

How to Begin a Relationship with God

To begin a personal relationship with God, please consider these four fundamental truths from the Bible:

- (1) God loves you and wants you to enjoy a forever relationship with Him. (John 3:16)
- (2) Failure to live up to God's standard of holy perfection (sin) has resulted in separation from God that will last forever for everyone who does not believe. (Romans 3:23, 6:23)
- (3) To solve the problem of sin that separates you from God, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to pay the penalty for your sin by dying on the cross. (1 Peter 3:18)
- (4) Everyone who makes a personal decision to trust in Jesus Christ alone as their Savior from sin receives forgiveness from sin and enters God's forever family. (John 1:12)

If you want to make the decision today to begin a relationship with God, you can express your faith in Christ by personally praying the following:

"Father, thank You for loving me and wanting a relationship with me. I admit that I have sinned and that I need a Savior. I believe that Your Son, Jesus, died on the cross to pay for my sins. I trust Jesus alone as my Savior. Thank You for making me part of your family."

If you made a decision today to trust in Jesus as your Savior, let us know by indicating on the communication card OR by telling a pastor or elder. We want the opportunity to rejoice with you and help you take your first steps in this new relationship.



Why study a whole book of the Bible?

Why study the gospel according to Mark?

Mark 1:1

The Gospel:

Jesus Christ:

Son of God:

What do I do with this message?

_____ in Jesus.

_____ Jesus.

_____ Jesus.

Personal Study

(1) Read Mark 1:1, 8:35, 10:29, 13:10, and 14:9 – all the verses that speak of the gospel. Summarize Mark's view of the importance and impact of the gospel from these verses: _____

(2) Read Mark 1:1, 3:11, 5:7, and 15:39 – all the verses that speak of Jesus as the Son of God. Summarize Mark's teaching on the identity of Jesus from these verses: _____

(3) Read Mark 1:1, 8:27-29, 13:21-22, 14:61 – verses that speak of Jesus as the Christ (the Messiah). What is Mark teaching us about a correct view of the Messiah from these verses? _____

(4) Read the Introduction to Mark handout on *background information*. What stands out to you as most helpful in studying the book of Mark? _____

(5) Read the Introduction to Mark handout on *major characters and major themes*. What stands out to you as most helpful in preparing to study the book of Mark? _____

(6) Read Mark 8:34-35. These verses are vital to understanding the message of the gospel of Mark. Rewrite Jesus' words here in contemporary language in order to capture the theme of this book: _____

Personal Application

(1) When was the first time you fully understood the message of the gospel? How did it impact you? _____

(2) Have you ever read one of the gospel books (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John) all the way through? What stood out to you? _____

(3) Why is it so important for Christians to continue to study the life of Jesus after they believe in Him for salvation? _____

(4) What aspect of Jesus' character and/or behavior is most compelling to you? Why? _____

(5) What do you think is the hardest part of being a follower of Jesus today in our culture and era? _____

(6) What has influenced your view of Jesus the most? _____

(7) What do you believe God is saying to you from this study of the introduction to Mark? _____
