

Name _____

Encountering Jesus in the New Testament

Directed Reading Worksheet

Date _____

Chapter 5 *The Gospel of mark: Jesus the Suffering Servant*

Directions: Read through the chapter and fill in the missing information. All the questions run sequential to the chapter. If a true/false statement is false, correct it.

Introduction *Recognizing Jesus Christ* (pp. 222 – 226)

1. True or False? Mark's Gospel has numerous examples of individuals who have mistaken notions of who exactly Jesus is.
2. Why does Jesus give instructions to his followers to keep his identity a secret?
3. The messianic _____ in Mark's Gospel is that Jesus is the _____ prophesied by Isaiah, a truth even his Apostles could not fully _____. He did not want to be a _____ or for people to think of him in _____ terms. Mark records, "he began to teach them that the _____ must suffer greatly and be _____ by the elders, chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and rise after _____ days."
4. What two important questions does Mark want his readers to ponder?

Section 1 *Background on Mark's Gospel* (pp. 228 – 233)

5. While _____ maintains that the Gospel of Mark was composed by a _____ companion of both Sts. Peter and _____, most scholars today believe it is based on the _____ of St. Peter and several oral and perhaps _____ collections which he wove together. The various _____, parables, and miracles stories of Jesus serve as a kind of long _____ to the events of Jesus' _____ and Death.
6. True or False? Mark was likely the first Gospel, estimated to have been written near AD 90 when Christians separated from the Jewish religion.
7. What is the principle theme of the Gospel of Mark? What is the message of the Gospel to its readers?
8. Explain two insights about Jesus' use of the title *Son of Man* in the context of the Old Testament.

Section 2 *Mark's Gospel Reveals Jesus' Identity* (pp. 234 – 244)

9. True or False? While Jesus' forty days in the desert suggests a connection to the desert journey of the People of Israel, in contrast he is obedient while Israel was not.
10. The _____ part of Mark's Gospel centers on Jesus' ministry in _____ where he shows himself to be an authoritative _____, healer, miracle worker, and _____ human. His message centers on the _____, a message often misunderstood, even by his _____ followers.
11. True or False? In retelling the story of how Jesus called his first disciples, Mark makes it clear that Jesus taught with authority.
12. Jesus' first major teaching comes in five controversies contained in Mark 2:1–3:6. Summarize Jesus' actions in the left-hand column and the expected behavior in the right-hand column.

Jesus' actions	Controversy

13. The parables Jesus teaches in chapter 4 of Mark provide insights into Jesus' central message, the Kingdom of God. Briefly note what each parable teaches about the Kingdom of God.
- *Parable of the seed growing itself*
 - *Parable of the sower*
 - *Parable of the lamp*

- *The mustard seed*

14. True or False? Mark's audience would have found encouragement in these four parables because they were experiencing a period of rapid growth.
15. True or False? Mark records four types of miracles Jesus performed: healings, exorcisms, nature miracles, and a raising from the dead.
16. Briefly summarize the five-part pattern of Jesus' miracles in Mark.

-
-
-
-
-

17. The _____ stories in Mark depict the Son of God doing _____ with evil forces. They are closely related to his _____ of the Kingdom and prove that God's Kingdom is _____ present in Jesus' public ministry. _____ plays a major role; indeed, Mark records that Jesus was _____ to perform a miracle in _____ due to the lack of faith there.
18. True or False? Mark's portrait of Jesus gives the clearest portrayal of the many emotions of Jesus, including compassion and love, but not anger.

