





Jesus Is...

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Kristi Briggs



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# Jesus is the God of Grace

## Mark 2:1–12

Somewhere around the years AD 57–59, a man named John Mark wrote the book in the New Testament that we know today as *Mark*. He wrote this *gospel* of Jesus for primarily the Gentile Roman Christians while he was in Rome. John Mark was a fellow worker and close associate of Jesus’s disciple, Peter. You may have heard of Peter—he’s the disciple who cut off the soldier’s ear when Jesus was being arrested! But he was also the disciple who went on to fearlessly preach to thousands about the salvation found only in Christ, and he was ultimately martyred for his faith in Jesus Christ.

John Mark heard Peter’s bold teaching about Jesus the “Holy and Righteous One” (Acts 3:14) and wrote down Peter’s first-hand account of the stories. In fact, Peter refers to Mark as “my son” in one of his letters. (1 Peter 5:13)

Today, we are the extremely fortunate recipients of Mark’s hard work in writing down this gospel of Jesus. Mark tells much of the story of Jesus’ life and teaching. We read story after story of people who encountered Jesus personally, and their lives were forever changed.

That is my prayer for you over these next four weeks. I pray that you will also encounter Jesus in a real and personal way through your study of His word. I pray you will know the grace, peace, compassion, and service of Jesus. And most of all, I pray that because of this knowledge, you will worship Jesus as the Son of Man and the Son of God.

## THE GOSPELS

The word *gospel* is often interpreted as “good news.” The first four books of the New Testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke & John) are called the *Gospels*. Each of these *gospels* were written to a different audience to convince them that Jesus was the promised Messiah, the Son of God, the Savior, God in the flesh. These *gospels* tell the “good news” of Jesus!



3. What are your first impressions about the kind of man Jesus is from what you read?

## Study

### **Read Mark 2:1-12**

4. Now we come to the focus of our study this week. Verse 1 gives us the setting for this story. When and where does it take place?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Who are the different characters in this story?

6. Jesus is at the very beginning of His public ministry, yet we learn there is such a large crowd at this home that even the doorway is completely blocked. From the little you have read so far, why do you think so many people have come to hear His teaching?

7. What happens in verses 3 and 4 while Jesus is teaching?

“Houses had flat roofs which were usually accessible by means of an outside stairway. It would not be difficult to remove the tiles, laths, and grass that comprised the roof and make an opening large enough to fit their friend through on his mat.”

-Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*

8. Imagine you are in a church service, seminar, or some other event with a special speaker at the front of the room. How do you think most of the audience would react if something like this happened?

9. Do you admire these four men? If so, what do you admire? If not, why not?

10. What is Jesus' reply in verse 5?

11. Sin is a very big deal to God! What do these verses from Isaiah 59:1-2 say about sin?

Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save,  
nor his ear too dull to hear.  
But your iniquities (*sins*) have separated  
you from your God;  
your sins have hidden his face from you,  
so that he will not hear.

12. Jesus knew the paralytic man's sinful heart. Jesus knows our hearts. Although his paralyzed legs are the obvious problem to our human eyes, Jesus knew forgiveness of sin was what this man really needed.

Sin actually enslaves us and causes spiritual paralysis. Romans 6 talks a lot about this. What does Romans 6:5-8 say about sin?



13. The same is still true today. Just like Isaiah says, sin separates us from God. Has there been a time in your life when you knew your sin was separating you from God? Describe that time.

We read in Romans 6 that Jesus freed us from our slavery to sin by His death and resurrection. You must simply believe Jesus died for you, and you will then be free from your slavery to sin and belong to Jesus instead. Sin is no longer your master!

If you have not yet believed in Jesus as your personal Savior, now is the perfect time! You can tell Jesus you trust Him and want to give your life to Him.

14. Let's get back to our story! Who opposes Jesus and what do they accuse Him of in Mark 2:6-7

15. So when Jesus forgave this man's sins, what was He essentially revealing about Himself to everyone? (see the sidebar for help)

16. Is there usually any visible evidence when God forgives someone's sins? What did Jesus do afterward to prove He was God and therefore had the authority to forgive sins? (see verses 10-11)

## BLASPHEMY

Disrespectful attitude and/or words toward God. Claiming to be God was considered an act of blasphemy.

