

Mark tells us the
Good News
about **Jesus**

An EasyEnglish Bible Book



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A word list at the end explains words with a star* by them

This is about the book that Mark wrote

Mark wrote this book while he was living in Rome. Rome is now the capital city of Italy. He wrote it at some time between AD 50* and AD 70*. Mark was also called John Mark. He was a young man when Jesus was on earth. In the book called Acts, we can read some things about Mark. A group of Christians met together in the home of Mark's mother (Acts 12:12). Paul and Barnabas went to many different places to tell people about Jesus. And sometimes, Mark went with them.

Mark wrote his book for people who were not Jews*. At that time, the Roman* government, which ruled many countries in the world, was hurting Christians. Jesus had said that men would hurt his people. Mark wanted to tell everyone about the things that Jesus had done. He described how Jesus lived. He explained who Jesus was. Jesus was a man, but he was also God's son. Mark described how Jesus died on a cross*. And he described how Jesus became alive again. He explained how people could let God rule in their lives. He wrote about the things that Jesus taught the people.

Mark was a friend of Peter. Peter was one of the 12 men that Jesus chose to be his disciples*. He called them apostles*. Mark often listened when Peter was talking about Jesus. He wrote down the things that Peter said. And he wrote about the things that he had seen himself.

This is a list of the different parts of Mark's book:

- 1 Jesus starts his work 1:1-13
- 2 Jesus works in Galilee 1:14-9:50
- 3 Jesus travels from Galilee to Jerusalem 10:1-10:52
- 4 In Jerusalem, people kill Jesus and his friends bury him
11:1-15:47
- 5 Jesus becomes alive again 16:1-8
- 6 People see that Jesus is alive 16:9-20

Jerusalem is now the capital city of Israel* and Galilee is part of Israel*.

MARK

1

The start of the good news

¹This is the start of the good news about Jesus Christ. He is the Son of God. ²Isaiah wrote this message from God in his book:

‘I will send someone in front of you. He will speak my message.

He will prepare a way for you.’

³‘A voice is shouting in the wilderness*:

“The Lord* will come soon. So prepare a road for him to travel on.

Make the paths straight.”’

⁴So John came to a place in the wilderness* with the message from God. ‘You have done many wrong things’, he taught everybody. ‘You must change your minds. Then God will forgive* you and I will baptise* you.’

⁵Many people who lived in Jerusalem city and in the country called Judea went to listen to John. The people told God about all the wrong things that they had done. Then John baptised* the people in the river Jordan. ⁶John wore clothes that he had made out of hair from a camel*. He also wore a belt that he had made from the skin of an animal. His usual food was large insects and honey* from the wilderness*.

⁷‘A person will come soon’, John said to the people. ‘He is more important than I am. I should not even be the servant who undoes his shoes. ⁸I have baptised* you with water. But this other person will baptise* you with the Holy* Spirit.’

John baptises* Jesus

⁹Soon after this, Jesus came from the town called Nazareth in Galilee. John baptised* him in the river Jordan. ¹⁰While Jesus was coming up out of the water, the skies seemed to open. The Holy* Spirit came down like a bird and he rested on Jesus. ¹¹A voice spoke from the sky. That voice said, 'You are my son and I love you. You make me very happy.'

Satan* tries to cause Jesus to do wrong things

¹²Immediately, the Holy* Spirit sent Jesus out into the wilderness*. ¹³He was in the wilderness* for 40 days. During this time, Satan* tried to cause Jesus to do wrong things. There were wild animals near to Jesus in the wilderness*. And God's angels* were his servants.

Jesus asks some men to be his disciples*

¹⁴When John was in a prison, Jesus went to Galilee. He told people the good news about God. ¹⁵'Now is the time when God will begin to rule his people', Jesus said. 'You have done many wrong things. You must change your minds. Believe the Good News.'

¹⁶On one day, Jesus was walking along the shore of Lake Galilee. He saw two brothers called Simon and Andrew. Their job was to catch fish. They were throwing their nets* into the lake to catch fish. ¹⁷'Come with me', Jesus said to them. 'I will teach you how to catch people.' ¹⁸Simon and Andrew immediately left their nets* and they went with Jesus.

¹⁹Then Jesus continued to walk along the shore. Soon he saw two more men who were brothers. They were called James and John. They were the sons of Zebedee. They were in their boat and they were mending their nets*. ²⁰Immediately, Jesus asked them to come with him. They left their father and his workers in the boat. And they went with Jesus.

Jesus causes a bad spirit* to leave a man

²¹Then Jesus and those disciples* went into Capernaum. On the next Jewish* day for rest, Jesus went into the meeting place. He began to teach the people there.

²²Jesus taught the people very well. He taught with authority and that surprised them. He was not like the teachers of God's rules, because they did not speak with authority. ²³In the meeting place, there was a man who had a bad spirit*. The bad spirit* caused the man to shout loudly. ²⁴'Jesus from Nazareth', it said, 'We have nothing in common! Do not kill us! I know who you are. You are holy* and you have come from God.'

²⁵Jesus spoke to the bad spirit*. 'Be quiet!' he said. 'Come out of the man!' ²⁶The bad spirit* caused the man to fall. It shouted loudly and then it came out of the man.

²⁷All the people were very surprised, and they said to each other, 'This is very strange. Jesus is teaching us something new and he speaks with authority. He can say to bad spirits* what they must do. And they obey him.' ²⁸Immediately, people began to tell the news about Jesus. Everywhere in Galilee, they were telling other people about him.

Jesus makes many people well

²⁹Then Jesus left the meeting place. He took James and John with him to the home of Simon and Andrew. ³⁰The mother of Simon's wife was ill in bed. Her body was very hot. Immediately, Simon and Andrew told Jesus about her. ³¹So he went to her and he held her hand. Then he helped her to sit up and immediately she was well. Then she prepared food for Jesus and for his disciples*.

³²⁻³³That evening, when the sun had gone down, everybody in the town came. They brought to Jesus everyone who was ill. And they brought people with bad spirits*. All these people were round the door of the house. ³⁴Jesus caused many sick

people to become well. They had many different illnesses. He also caused many bad spirits* to leave people. The spirits* knew who he was. So Jesus did not let them speak.

Jesus prays alone in a quiet place

³⁵Jesus got up very early the next morning, while it was still dark. He went to a place where he could be alone. And there he prayed. ³⁶Simon and the other disciples* had to look for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said, 'Everyone is looking for you.'

³⁸'We should go to some other place', Jesus replied. 'We will go to other towns near here, so that I can teach the people there also. I came here for that reason.' ³⁹So Jesus travelled everywhere in Galilee. He taught the people in their meeting places. He caused bad spirits* to come out of people.

A man with an illness in his skin

⁴⁰On one day, a man who had an illness in his skin came to Jesus. He went down on his knees in front of Jesus. The man said. 'If you want to do it, you can make me well again.'

⁴¹Jesus felt very sorry for the man. He moved his hand towards the man and he touched the man. 'I do want to help you', Jesus said. 'Be well!' ⁴²Immediately, the illness left the man and his skin was clean.

⁴³Jesus explained carefully to the man and he sent him away immediately. ⁴⁴'Listen. Do not tell anyone about this', Jesus said. 'But go and show yourself to the priest*. Take a gift to him for God. Moses taught the people what gift to take to God after this kind of illness. This will show other people that you are now well.' ⁴⁵But instead, the man went away and he talked to everybody. He told them what had happened to him. Because he did this, it became too difficult for Jesus to go into the towns. Everybody knew him, and so Jesus stayed in places in the wilderness*. And the people came from every direction to see him.