

Mark's Gospel: The Whole Story, Its Thresholds of Faith, Its Witnesses

The first gospel to be written, Mark's gospel uniquely preserves the way early communities told and shaped Jesus' story in their oral traditions. The gospel we receive not only hands on Jesus' teachings but proclaims the first Christians' faith that Jesus' resurrection affirms he is the messiah and God's son. The faith of these eyewitness disciples colors the whole story and fills the narrative with rich oral artistry and theological insights. The written gospel calls new generations to faith as it travels through time.

Join in a fresh look at the first gospel as a whole, its cycles of oral tradition, its use and deconstruction. We read Mark at Sunday Eucharist in the 2021 liturgical year. This course will pay special attention to women's barely visible presence as disciples. Participants will learn skills for deepening their own reading and interpretation of the gospels. Course sessions will use *Mark's Gospel: The Whole Story* by Joan Mitchell, available at goodgroundpress.com, and the New Testament. Via Zoom, the 90-minute sessions will include presentation and small and large group conversation.

Instructor: Joan Mitchell, CSJ, PhD. New Testament, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN
MTS, Harvard Divinity School.

Twelve Thursdays: Jan 21, 28; Feb 4, 11, 2021; Mar 25, Apr 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; May 6, 13
Via Zoom 11:00-12:30 CST

- Jan 21 Read *Whole Story*, Introduction; "It's a Story," pp. 4-12
- Jan 28 Read *Whole Story*, Chapter 1: "The Beginning and the Ending," pp. 13-16
Mark 1.1 and Mark 16.1-20
Read *Whole Story*, 2: "John the Baptist and Jesus: Prophets," pp. 17-20, Mark 1.2-13
- Feb 4 *Whole Story*, Chapter 3: "Jesus' First Days of Ministry Stir Controversy," pp. 21-27
Mark 1.14—3.35. Women disciples: Peter's mother-in-law and Jesus' mother
What is the secret? Who tells the secret?
- Feb 11 Lent, Temptation and Transfiguration, Mark 1.12-13; Mark 8.22—9.8
Read *Whole Story*, Chapter 7: "From Blurry Vision to Full Sight," pp. 50-54

No classes during the first weeks of Lent
- Mar 25 Read *Whole Story*, Chapter 10: "Are You the Son of the Blessed One?" pp. 71-83.
Mark 14.1-15.47, Palm/Passion Sunday Gospel. In memory of the anointing woman.
- Apr 1 Read *Whole Story*, Chapter 11: "The Ultimate Threshold of Faith: The Empty Tomb,"
pp. 84-88. Mark 16.1-8, Easter Vigil Gospel. The women from Galilee.
- Apr 8 Read *Whole Story*, Chapter 4: "Sowing the Word: A Hundredfold Promise," pp. 28-32
Mark 4.1-34

- Apr 15 Read *Whole Story*, Chapter 5: “A Community at Sea: Called from Fear to Faith,” pp. 33-41. Mark 4.35-6:33; 6.45-51 Who tells the secret?
- Apr 22 Mark’s Thick Narrative, the Cost of Discipleship, the Power of Witness
Mark 4.35-6:33; 6.45-51 The Geresene demoniac and the woman with the hemorrhage
- Apr 29 Read *Whole Story*, Chapter 6: “Bread for All: Do You Understand?” pp 42-49
Mark 6.34-44; 6;52--8.21 The Syrophenician woman
- May 6 Read *Whole Story*, Chapter 7: “From Blurry Vision to Full Sight,”, pp. 50-59
Mark 8.22—10.52
- May 13 Read *Whole Story*, Chapter 8: “Not the Season for Figs,” pp 60-67.
Mark 11.1—12.44
Whole Story, Chapter 9: “Not One Stone upon Another,” Mark 13.1-37, pp, 64-88.