

=BOOKS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 41

Mark

Objects to have:

The sign for the new Bible book: MARK

Jesus the Servant

A tray

These objects on the tray: a salvation tract, a piece of rope, five biscuits and pictures of two little fish, another rope with a sweater or a jacket or some kind of outer garment

Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

(Review briefly with the children the fact that the Bible is God's Word. Whatever it says happened, really did happen. Whatever it says will happen, really will happen. The words were written down by men while the Holy Spirit told the men what words to write.)

There are 66 books altogether in the Bible. Last Sunday we started talking about the books that are in the New Testament part of the Bible. Do you remember the name of the Bible book which we studied last Sunday? It is the first book of the New Testament. Yes, it is Matthew. Let's remember what kind of job Matthew had. Matthew was a tax collector before he met Jesus. Jesus told Matthew what He wanted Matthew to be. Jesus wanted Matthew to be one of His disciples.

Today we are going to hear something from the book of Mark, the second book of the New Testament. Matthew and Mark are names of men.

Mark was not one of His disciples. Mark, however, was a man who loved Jesus and who followed Jesus wherever He went. Whenever Jesus went to places and cities around the Sea of Galilee, Mark went there, too. Whenever Jesus went to Jerusalem, Mark went there, too. Wherever Jesus went to preach, Mark went there, too. In the book of Mark, Mark tells about a lot of things that he heard and saw while he traveled around with Jesus.

Mark tells us that one day James and John, two of the twelve disciples, went to Jesus. They said to Jesus, "Jesus, do something for us."

Jesus asked James and John, "What would you like Me to do for you?"

James and John said, "Whenever You become the King of the whole world, Jesus, we want to sit next to You. One of us wants to sit on one side of You, and the other wants to sit on the other side of You whenever You become King."

Jesus said to James and John, "You men are thinking about the wrong things. You should not be thinking about how you can be honored by other people; you should be thinking about how you can serve other people. You should be thinking about how you can do acts of kindness for other people." Jesus said to James and John, "Even I came to earth not to be honored of people, but to serve people. I, Jesus, came to earth to do kind deeds for other people. I did not come for people to bow down and honor Me."

Mark thought about what Jesus said to James and John. Mark decided that he wanted to be like Jesus. Mark would watch Jesus and learn how to serve people, too.

Telling the story:

(Pick up your tray with the objects on it. While telling the four incidents from the book of Mark, take from the tray the object which illustrates that incident, and lay the object on a table as each incident is finished.)

This Gospel tract reminds me of Jesus' servicing a very, very sick man. This is a piece of paper that tells anybody who reads it how to be saved. The very, very sick man came running to Jesus one day. He said, "Jesus, if You would just do it, I know that You can heal me." Jesus looked at the man. The man looked very pitiful because he had a very bad disease called leprosy. The man's body was covered with bad sores that ate into the skin of the man—into his face and arms and hands and the rest of his body. Nobody wanted to come near the man because they were afraid they would get leprosy just by being near him. Jesus let him be near Him, however.

Jesus loved the man. He wanted to help him; He wanted to serve him. Jesus said, "I will make you well." Jesus stretched out His hand and touched the man; Jesus touched that man who had leprosy, and He healed him! Where the sores had been was then smooth skin in which were no more sores. Jesus had served this man. How happy the man was! The man decided that he wanted to serve Jesus. He wanted to tell other people what Jesus had done for him.

(Hold up the piece of rope.) Four men served another man because Jesus had served them. Four men had heard Jesus preach, and they had been saved. These four men had a friend who needed to hear Jesus, too. They told him how he should go to see and to hear Jesus. This friend of theirs, however, could not get up and walk out of his house to go down the road to another house where Jesus was preaching. This friend of theirs was too sick to get up out of his bed to go where Jesus was.

The four men said to each other, "Our friend must get to Jesus. He must learn how to be saved. What can we do?"

I think that one of the men said, "I know what let's do. Let's carry the man on his bed—which was like a sleeping bag—down to the house where Jesus is." That was a good idea! Each of the four men took hold of one of the corners of the bed, and they carried him down to the house where Jesus was.

What a big crowd had gathered inside and outside that house in order to see and to hear Jesus! The house was packed with people. There were too many people inside the house for one more person to get in. There were many people on the outside of the house; no one could get through that crowd of people to get close to Jesus. The four men had an idea! They carried the sick man up the stairs to the roof of the house. They laid the man on the roof of the house, and they went to work lifting up the roof tiles, making a hole in the roof right over the place where Jesus was. Holding onto the ropes on the corners of the soft sleeping bag-type bed, they slowly let the man down inside the house until he lay right in front of Jesus! That was a smart thing to do! Jesus healed the sick man.

I would call these four men servants of this sick man. Jesus was a servant of the sick man; He helped him. The man got up and carried his bed out of the house without anybody's help. Then he began to serve, too; he went about telling his friends and family what Jesus had done for him.

(Pick up the five loaves and the two fishes.) I know of a little boy who served Jesus by giving up something that was all his own. Mark tells about him in the book of Mark. This little boy also served thousands of other people. It was on a day when many, many people had been with Jesus for most of the day. No one had had a chance to go any place to eat. No one in the crowd had a lunch; no one, that is, except this little boy. This little boy served Jesus; he gave his lunch to Jesus. He also was serving the thousands of other people because Jesus took this little lunch and miraculously made it bigger. Jesus broke it into many pieces and told the disciples to take these pieces of food to this great big crowd. The thousands of people had so much to eat that they got full. They had this lunch because a little boy served Jesus.

(Pick up the rope and the outer garment.) Jesus was going to Jerusalem for the last time. He was outside the city in the hills of Judea. Jesus said to His disciples, "I would like to ride into the city on the back of a donkey. I know that in the city you will find a donkey tied up." You see, Jesus knows everything. "Untie that donkey and bring him to Me." The disciples went into the city. Sure enough, they found a little donkey tied up.

They started to untie the donkey. Someone, probably the owner of the donkey, said, "What do you think you are doing? Why are you untying that donkey?"

The disciples said, "Jesus has need of this donkey."

"Oh, since Jesus needs him, that's all right. Take the donkey to Jesus." The man who owned the donkey wanted to serve, too!

Some people were standing near Jesus when the donkey was brought to Him. They laid their sweaters or their jackets or their coats on the back of the donkey so that Jesus would have a nice seat on which to ride the donkey. They were servicing Jesus, too! So many people wanted to serve Jesus, and to help Him.

For many days and weeks and months and years Mark watched all these things happening. He watched Jesus' being a servant. He watched other people as they were servants to Jesus. Mark decided to be a servant, too. He decided to help whomever he could help, and in that way he would be helping Jesus. After Jesus went back to Heaven, Mark became servant to two great missionaries. Mark became a helper to Paul and Barnabas. Mark was a good servant most of the time.

Let's you and me decide to be Jesus' servants. Let's decide to help others as Jesus would help them. Let's tell others about Jesus; that's being Jesus' servant, too. Jesus said that the greatest thing we can do is to be servants.

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: Mark 10:45, "For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister...."