Section 3 *The Way of Discipleship* (pp.246 – 251)

19. Explain the "mystery" Jesus reveals in the third part of Mark's Gospel.

20. True or False? Mark challenges his readers to accept Jesus as the Messiah who suffers crucifixion before he rises to glory.
21. In the Gospel of Mark, _____ takes his disciples aside _____ different times and predicts his _____ and Resurrection. Each time Jesus gives _____ on the requirement of _____: if they want to be his disciples, they would have to follow in his _____. And each time his disciples do not _____ him.
22. What does Jesus specifically say about what it means to be his disciple in the climax of the third part of the Gospel of Mark?
23. True or False? The disciples' ability to understand Jesus in Mark represents both the local church for whom Mark wrote as well as the Church today.
24. True or False? Jesus' teaching to the rich man must have encouraged the Apostles because they, like their contemporaries, thought wealth was a sign of God's blessing.
25. True or False? Both the parable of the tenants and the parable of the vineyard portray the Jewish religious leaders in a positive light.
26. What does Jesus teach his followers on the Mount of Olive?

Section 4 *The Paschal Mystery in Mark's Gospel* (pp. 252 – 265)

27. Jesus' _____, Death, and Resurrection are the _____ and the climax the Gospel of Mark. Scholars have remarked that the first thirteen chapters serve as an apt _____ to the Passion narrative. These events _____ God's love for his people, called the _____, are commemorated during the liturgies of _____, especially in the _____.
28. True or False? While each of the Gospels agree on the basic essential of Jesus' Passion, each has its own way of retelling the events, and Mark's emphasis is to bluntly reveal how everyone abandons Jesus at the end.
29. Mark's Passion narrative gives information as to why some religious leaders and those in the Roman government were opposed to Jesus' actions and teachings. List at least five examples below.

30. True or False? Pontius Pilate was the Jewish prefect responsible for Jesus' Death, choosing to ignore his conscience.
31. What is the irony about the woman who anointed Jesus' body at Bethany?
32. True or False? According to the Gospel of Mark, Judas' motive for his betrayal of Jesus was pride.
33. In explaining Jesus' preparations for the _____, Mark suggests the impending _____. To show that the sacrifice of his life for the world is a _____ act of his will, Jesus is showing that he is in _____ by planning the details. At the _____ Jesus institutes the _____, a celebration of Jesus' Passover from death to new life, under the forms of _____ and _____.
34. What positive and negative things does Jesus tell his Apostles as they make their way to the Mount of Olives?
35. While Jesus does not want to _____, he prays that his Father's _____ be done. In contrast to the _____ who are overcome with fear, he does not _____. Jesus is arrested at _____ – the realm of Satan – after being betrayed by _____. Jesus opposes any use of _____ after a bystander cuts off the ear of the high priest's _____, rejecting the expectation he would be a _____ messiah.
36. Explain the ways in which the high priest was insensitive to normal legal procedures.
37. True or False? Jesus clearly acknowledges that he is the Messiah before the Sanhedrin, and predicts the Son of Man will return in glory.
38. True or False? James and John, who had previously acknowledged Jesus to be the Messiah, betrayed Jesus.
39. True or False? Pontius Pilate convicted Jesus for committing blasphemy, a Roman capital offense, rather than for sedition.
40. True or False? All four of the Gospels relate that Pilate knew of Jesus' innocence to the charges brought against him.
41. What were common causes of death for a person who was crucified?

42. Jesus was crucified with two _____ who tormented and taunted him, _____ him to save himself. An _____ on the cross advertises his crime: "The _____ of the Jews." Jesus' last words quote _____, "My God, my God, why have you _____ me" and the veil in the Temple's _____ tears in two symbolizing the days of the Old _____ are over.
43. Jesus' most _____ disciples are some _____ who remain with him until the end. And at the end of the Gospel of Mark, it is _____ women who go to the tomb to _____ Jesus' body. After seeing that the _____ from the front of the tomb has been moved, they learn from a man in a _____ that Jesus has been _____. They inform his disciples and Peter to meet Jesus in _____.
44. What irony concludes the Gospel of Mark?
45. Explain the two theories as to why Mark's Gospel ends so abruptly.
46. True or False? Not all Jewish leaders were opposed to Jesus and some, in fact, were his supporters.
47. What did the Second Vatican Council clearly teach in the document, *Nostra Aetate*, about blaming the Jews for Jesus' crucifixion?