# Grace

17. What did the paralytic do to get himself to Jesus?

Absolutely NOTHING! We don't even have any record that he spoke! When God does something for us that we have not earned and definitely don't deserve, this is GRACE.

EVERYTHING God does for us comes from His grace. Because of sin, we were considered dead and separated from God—completely helpless to save ourselves.

Jesus freely forgave the paralytic's sins, and He will freely forgive yours. Spend some time in prayer, asking for God's forgiveness. Ask Him to help you live a life that pleases Him in every way.

Finish your study this week meditating on the following verses. Memorize these verses so you have them always available.

For it is by grace you have been saved,  
through faith—and this is not from  
yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by  
works, so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For additional teaching on this Scripture, watch this video from  
Central Bible Church in Fort Worth:

<https://vimeo.com/435794350>







# Jesus is the God of Peace

## Mark 4:35–41

According to Wikipedia, world peace is “...the concept of an ideal state of happiness, freedom, and peace within and among all people and nations on Planet Earth.” The website goes on to explain that many different religious and secular organizations try to achieve world peace through many different avenues—correcting perceived injustices, technology, better education, improved medical treatments, diplomatic measures, etc. The goal is an end to fighting and war. Wikipedia explains that since 1945, the United Nations has had “the aim to resolve conflicts without war or declarations of war. Nonetheless, nations have entered numerous military conflicts since then.”<sup>1</sup>

Did you catch that last sentence? With all of the United Nation’s efforts, and the endless efforts of countless other organizations, nations continue to fight.

This week, we will see that Jesus is the God of peace. But God’s idea of peace is very different from the world’s idea of peace. The world says that peace is the absence of fighting and “storms” in our lives. But we will learn that true peace comes only from trusting Jesus—even during the storms and trials of life.

It’s possible you are going through a “storm” in your life right now. It may feel unbearable, and it may seem like you’re going through it alone.

You are not alone! Jesus’ disciples thought He did not care about their storm. But Jesus proved to them that not only does He care, but He has power over the storms!

In peace I will lie down  
and sleep,  
for you alone, Lord,  
make me dwell in safety.

Psalm 4:8

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<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World\\_peace](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_peace)





4. Why do you think Jesus invited the disciples to go with Him to the other side of the lake?

5. What additional reason for crossing the lake do you find at the beginning of chapter 5?

# Study

Read Mark 4:35-41

6. Describe the situation the disciples are in.

7. Read Mark 1:16-20. What is the profession of four of the disciples? What does this tell you about the severity of the storm?

## SEA OF GALILEE

“The Sea of Galilee sits seven hundred feet below sea level, and just thirty miles to the north is Mount Hermon, ninety-two hundred feet high. The cold air from the mountains continually clashes with warm air coming up from the Sea of Galilee, and as a result there are impressive thunderstorms and squalls.”

-Timothy Keller, *Jesus the King*

8. Describe a time you can remember being really scared. How did you feel? Was there someone to comfort you? How did you get through it?

9. What is Jesus doing during the storm? What do the disciples accuse Him of?

10. Last week we saw that Jesus announced He was God by both healing and forgiving the paralytic. How does His calming of the storm this week also illustrate His divinity? What do these verses say?

Psalm 107:23-31

## DIVINITY

The quality of being God.

11. What does Jesus tell the disciples they lack?

12. The disciples had been following Jesus for a while by this time, and yet they still lacked faith. Remember, they are ordinary people just like us. What are some reasons you can think of for why they are still scared?

13. As God, Jesus is sovereign over all creation. He allowed this terrifying storm. What lesson/s could He be teaching the disciples?

## GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

His absolute right to do all things according to his own good pleasure

-M. G. Easton, *Illustrated Bible Dictionary*

14. What “storms” are going on in your life?

15. Have you been trusting God during these storms?  
What do you think you can learn about God’s  
character during these storms?

“Many people have the idea that storms come to their lives only when they have disobeyed God, but this is not always the case. Jonah ended up in a storm because of his disobedience, but the disciples got into a storm because of their obedience to the Lord.”

-Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*

16. This is a tough thing to understand about God—He allows storms to come into our lives. But, He promises to be with us through our storms. How does Psalm 23 comfort you?

