

MARK: Introduction

At only 16 chapters long, the Gospel of Mark is a fast-paced and action-packed account of the life of Jesus.

John Mark was not one of Jesus' disciples, and he was likely very young if and when he met Jesus. He is mentioned in the book of Acts as a companion of Peter, so it is likely that much of what he writes about Jesus was told to him by Peter.

Mark's book divides fairly neatly into two parts, with a large part of the book focused on Jesus' final days:

Mark 1-10 — Jesus' Ministry in Galilee and Journey to Jerusalem

Mark 11-16 — Passion Week

Here are some distinctive characteristics of Mark's Gospel:

- Mark is a **wonderful storyteller!** His book is **detailed** and **fast-paced** (notice the use of the word "immediately").
- Mark draws attention to the **humanity of Jesus.**
- Mark points out the **great crowds** constantly around Jesus. So many people!
- This Gospel is not the cheeriest of the four, with an **emphasis on suffering.**
- Mark gives a more **negative portrayal** of the disciples than the other Gospels, often highlighting their failures.