is true greatness

Jesus showed compassion to the crowds that followed him. How do we show compassion to the crowds who do not yet know Jesus as Lord?

Reflecting on the miracles that Jesus has performed in these first 9 chapters of Mark, what do you think the kingdom of God/reign of God will be like?

**4.Discipleship Questions**

When is it hardest for you to believe? Was there a period in your life when you didn't believe? Doubted?

What would you say if someone asked you, "Who is Jesus?"

In what ways are you spiritually blind?

**Church Council and Boards Bible Study-Missional Discipleship 101**  
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**Bible Study each month\*\*\*June 2008\*\*\*Mark 10**

**Quick Facts:** Jesus' teaching on divorce was directed at "hard hearted," those who lacked compassion. Jesus was looking at the selfish individualism of Herod's court when he made his comments in answer to the Pharisees' question. He was not telling a battered woman that she and her children must risk physical and psychological torment every day to avoid divorce.<sup>4</sup> Children were not consider persons with rights. They had no power or status. They were property of the father. Jesus insists that the reign of God is for the lowly.



**Read Mark 10. Sometime during this Bible study, try to read the entire gospel of Mark in one sitting.**

### 1. Warm Up Questions

What part time jobs did you have in high school? As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

If you could ask Jesus one question, what would it be?

### 2. Factual Questions

What was the intent of the Pharisee's questions? What were they trying to do?

What is God's intention for marriage?

What was the rich young man's question? What did the rich man lack?

What did James and John want from Jesus?

What was Bartimaeus' response to Jesus?

### 3. Missional Questions

How can we use our wealth to give glory to God?

How can we best serve God in our community? What is God doing in Pelican Rapids?

How can we help raise up the children of our village to give glory to God?

What attitude should we take as missionaries/ambassadors when meeting a non Christian?

### 4. Discipleship Questions

In what ways are we spiritually blind? What can we learn from Bartimaeus?

In what ways does our wealth get in the way of following Jesus?

In what ways does our pride get in the way of following Jesus?

What holds you back from being totally committed to following Christ?

\_\_wealth \_\_apathy \_\_pride \_\_family/friends

\_\_bad habits/temptations \_\_doubts \_\_fears

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<sup>4</sup> NIB, vol 8 pg 646

**Church Council and Boards Bible Study-Missional Discipleship 101**  
**Every member of the congregation is invited to join Trinity's leadership in**  
**Bible Study each month \*\*\*July 2008\*\*\*Mark 11**

**Quick Facts:** Mark 11-13 consists of Jesus' teaching in Jerusalem. The temple is the setting for several controversy stories. Jesus' struggle is with temple leaders who have forgotten the purpose and mission God had entrusted to them. In chapter 11, Jesus enters Jerusalem on donkey, cleanses the temple, curses a fig tree and defends his authority.



**Read Mark 11. Sometime during this Bible study, try to read the entire gospel of Mark in one sitting.**

**1. Warm Up Questions**

What makes you really mad? Do you have a pet peeve?

**2. Factual Questions**

Which verse tells us that they laid palm branches on the road before Jesus' colt?

How did the priests and scribes react to Jesus' outburst in the temple?

What happens to the fig tree that does not bear fruit? 11:21

What is the purpose of the temple?

**3. Missional Questions**

In what ways if any has our church become corrupted? Have we lost sight of our purpose and mission?

How would Jesus react if he walked into our church today?

Jesus' teaching offended the religious leaders. Does our witness to the gospel ever offend those with power?

If Jesus were to come and clean up Pelican Rapids, where would he start?

**4. Discipleship Questions**

In what ways are we like a fig tree that does not bear fruit?

How have you experienced the presence of God in your life this past month?

What does Jesus need to clean up in your life?

**Church Council and Boards Bible Study-Missional Discipleship 101**  
**Every member of the congregation is invited to join Trinity's leadership in**  
**Bible Study each month\*\*\*August 2008\*\*\*Mark 12**

**Quick Facts:** For Lesson on Chapter 12 Jesus is still debating and teaching in the temple. Jesus challenges the religious leaders of his day. "They are not concerned about God's Word at all but only about their own prestige and traditions."<sup>5</sup>

**Read Mark 12. Sometime during this Bible study, try to read the entire gospel of Mark in one sitting.**



### 1. Warm Up Questions

What topic is guaranteed to spark a debate in your house?

Politics, religion, money, taxes, the war, sports, whose turn is it to do the dishes?

Are there any topics that are taboo in your house?

### 2. Factual Questions

What is the main point of the parable about vineyard? 12:1-12

How did Jesus answer the question about whether they should pay taxes or not?

What don't the Saducees believe in?

What is the Greatest Commandment?

What was Jesus complaint about the scribes?

What was so special about the widow's offering?

### 3. Missional Questions

What is the good news in this chapter?

As missional leaders, how do we live out the greatest commandment in Pelican Rapids?

Who is our neighbor?

How would you explain the resurrection to someone who had never heard the Easter story?

### 4. Discipleship Questions

What belongs to God? How do we give to God the things that belong to God?

What motivates you to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

In what ways is Jesus the cornerstone of your life?

How do you show your love for God?

Which three stories in 12 chapter are about money?

Why is how we use our money such an important discipleship issue?

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<sup>5</sup> NIB, vol pg 672

**Church Council and Boards Bible Study-Missional Discipleship 101**  
**Every member of the congregation is invited to join Trinity's leadership in**  
**Bible Study each month \* \* \* September 2008 \* \* \* Mark 13-14**

**Quick Facts:** <sup>6</sup> For Lesson on Chapter 13-14 The last four chapters are the climax of the book of Mark. The Focus is on the end times and the crisis of the end of the world. Chapter 13 is sometimes called the "Little Apocalypse." The apostles are called to "watch" not despair but to have hope.<sup>7</sup>



**Read Mark 13. Sometime during this Bible study, try to read the entire gospel of Mark in one sitting.**

**1. Warm Up Questions**

You have 24 hours to live. What would you do?  
If you had a year's salary to play with, what would you do?

**2. Factual Questions**

Name some of the signs that the end is near in Mark 13.  
How did Jesus defend the woman's use of perfume?  
How do we connect the Passover to Jesus' death and resurrection?  
In 14:36 what is Jesus asking in his prayer?  
What is blasphemy?

**3. Missional Questions**

How has the church fallen asleep? How have you let down our Lord?  
How are we as a church currently seeking God's will?

**4. Discipleship Questions**

How have you betrayed and denied Jesus?  
When have you felt the most alone? Abandoned? Have you ever felt as though God was far away?

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<sup>6</sup> NIB, vol pg 672

<sup>7</sup> Interpretation: Bible Commentary, Mark, Lamar Williamson, Jr.

**Church Council and Boards Bible Study-Missional Discipleship 101**  
**Every member of the congregation is invited to join Trinity's leadership in**  
**Bible Study each month\*\*\*October 2008\*\*\*Mark 15-16**

**Quick Facts** For Lesson on Chapter 15-16 The trial, crucifixion, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus are the defining moments for all Christians. Compare these chapters to Matthew 27-28, Luke 23-24, John 19-20.



## **Read Mark 15-16**

### **1. Warm Up Questions**

Have you ever sat with someone who was dying?

Who was the first person to tell you about Jesus' death and resurrection?

Did you ever watch the movie The Passion of Christ? How did you feel? What did you think?

### **2. Factual Questions**

Why was Jesus so silent at his trial?

What was Pilate's primary concern?

How many nails did they use in the crucifixion?

What was torn and what do you think that means?

What was significant about Joseph of Arimathea?

In your Bible how many endings are there to the gospel of Mark?

Some believe that 16:9-20 is a later addition. What do you think?

### **3. Missional Questions**

Why is it important that we share this story of Jesus' death and resurrection?

What are the best ways to share the gospel good news about Jesus in Pelican Rapids?

What are the greatest opportunities and the greatest challenges in witnessing to Jesus Christ?

### **4. Discipleship Questions**

Have you ever told someone about Jesus' death and resurrection?

What is the hardest part of sharing your faith with someone else?

What would help you share you love for Jesus with someone else?

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