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The *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide* is prepared by the Office of the Adult Bible Study Guide of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. The preparation of the guides is under the general direction of the Sabbath School Publications Board, a subcommittee of the General Conference Administrative Committee (ADCOM), publisher of the Bible study guides. The published guide reflects the input of worldwide evaluation committees and the approval of the Sabbath School Publications Board and thus does not solely or necessarily represent the intent of the author(s).

# Jesus Through *the* Eyes of Mark

*We are about to embark on a journey that will take us to the Holy Land, to Galilee in particular. With John Mark as our guide, we will retrace the steps of the greatest Man who ever lived, Jesus Christ.*

So marvelous was this life that no one account can do justice to it. In the Bible we find four Gospels, but even they, combined, cannot encompass everything about Jesus. Thus, John the beloved closes his record with the observation: “Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written” (*John 21:25, NIV*). That’s an incredible amount of books, but Jesus did an incredible amount of deeds.

Each of the four Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—was written at different times and, at first, circulated separately. Many scholars think that Mark’s was written first, and while that’s possible, it cannot be established with certainty.

What matters is that each of the Gospels was inspired by the Holy Spirit, and each bears a united witness to Jesus Christ and what He did for the world.

Because each Gospel writer retained his individuality as he wrote, we see differences of perspective and emphasis. This is as the Lord wanted it; and, indeed, this is how the Holy Spirit works. Far from calling into question the divine inspiration of the Gospels, this variety of perspective helps to affirm it. It’s God’s way of seeking to touch lives. He wants to reach us all, who are so different, and He uses different voices to do it.

“There is variety in a tree,” wrote Ellen White, “there are scarcely two leaves just alike. Yet this variety adds to the perfection of the tree as a whole.

“In our Bible, we might ask, Why need Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John in the Gospels, why need the Acts of the Apostles, and the variety of writers in the Epistles, go over the same thing?

“The Lord gave His word in just the way He wanted it to come. He gave it through different writers, each having his own individu-

ality, though going over the same history.”—*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 21.

John Mark’s Gospel is the shortest of the four accounts. Whereas Matthew portrays Jesus as a great teacher, Luke highlights His concerns for those on the fringes of society, and John focuses on His conversations one-on-one with a variety of people, Mark shows Him as a Man of action. Through Mark’s eyes, we see Jesus as a Man with a mission, one that He will accomplish.

Mark’s Gospel has a simple organization:

- A. Prologue (1:1-13)
- B. Ministry in Galilee (1:14–8:26)
- C. The Passion Looms (8:27–10:52)
- D. Final Ministry in Jerusalem (11:1–13:37)
- E. The Passion and Resurrection (14:1–16:20)

And yet, we shouldn’t be fooled by the simplicity, for just as Jesus, told “simple” stories with profound implications, Mark does the same. His account is filled with powerful insights that give birth to life-changing revelations about God.

So join Mark as he takes us where Jesus walked. We will follow his account in order, and like the disciples of old, may we walk with Jesus throughout this quarter.

***Mark shows Jesus a Man of action, a Man with a mission, one that He will accomplish.***

And though the Gospel itself was written by John Mark, our lessons come from another disciple of Jesus, a modern-day disciple, one whose words have, over the years, brought encouragement, hope, and promise to the church: Dr. William Johnsson, editor of the *Adventist Review*. A prolific writer and a well-known New Testament scholar, Dr. Johnsson takes us through the book of Mark, giving us his own spirit-inspired insights, as well. Thus, we see Jesus through the eyes of Mark, who comes to us this quarter through the eyes of Bill.

Trustworthy views, to be sure.

# Got Questions?

## **Sabbath School University *has answers!***

Sabbath School University is a 28-minute discussion of the *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide*.

SSU discusses the lesson content and strategies to enrich your Sabbath School with fellowship, outreach, Bible study, and missions. Sabbath School leaders, don't miss this weekly broadcast on the Adventist Television Network.



**<http://Adventist.TV>**  
*broadcast and program information*



# To the Jews first...

—Romans 1:16

The work among the Jews in North America is developing into an active ministry.

Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help the Jewish Evangelism Training Center in Miami, Florida to train people in the best methods to reach Jewish people with the gospel.

**MISSION** 

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering on June 25  
supports projects in the North American Division.