



# Here to Serve

## Gospel of Mark

### Session 1 **MARKED FOR SERVICE**

#### Scripture Focus

Gospel of Mark; Acts 15:36–41; 2 Tim. 4:11; 1 Pet. 2:21; 5:13

#### BuildUP Theme DEVELOP LIFE SKILLS

God presented Christ in Mark's Gospel as the suffering servant Who encourages believers to serve sacrificially.

#### Memory Verse

"And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:44, 45). KJV

#### Session Summary

John Mark wrote the Gospel of Mark. He leaned on Peter for firsthand accounts about Christ's ministry. Both Mark and Peter knew what it meant to bounce back from failure to become effective ministers. Mark abandoned his fellow missionaries in the face of trouble (Acts 15:36–41). Peter denied knowing Christ (Mark 14:66–72). Both became effective servants of God, and both died as martyrs.

Mark wrote his Gospel to Gentile believers living in Rome during a time of terrible persecution. Emperor Nero blamed them for the fire that devastated Rome. The Romans crucified believers and lit their bodies on fire. They also forced Christians to face wild animals in the Colosseum.

Mark encouraged the persecuted Christians by focusing on Jesus' suffering. He devoted much of his Gospel to the Passion. He also included accounts of Jesus' suffering and rejection in the period leading up to the cross (Mark 1:12, 13; 3:20–22; 8:31–33; 10:32–34; 45).

Mark's message about Christ comforted the believers in Rome. They learned that greatness comes from serving and suffering for the cause of Christ. Jesus said even He came not to be served but to serve and give His life a ransom for many (Mark 10:45). For those who had failed in their faith in the face of persecution, God would help them grow in Christ and become effective servants.

#### Measuring Growth

Look for the following indicators that serving Christ is your student's focus in life.

1. My student believes greatness comes by serving others in service to God.
2. My student is willing to make sacrifices in order to serve God.
3. My student knows God won't give up on him or her if he or she fails to serve God well.

#### Additional Verses

1 Peter 2:21–24.