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
he leads me beside quiet waters,  
he refreshes my soul.  
He guides me along the right paths  
for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk  
through the darkest valley,  
I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies.  
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
Surely your goodness and love will follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord  
forever.

# Peace

17. Jesus brought immediate peace in the storm. He can also bring peace in your storm. The peace of God does not mean there are no wars or conflicts. Rather, it is a steady confidence that God is in control, and you can depend on Him.

The following verse is John 14:27. Jesus is speaking and promising to give His peace through the Holy Spirit. Memorize this verse this week so you will always have the promise of God's peace with you wherever you go.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give  
you. I do not give to you as the world gives.  
Do not let your hearts be troubled and do  
not be afraid.

John 14:27

For additional teaching on this Scripture, watch this video from  
Central Bible Church in Fort Worth:

<https://vimeo.com/451179721>







# Jesus is the God of Compassion

## Mark 5:21–43

This week we will study two beautiful stories of healing, intertwined into one larger story. It's so interesting!

Something very fascinating about Jesus' ministry is how small it was in terms of geography. Jesus walked everywhere He went, so He never went somewhere that was beyond walking distance. Sometimes we think we have to go to faraway places in order to really be obedient to Christ. But many times, He's asking us to just go next door! We'll take a quick look at a map and have fun discovering where in the world Jesus has been.

But then we'll dig into the stories of two people in desperate need of healing. Jairus, a synagogue official, begs Jesus to heal his dying daughter. But while Jesus is on the way to Jairus's house, a very sick woman touches the hem of Jesus's clothing. Her life is forever changed by this one tiny touch.

Jesus is not repulsed by sickness. He does not try to avoid people who are hurting. He is not bothered when desperate people interrupt Him on His way to somewhere else. Unbelievably, Jesus **seeks out** these people! He is naturally attracted to broken people.

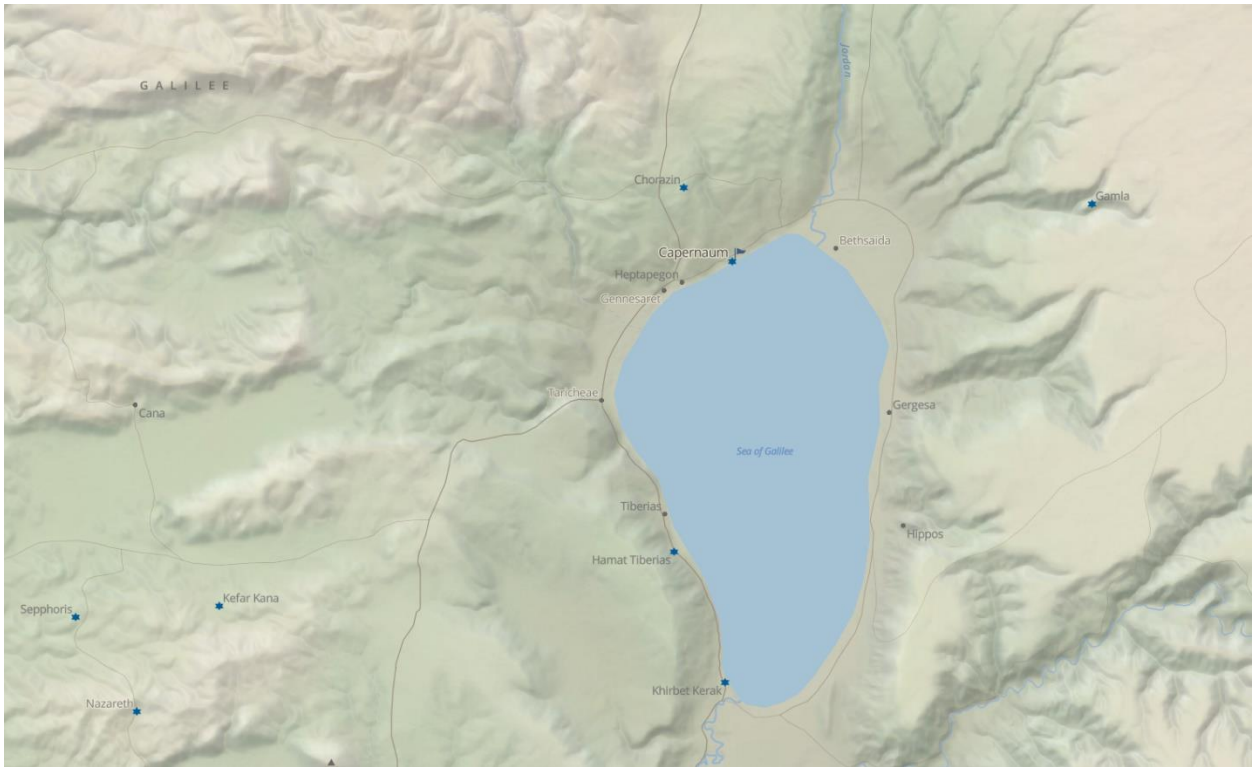
Jesus has not changed. He still seeks out hurting and broken people. You do not need to hide your pain. Jesus sees it. You can trust Him with the hard things of your life.

*Shout for joy, you heavens;  
rejoice, you earth;  
burst into song, you mountains!  
For the LORD comforts his people  
and will have compassion  
on his afflicted ones.  
But Zion said,  
"The LORD has forsaken me,  
the Lord has forgotten me."  
"Can a mother forget the  
baby at her breast  
and have no compassion on the  
child she has borne?  
Though she may forget,  
I will not forget you!  
See, I have engraved you on the  
palms of my hands;  
your walls are ever before me.*

*Isaiah 49:13-16*



3. Label the map with the location of these two events.



4. Skim Mark 5:1-20. What miracle happens on the other side of the lake? Add this event to the map.

5. Our study for this week focuses on Mark 5:21-43. According to verse 21, where is Jesus now?



8. Let's look at the healing of the bleeding woman.  
What do verses 25 & 26 say about her condition?  
Describe what you think her life must be like and  
what she must be feeling.

In ancient times, women had very little status in society. They were often treated as property that could be bought and sold. They generally were not respected or noticed by men.

9. What additional information do you get from  
Leviticus 15:19 (in the margin) about a woman who  
is on her period? How would this add to her  
suffering?

*“When a woman has her regular flow of blood, the impurity of her monthly period will last seven days, and anyone who touches her will be unclean till evening.” Leviticus 15:19*

10. Read verses 27-30 again. What is interesting to you about her healing? How long did it take for her healing to happen?

11. Why do you think she tried to be so quiet and invisible in the crowd? Did Jesus let her remain invisible?

12. In a culture that gave almost no value to women, Jesus not only noticed this woman, but He called her something very special in verse 34. What did He call her and how do you think she felt?



13. When have you felt invisible, unimportant, or like an outcast?

14. How does it encourage you to know that God sees you just as He saw the bleeding woman?

15. What does Jesus say healed her? (see verse 34)

16. Where does faith come from? (see Ephesians 2:8-9 in the margin)

EPHESIANS 2:8-9

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”

17. What happens in Mark 5:35 while Jesus is talking to the woman He just healed?

18. What miracle does Jesus do for this little girl and her family? Why do you think Jesus did not rush to Jairus's house right away?

19. God's timing may seem slow, but it is always perfect! What are you waiting for God to do in your life? Take a few minutes to write a prayer of trust in God for this.

“Imagine Jairus’s anxiety during all of this; the disciples’ irritation, Jesus’s patience and composure. This woman with a chronic condition is getting attention instead of the little girl who has an acute condition. Jesus chooses to stop and talk with the woman who has just been healed. This makes no sense. It is absolutely irrational...But Jesus will not be hurried.”

-Timothy Keller, *Jesus the King*

20. Both Jairus and the bleeding woman approach Jesus the same way (see verses 22 and 33). What posture or body position do they have before Jesus? What does this show about their respect for Him?

## KNEELING

Kneeling or bowing down is a sign of respect, submission, and surrender. Try kneeling when you pray at home to help you remember that you can trust God with everything in your life.

## Compassion

21. We have seen this week that Jesus is the God of compassion. Not only did He heal a woman who had been bleeding for 12 years, but He **saw** her. Jesus sees you too.

It seems like Jesus was very slow in healing Jairus' daughter, but that was not a problem. He raised her from the dead. Jesus's timing is always perfect in every circumstance. His timing in your situation is perfect too.

This week's memory verse is from Lamentations 3:22-24. This is one of the most beautiful verses in Scripture. Maybe you have heard the song "Great is Thy Faithfulness." This verse is where that beautiful song comes from!

