

Name:

Date:

Period:

# The Gospel of Mark: Characteristics

**Directions:** Use your Bible to answer the questions below.

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## Mark's intended audience:

1. Read 5:41.
  - a. What does the Aramaic phrase "talitha koum" mean?
  
2. Read 7:1-23.
  - a. In v. 3-4, what custom of the Pharisees does Mark explain?
  
  - b. What does the Aramaic word "qorban" mean?
  
  - c. In v. 19, what does Mark claim that Jesus declared "clean"?
  
3. Read 7:31-37.
  - a. In what district does this story take place?
  
  - b. What does the Aramaic word "ephphatha" mean?
  
4. From these passages, what might we assume about Mark's intended audience?

## Mark's portrayal of Jesus:

1. Read 5:25-34. When the woman with a hemorrhage touches Jesus, what question does he ask?
  
2. Read 6:1-6. What happens to Jesus' healing powers when he realizes that the people of Nazareth lack faith in him?
  
3. Read 8:22-26. What question does Jesus ask the blind man after his first attempt to heal him? How many times does it take Jesus to heal the blind man?
  
4. In light of what Christians believe about Jesus, what is unusual about Mark's portrayal of Jesus in the stories above?

## Mark's Portrayal of the Twelve:

1. Read 6:7-13. What power/authority does Jesus give to his disciples in this passage?
2. Read 9:14-29. What do the disciples fail to do in this passage? According to Jesus, why did they fail?
3. Read 9:38-41. Why did the disciples try to stop the unnamed exorcist? What is Jesus' response to their attempt to stop him?
4. Read 9:33-37. What does Jesus tell his disciples they must do if they wish to be "greatest"? Who must they be willing to "receive" if they wish to receive the one who sent Jesus?
5. Read 10:13-16. What do the disciples do that causes Jesus to become indignant? What does Jesus tell his disciples about this?
6. Read 10:35-45. What do James and John ask of Jesus in this passage? What is his response to them?
7. Read 8:34-38. What does Jesus tell his disciples that they must do if they wish to come after him?
8. Read 14:10-11. What does Judas do to Jesus in this passage?
9. Read 14:43-52. What does Judas do in this passage? What do the other disciples do when Jesus is arrested?
10. Read 14:66-72. What does Peter do in this passage? What specifically does he say the third time he is accused of being an accomplice of Jesus?
11. Read 14:32-42. What does Jesus tell the disciples to do while he is praying in the garden? What are they doing when he returns? How many times does this happen?
12. What is your overall impression of the way Mark portrays Jesus' disciples in these stories?