



***Rockbridge Church Small Groups Lesson 2***  
**Mark 2 – Real Jesus (Read Mark 2)**

1. What do you see in Mark 2 that helps you know what Jesus is like?
2. In what ways do you see Jesus hard at work, on an intentional mission, loving people?
3. What one thing about Jesus stands out to you in this chapter? (What about Jesus astonishes you, amazes you, challenges you or comforts you?)
4. In Mark 2, who encounters Jesus, and how do they respond to Him?
5. How are you responding to the Jesus you encountered in Mark 2?
6. What was most instructive, and what did you appreciate most from Sunday's sermon?

Check out the additional notes on The Gospel on the next page.  
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## **The Gospel**

"The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." So begins the Gospel of Mark. Mark describes his book as "good news" – because it is about Jesus. Jesus our Savior, Jesus our Lord, Jesus our Friend, Jesus our Teacher and Jesus our King!

In the most basic sense, the gospel is Jesus. We know this from the announcement of Jesus' birth in Luke 2. The angel announced to the shepherds "good news of great joy which will be for all people." And the good news (gospel) is this: "For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

Since "gospel" means good news, the gospel may and must be defined in terms of the message. The message is always Jesus — who He is and what He did.

In particular the message of the gospel is that Jesus Christ, God's Son, in an act of sacrificial love became a man to rescue us from sin (and its consequence — eternal death). Jesus lived a sinless life, then died to pay the penalty for our sins. Jesus became our substitute — bearing our penalty so that we may receive the pardon, and dying our death so that we might have life. At the heart of the gospel is God satisfying Himself by substituting Himself for us.

At His death Jesus said, "It is finished" (John 19:30), using a Greek word for canceling a debt — it means "paid in full." Jesus then rose from the grave, defeating sin and conquering death.

In Mark 2, when Jesus offers forgiveness of sins to the paralyzed man, He is giving us the first hint of His mission. However humbling, and therefore unpopular, the message may be, forgiveness remains mankind's chief need, and an indispensable part of the good news.

The gospel is offered as a free gift to us. "The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

We receive the gospel by coming to Jesus, answering His call, believing in Him and receiving Him. "By grace you have been saved through faith . . ." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

As the people of Rockbridge Church, we make much of Jesus. We live in our world with this single mission — creating opportunities for people to see, hear and respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ. We care about reaching people with the gospel where we live and work and play. The gospel is life-giving and life-changing.

When we really see Jesus, our worldview, our desires, our goals, our direction — everything changes. And because He never gives up on us, the changes won't stop. The gospel is the beginning of the the great adventure you were made for.