

# “REIMAGINED” SERMON SERIES AND GOSPEL OF MARK READING GUIDE

FALL 2021



## REIMAGINED

Join us, from September 12 through November 21, as we dive deep into the Gospel of Mark. We will engage passages from Mark each Sunday through our sermon series titled “Reimagined,” as we reflect on what was, rethink what is, and reimagine what will be. We also invite you to commit to take a deep dive throughout the week reading on your own and engaging in reflection. We are called to encounter the living Word through Scripture, and this reading plan provides you with a schedule and weekly responses. However, as you read the selected chapter(s) each day of the week, here are some ways to guide your reading:

- Reading the Bible is not only an intellectual exercise, but a Spiritual encounter as well. Pray before each reading; ask God to illumine the Living Word to you as you read; give thanks to God after each reading.
- The Gospel of Mark is an account of Jesus and his ministry, and it was written through the theological lens of the author. As you read, think about the ways the writer develops a theological perspective of who Jesus is.
- Some questions to ask as you read each day:
  - What does this passage say about who God is?
  - What does this passage say about who we are?
  - What does this passage say about how we are to engage with God, each other, and the world?
  - What about this passage gives me hope? What about this passage troubles/challenges me?

## READING GUIDE

- Who do I relate to in this passage?
- What stands out to me about this passage?
- What parts of this passage tend to be ignored or fade into the background?
- Read slowly; you may even try to read out loud so you can hear the words.
- Find some quiet space to read, take a deep breath, and be present to the words and emotions of the text. You will be reading the same chapter(s) each day for a week. Try not to skim through it because you have read it before. Each day is a new encounter with God’s Word.
- We have coupled each weekly reading with an image or picture. There is a meditative reading practice called *visio divina* (sacred seeing). Art provides an intimate space for emotions, triggering a different part of our brain, and allows connection that goes beyond the intellectual. As you read each week, or after you finish reading, take a few moments to sit in meditation and gaze at the entire image. Notice the shapes, the swirls, and the colors. Notice the details of both the foreground and background. Be aware of what catches your attention, focus on that for a few moments, and pray.

We hope this time in the Gospel of Mark will provide space to reimagine the ways these stories speak to you and lead you in your life of faith. “The kingdom of God is near!”



**SERMON: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12**  
**REIMAGINED: BAPTISM – MARK 1:9-11**

**WEEK 1:** September 12-18

Read Chapter 1 each day.

**Response**

List every action that shows the power and authority of Jesus. List every action that shows the humility and humanness of Jesus. What do these actions tell us about Jesus and about us?



**SERMON: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19**  
**REIMAGINED: CALL – MARK 1:14-20**

**WEEK 2:** September 19-25

Read Chapter 2 each day.

**Response**

Write out how the new ways of Jesus differ from the old ways of the Pharisees and observers. How does this reflection call us to act counterculturally?





**SERMON: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**  
**REIMAGINED: HOUSE – MARK 2:15-17**

**WEEK 3:** September 26-October 2

Read Chapters 3 & 4 each day.

**Response**

Describe the moments where Jesus invested time and energy into people, even if they disagreed with him or it was unorthodox. Reflect on moments in your life when someone invested in you or when you invested in someone else. What do the parables say about this?



**SERMON: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3**  
**REIMAGINED: MEAL – MARK 6:30-44**

**WEEK 4:** October 3-9

Read Chapters 5 & 6 each day.

**Response**

Choose a healing story in Chapter 5 and write a “thank you” note to Jesus as one of the characters in the story.





**SERMON: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10**  
**REIMAGINED: CONFESSION – MARK 8:27-30**

**WEEK 5:** October 10-16  
Read Chapters 7 & 8 each day.

**Response**

Create a word cloud with the different names Jesus is called and the traits Jesus embodies, adding your own. Who do you say he is?



**SERMON: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17**  
**REIMAGINED: INHERITANCE – MARK 10:13-16**

**WEEK 6:** October 17-23

Read Chapters 9 & 10 each day.

**Response**

How is greatness different to Jesus and to the world? Are there times you have followed the world's idea of greatness? Are there times you have followed Jesus' idea of greatness? What makes you great?





**SERMON: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**  
**REIMAGINED: COMMITMENT – MARK 10:17-31**

**WEEK 7:** October 24-30

Read Chapter 11 each day.

**Response**

Draw a picture or write a poem that illustrates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. When Jesus overturned the tables in the Temple, what emotion(s) do you think he was feeling? How might this event reshape our theological understanding of certain emotions?



**SERMON: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31**  
**REV. DR. BRIAN BLOUNT – MARK 12:28-34**

**WEEK 8:** October 31-November 6

Read Chapter 12 each day.

**Response**

What do each of the elements in the opening parable signify? How do passages like Isaiah 5:1-7 shed light on this parable? What do the two kinds of piety Jesus contrasts at the end of this chapter teach us about the life of discipleship?





**SERMON: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7**  
**REIMAGINED: ANOINTING – MARK 14:1-11**

**WEEK 9:** November 7-13  
Read Chapters 13 & 14 each day.

**Response**

List the hardships Jesus foretells and the comforts Jesus provides his disciples in 13:9-13. In what ways do these speak to things beyond the current circumstance? How is this seen in the events of the Lord's Supper and throughout chapter 14?





**SERMON: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14**  
**REIMAGINED: PRAYER – MARK 14:32-42**

**WEEK 10:** November 14-20

Read Chapters 15 & 16:8.

**Response**

Write a monologue as one character in these final chapters—get creative, noting the emotions (positive or negative), the setting and time, and the personal dilemma experienced. Reflect on the gospel story in its entirety. How would you sum up Mark's gospel in a few sentences?





# SERMON: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21

## REIMAGINED: MISSION – MARK 16:1-8

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