“Because of the Lord’s great love we are  
not consumed,  
for his compassions never fail.  
They are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.  
I say to myself, “The Lord is my portion;  
therefore I will wait for him.”  
Lamentations 3:22-24

For additional teaching on this Scripture, watch this video from Central Bible Church in Fort Worth:

<https://vimeo.com/455899336>

## GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

Great is Thy faithfulness  
Great is Thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning new  
mercies I see  
All I have needed Thy hand  
hath provided  
Great is Thy faithfulness,  
Lord unto me

Great is Thy faithfulness, O  
God my Father  
There is no shadow of  
turning with Thee  
Thou changest not, Thy  
compassions, they fail not  
As Thou hast been, Thou  
forever will be

By Thomas O. Chisholm and  
William M. Runyan, 1923





# Jesus is the God of Humility

## Mark 10:32–45

You have made it to the final week of our Bible study.  
Congratulations on persevering to the end!

We have looked at four episodes in the life of Jesus from John Mark's perspective. We have learned that Jesus is the God of grace, peace and compassion. There are not enough words in the world to fully describe the character of God! He is without limit. When you look at all of Scripture, You learn that God is the Creator, Rescuer, Father, Shepherd, Healer, Redeemer, the I AM, the Lamb, the Ancient of Days, the King of kings and Lord of lords, the Alpha and the Omega. He is the God of love, joy, truth, gentleness, goodness. We could go on and on for all eternity! He is the good and amazing One True God.

This week we will learn that Jesus is the God of humility. Dictionary.com defines *humility* as "...the quality or condition of being humble; modest opinion or estimate of one's own importance, rank, etc." I think Jesus's humility is actually much deeper than this.

Jesus is the example for how Christians should look and live. I think we'll gain a new understanding for what it means to be great in the kingdom of God!

A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master. Matthew 5:24

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time...1 Peter 5:6

## Context & Setting

1. We've learned about the importance of the *context* of a passage of Scripture—these are the chapters and verses before and after. We've also seen how the *setting* is important—when, where, who? The Bible is one big story of God's character and His *redemption* of mankind, so it's critical to know where each passage fits.

Discuss and take notes on what you learn of the context and setting of Mark 10:32-45.

## REDEEMER

“One who pays a price on behalf of an impoverished relative, in order to effect the release of the relative or his/her property (Lev 25:25–54). The New Testament uses this term in reference to Jesus, whose death comes to represent both payment for sin and freedom for the believer.”

-The Lexham Bible Dictionary



# Study

Read Mark 10:32-34

2. To whom does Jesus talk in these verses? Summarize what He tells them. Discuss the specific things Jesus will experience.

3. This is actually the third time Jesus predicted His death (Mark 8:31-32 and Mark 9:30-31).

Why would Jesus repeat this message three different times?

“Jesus predicted his death three times in just three chapters—he knew his death was not incidental to his mission. Rather, it was absolutely central to both his identity and his purpose on earth.”

-Keller, *Jesus the King*





10. James and John are boldly asking Jesus for positions of tremendous authority, and they quickly tell Jesus in verse 39 that they can take what Jesus is going to take. Do you think they really understand? Why or why not?

11. Verses 42-45 are the heart of this passage. Jesus uses this opportunity to teach all of the disciples about true greatness. Put what Jesus says in your own words.

## JESUS'S RIGHT AND LEFT

Ironically, the places to the right and left of Jesus at the time of His glory on the cross were occupied by terrorists.

*“They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left.”*

*Mark 15:27*

12. Jesus, the Son of Man, is the ultimate example of greatness. Read Philippians 2:5-11 below. Underline everything Jesus did. Discuss what Jesus's greatness looked like.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;  
rather, he made himself nothing  
by taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
by becoming obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every name,  
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

13. Wow! This is a completely different way of thinking from how the world thinks. What do you give up when you become a servant? What do you gain?

# Humility

14. We can only serve like Christ with His help. Who in your life can you serve today?

15. Let's finish our time asking God to give us the same attitude that we see in the following memory verse. Pray for opportunities to serve others.

“Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Mark 10:43-45

For additional teaching on this Scripture, watch this video from Central Bible Church in Fort Worth: <https://vimeo.com/521586799>







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