

Getting to Know Mark's Gospel

Complete this worksheet by referring to *The Catholic Youth Bible*® and Mark's Gospel.

Part 1: Historical Criticism

1. According to "Quick Facts" in the introduction to the Gospel of Mark, who was Mark?

2. For whom was Mark writing his Gospel?

3. The following questions will make you aware of the clues in Mark that he was writing for this audience:

- a. What Jewish terms does Mark define for his readers in these verses?

Mark 7:2 _____ Mark 14:12 _____

- b. What Aramaic words does Mark translate in these verses?

Mark 5:41 _____ Mark 14:36 _____

- c. What Latin words does Mark use in these verses?

Mark 12:15 _____ Mark 15:39 _____

- d. In Mark 13:3 what geological feature does Mark locate for his audience, who wouldn't be familiar with Jerusalem?



- e. Why would Mark include only a few Old Testament quotations?
 - f. Read the sidebar “We Were There,” Mk 15:21. Why did Mark name Rufus, unlike other Gospel writers?
 - g. Why do you think Mark shows Jesus’ ministering mainly in Galilee rather than in Judea?
 - h. In the Gospel of Mark, the Apostles ask questions and frequently remain confused after interactions with Jesus. They argue over who will be greatest in the Kingdom. Read the sidebar “Those Thickheaded Disciples,” Mk 6:30–52. Why does Mark allow the Apostles to appear weak?



Part 2: Literary Criticism

1. Mark includes details not found in the other synoptics. This suggests that the Gospel of Mark is an eyewitness account. In the account of the feeding of the five thousand, what two details are found in Mark 6:39–40 but not in Matthew 14:19?
 2. Mark is the only Gospel that omits the bestowal of the primacy (leadership of the Church) upon Peter. How does this suggest that Mark was relaying Peter's account of the life of Jesus?
 3. Mark often mentions the emotions of Jesus. What emotions do you find in the following verses?

Mark 1:41 _____

Mark 6:6

Mark 8:12

Mark 10:21

4. Many times Mark comments that people were amazed or astounded at Jesus.

Find an example of people being amazed at Jesus' teaching, and write it here:

Find an example of people being amazed at Jesus' healing, and write it here:



5. Mark's Gospel is fast moving and action packed. He uses "immediately" or "at once" about forty times. Find three sentences in Mark that contain "immediately," and write them here:

6. Mark's sentences are simple. They are usually connected by *and* without subordinate clauses. Read Mark 6:30–33. Rewrite one of the childlike sentences in this passage with a more sophisticated structure:

