



# Summer Blockbuster Reading Challenge

3 months—4 Gospels—Go!

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 2022**



## Take your Pulse

What brings you joy?

What breaks your heart?

## Today's Reading

Mark Chapter 1

In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus is on the go! From the very first chapter there is a clear sense of urgency. There is no time for a back story. There is no flowery poetic language. There is no introduction. Mark's Jesus is on a mission and there is no time for lollygagging. From the get go, the reader is thrown into the middle of the story, hearing proclamation from John the baptizer to prepare the way, experiencing Jesus' baptism, his temptation in the wilderness, calling the disciples, casting out unclean spirits, healing many, (including Peter's mother in law.) Jesus then goes on a preaching tour in Galilee and continues to cast out demons and perform healings. He becomes so popular that he could no longer go into towns openly, but rather stayed out in the country where people could come to him. All this happens just in chapter 1. Are you exhausted yet?



## Start the Thinking

The book of Mark is the only one in the Bible to clearly label itself as a "gospel" (the "good news" of 1:1). What does this gospel mean to you? Does it create and strengthen faith in Jesus and develop true discipleship?



## Conversing with God

Loving Jesus, through Mark's gospel, you announce to us that the kingdom of God has come near. You call to us to repent, and believe in the good news. Help us to turn away from the things that keep us from you and shape us into the disciples that you have called us to be. In your holy name we pray, Amen



## Be blessed

May the God of surprises bring smiles and joys to the everyday and ordinary.  
May the God of love be seen in all we do and say.  
May the God of life who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy.  
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen