

PASTOR'S NOTES

Mark: The King's Identity

The Gospel's Author (Who wrote the book?)

Mark, also known as John Mark, was a Jewish Christian who grew up in the earliest days of Christianity. His mother's name was Mary, and her home in Jerusalem became a gathering place for the early church. He witnessed the excitement, persecution, and remarkable advancement of the gospel. He was in the right place and connected to the right people.

Yet he stumbled, departing from the first missionary journey and leaving Barnabas and Paul behind. Mark seemed like a man who started well but couldn't finish well. However, that is not how his story ends.

Barnabas believed in him. The Lord matured him. Peter shared insights with him. And years later, Paul instructed Timothy: "Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me" (2 Timothy 4:11).

That kind of turnaround has the hand of God all over it. The man who once walked away from gospel ministry is now entrusted not only with writing the first of four inspired gospel accounts.

Early church leaders and writers, like Papias, bishop of Hierapolis, tell us that Mark became a close companion of Peter and faithfully and meticulously recorded his eyewitness account under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

The Gospel's Subject (Who is the book about?)

In one sentence, Mark tells us everything we need to know before the story begins. He announces that something entirely new has begun, that it is good news, and that it centers on one person, Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. (Mark 1:1 ESV)

"THE BEGINNING..." Mark is not announcing the beginning of his gospel account. No, he is communicating much more than that.

The Bible begins with God creating the heavens and the earth (*In the beginning*), and similarly, Mark begins with good news that God is bringing about something new—a new creation through his Son.

In the opening verse, Mark uses terms that carried profound meaning in both the Old Testament and the Roman world.

"GOSPEL..."

Isaiah's "good news"

Rome's "good news"

Mark's opening sentence is both a fulfillment and a challenge.

1. The true "good news" is not found in the reign of Caesar but in the arrival of Jesus Christ.
2. The kingdom that Isaiah promised has arrived, not through Roman power or conquest, but in the person of God's Son.

The opening verse of the Gospel is not simply the beginning of a biography; it is a royal announcement. The long-awaited good news proclaimed by Isaiah and others has arrived, and it far surpasses every claim made by the Roman Empire because Jesus Christ, the true King, has come.

"JESUS CHRIST..." His name is Jesus, which means "God saves." Christ is his title. He is God's Anointed One, God's Messiah, his promised King.

The covenantal promises God made with Abraham and David are fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Every promise made through Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel finds its fulfillment in Jesus. In other words, Mark is saying, "The wait is over." Jesus, God's promised Messiah, has come. That is good news!

And Mark announces an even greater claim, one that every chapter of the book will substantiate. Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

The Gospel's Claim (Who does Mark declare Jesus to be?)

Mark 1:1 (an incipit) is the lens through which every chapter, every miracle, confrontation, and ultimately the cross must be understood.

"...SON OF GOD."

When Mark calls Jesus "the Son of God," he is not suggesting that Jesus was created or somehow less than the Father. Rather, he is declaring that Jesus possesses the very nature of God himself. He is fully God, equal with the Father, worthy of worship, possessing all authority in heaven and on earth. Then throughout the book, Mark supports this reality. Only God the Son could do what is recorded in the Gospel account.

So, every narrative and scene answers the same question: Who is this? He is Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

And as readers of the Gospel, we will watch with joy as the disciples and the many people in Galilee and Jerusalem begin to discover who he is, and we'll grieve when many others reject him.

And as we turn to the pages of this remarkable book, Mark is not merely seeking to pique our interest in the story of Jesus or asking us to admire him for his characteristics. He is asking us to believe in him as the Christ, the Son of God.



Sunday, August 2, 2026 • Pastor Randy Gunter
mbchurch.com

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RESUME THIS WEDNESDAY, AUG 5

Fellowship Meal » Opens at 5:00 PM - Gym

(Pre-purchase your meal before Tuesday at noon on the App or mbchurch.com)

Kids' Choir (K-6th) » 5:30 PM - Room 210

Adult Bible Study » 6:30 PM - Dining Hall

(Prayers of Faith: Learning to Pray from People Like Us)

Preschool » 6:30 PM - 1st Floor Ed. Bldg (8 wks - K4)

KidStuf » 6:30 PM - Kids' Theater (K-5th)

Middle School Worship » 6:30 PM - The Hangar

High School Worship » 6:30 PM - Clark Hall

Worship Ministry Rehearsal » 6:30 PM - Worship Center

CONNECT

people to Christ
and His church

55+ ANNUAL FISH FRY with PAUL ALDRICH

AUGUST 6 | 6:30 PM

Cost: \$10.00



Come enjoy the famed 55+ Fish Fry with Southern fried catfish and all the fixings, followed by an evening of laughter and music with the one and only Paul Aldrich. **Register on the App or mbchurch.com.**

NEXT STEPS

TAKE THE NEXT STEP AT MEADOWBROOK

NEXT STEPS LUNCH

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9 | 11:45 AM | CONFERENCE CENTER

This lunch is for anyone who has been attending and prayerfully considering membership at MeadowBrook. We'll walk through our doctrine, beliefs, structure and answer any questions you may have. (Pre-requisite for membership)

Register on the App or mbchurch.com

MeadowBrook Missions Cohort

Our Missions Cohort is a 10-session class where we will explore the biblical foundations for the Great Commission in the Old and New Testaments and learn about our mission partnerships. Come and join us in the Round Room on Sundays at 4:00 PM, beginning August 9th. **Cost - \$15.00**

REGISTER on the App or MBCHURCH.COM

GROW

them as disciples
and equip them to

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK!

TODAY

8:00-8:20 am - Sunday Morning Prayer Time - W105
9:00 & 10:30 am - Worship - Worship Center
9:00 & 10:30 am - Life Group
9:00-11:30 am - MeadowBrook Kids - Kids' Theater
9:00-11:30 am - MeadowBrook Preschool
6:30 pm - The Collective (Young Adults) - Theater

MONDAY

6:00 pm - Pickleball - Gym

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

5:00 pm - Fellowship Meal - Gym
(Fried Chicken Breast, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy,
Green Beans, Okra, Biscuit & Dessert or Salad with
a Protein; Kids: Same)

5:30 pm - Kids' Choir - Room 210

6:30 pm - Adult Bible Study, Preschool Ministry,
KidStuf, Middle School Worship, High School Worship,
Worship Ministry Rehearsal

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

5:00 pm - Weekday Open House
6:30 pm - 55+ Fish Fry - Gym

life group

Life together for the
Kingdom of God

Take the next step toward
finding Christ-Centered
community at MeadowBrook
by visiting a Life Group.

For a listing of our classes,
pick up a Life Group booklet
at Guest Connections.

Welcome

If you are our **GUEST**,
we'd like to **CONNECT**
with you! Please fill out a
CONNECTION CARD
and stop by
GUEST CONNECTIONS
for a **FREE** gift!

2026 DAILY BIBLE READING

August 2 - Luke 1:39-80

August 3 - Luke 2

August 4 - Luke 3

August 5 - Luke 4

August 6 - Luke 5

August 7 - Luke 6

August 8 - Luke 7

SERVE

through missions,
ministry and worship

the well WOMEN'S MINISTRY

SECRET SUPPER LADIES NIGHT OUT

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13 ★ 5:30-8:00 PM

Register on the App or mbchurch.com

THE WELL Women on Mission

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

5:30 PM

at the Home of Jamie McGlaughn
{201 Chrislyn Drive | Gadsden, AL}

Missions Emphasis:

Report from women who
participated in our Ireland
and Poland Mission
Teams



ABUNDANT LIFE CHOIR

Fall Season start-up

Tuesday, August 11th

10:45 AM - Worship Center

If you are 55+ and enjoy singing,
we'd love for you to join us!

Prayer Needs

Cancer/Treatments: Rob Morris, Kyle Hughes, Margie Martin, Robert Darnell, Aiden Beck, Larry Hill, Jamye Ingram, Anna Rae Wilson, Tiki Kemp McConnell, Charles Wells, Bonnie Pierce, Scott Watford, Sabrina Freeman, Sharon Tillison, Paul Roberts, Carol Collins

Ongoing Needs: Bebe Pruett, Chris Burnette, Lloyd & Diane Matthews, Susan Mize, Lola-Ruth Adams, Landon Cunningham, Archie Wade, Denise Dover, Peggy Brizendine, Kathy Thompson, Jimmy & Delores Thompson, Lavelle Ogletree, Danny Maddox, Robin Roberts, Ron Crawford, Phil Causey, Janet Maise, Rita Tipton, David Draper, Reese Robinson, Charlotte Taylor, Lindsey Rakestraw, Laura Hoge, Tim Davis, Gary Alexander, Karen Ragan, Linda Roy, Joan Henry, Linda Dees, Gerry Grant, Dorothy Hand, Kenny Cahall, Rita McClure, Ivan Fike

- Pam Clough & family in the loss of her father
- Rob Morris - Riverview
- Derek Lewis - recovering from gallbladder surgery
- John Buck, father of Vicky Weeks - hospital in Memphis, TN
- Bill Jessup & family in the loss of his mother
- Laura Hoge - Encompass Rehab
- David Hindsman, father of Todd - pancreatic cancer