

# READ WITH US PLAN

*The Gospel of Mark*



**BAKERSFIELD FIRST**

*Week 1*

FOR MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup> SERMON

*From Crowds to Calling*

Primary Scripture: Mark 1:35–45

### Connecting Scriptures

Luke 5:15–16 – Jesus withdraws to pray

John 6:26–27 – Following for the right reasons

Psalms 63:1–8 – Seeking God early

Matthew 9:36–38 – Compassion for the crowds

### Reflection Questions

- Am I seeking Jesus for what He can give, or for who He is?
- What does my prayer life reveal about my priorities?
- Where is Jesus inviting me to move from the crowd into calling?



# *Week 2*

## FOR MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup> SERMON

### *The Forgiving King*

Primary Scripture: Mark 2:1–12

#### Connecting Scriptures

Psalms 103:8–12 – God removes our sins

Isaiah 1:18 – Sins made white as snow

Romans 8:1 – No condemnation in Christ

James 5:16 – Confession and healing

#### Reflection Questions

- Do I truly believe I am forgiven?
- What “mat” from my past am I still carrying?
- Who needs friends like the four men in my life—and how can I be one?



# *Week 3*

## FOR MARCH 15<sup>TH</sup> SERMON

### *New Wine, New Ways*

Primary Scripture: Mark 2:13-23

#### Connecting Scriptures

2 Corinthians 5:17 – New creation

Ezekiel 36:26-27 – A new heart and spirit

Luke 15:1-7 – Jesus seeks sinners

Galatians 5:1 – Freedom in Christ

#### Reflection Questions

- Where am I trying to fit Jesus into my old patterns?
- What new thing is God doing in my life right now?
- Am I extending grace to others the way Jesus does?



# Week 4

## FOR MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup> SERMON

*Lord of the Sabbath,  
Lord of my life*

Primary Scripture: Mark 2:24–3:19

### Connecting Scriptures

Exodus 20:8–11 – Sabbath principle

Matthew 11:28–30 – Rest in Christ

Colossians 2:16–17 – Fulfillment of the Sabbath

Psalms 23:1–3 – Restoring the soul

### Reflection Questions

- Is Jesus truly Lord of my schedule and rhythms?
- Where am I striving instead of resting?
- What would it look like to live from rest rather than for it?



# *Week 5*

## FOR MARCH 29<sup>TH</sup> SERMON

### *Who is my family?*

Primary Scripture: Mark 3:20-35

#### Connecting Scriptures

John 1:12-13 – Children of God

Ephesians 2:19 – Members of God's household

Hebrews 10:24-25 – Community matters

Psalms 68:6 – God sets the lonely in families

#### Reflection Questions

- Do I see the church as my spiritual family?
- Where do I need to move from isolation to connection?
- How can I invest more intentionally in spiritual relationships?



# *Holy Week Devotional*

AVAILABLE AS A SEPARATE DOWNLOAD

THIS READING PLAN RESUMES  
FOLLOWING EASTER



# *Week 7*

## FOR APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup> SERMON

### *Goils of the Heart*

Primary Scripture: Mark 4:1-20

#### Connecting Scriptures

Hebrews 4:12 – The living Word

James 1:21-25 – Receiving and doing the Word

Psalms 119:9-16 – Treasuring Scripture

Hosea 10:12 – Break up the fallow ground

#### Reflection Questions

- Which soil best describes my heart right now?
- What distractions or worries are choking God's Word in me?
- What practices help me cultivate good soil?





# Week 8

## FOR APRIL 19<sup>TH</sup> SERMON

### *Seeds, Lamb, and the Kingdom*

Primary Scripture: Mark 4:21-34

#### Connecting Scriptures

Matthew 5:14-16 – Let your light shine

Zechariah 4:10 – Do not despise small beginnings

1 Corinthians 3:6-7 – God gives the growth

Philippians 1:6 – God finishes what He starts

#### Reflection Questions

- Where am I underestimating what God can do through small steps?
- Is my faith visible, or hidden?
- What seed is God asking me to plant this week?



# Week 9

## FOR APRIL 26<sup>TH</sup> SERMON

### *When Jesus is in Your Storm*

Primary Scripture: Mark 4:35-41

#### Connecting Scriptures

Psalms 46:1-3 – God our refuge

Isaiah 43:1-2 – Through the waters

John 16:33 – Take heart, I have overcome

2 Corinthians 1:8-10 – Trusting God in hardship

#### Reflection Questions

- What storm am I facing right now?
- Where is fear louder than faith?
- How is Jesus inviting me to trust Him more deeply?



# Week 10

## FOR MAY 3<sup>RD</sup> SERMON

### *Liberated: Get Free by Jesus*

Primary Scripture: Mark 5:1-20

#### Connecting Scriptures

John 8:36 – Freedom in Christ

Colossians 1:13-14 – Delivered from darkness

Psalms 40:1-3 – Lifted from the pit

Luke 4:18 – Freedom for the oppressed

#### Reflection Questions

- What has Jesus set me free from?
- Where do I still feel bound?
- How can I share my story of freedom with others?



# *Week 11*

## FOR MAY 10<sup>TH</sup> SERMON

### *Daughter, Get Up*

Primary Scripture: Mark 5:21-43

#### Connecting Scriptures

Psalms 30:2-5 – Weeping to joy

Hebrews 11:1 – Faith in what we cannot see

Romans 4:18-21 – Hope against hope

John 11:25 – Jesus, the resurrection and life

#### Reflection Questions

- Where is God calling me to trust Him beyond what I see?
- What situation feels “dead” that needs resurrection hope?
- How can I practice persistent faith this week?



# Week 12

## FOR MAY 17<sup>TH</sup> SERMON

### *When Faith Becomes Too Familiar*

Primary Scripture: Mark 6:1-6

#### Connecting Scriptures

Revelation 2:4-5 – Return to first love

Psalms 51:10-12 – Renew a right spirit

Hebrews 3:12-13 – Guard against a hardened heart

Jeremiah 29:13 – Seek and find Him

#### Reflection Questions

- Has my faith become routine or familiar?
- When was the last time I was truly expectant of God?
- What would it look like to pursue Jesus with fresh passion?



*Week 13*  
FOR MAY 24<sup>TH</sup> SERMON  
*Gent and Fed*

Primary Scripture: Mark 6:7-44

Connecting Scriptures

Matthew 28:18-20 – The Great Commission

John 6:35 – Jesus, the Bread of Life

2 Corinthians 9:8 – God supplies what we need

Psalms 23 – The Lord provides

Reflection Questions

- Where is Jesus sending me right now?
- What am I holding back that He wants me to offer?
- How have I experienced His provision recently?



# Week 14

## FOR MAY 31<sup>ST</sup> SERMON

### *Take Courage, It is I*

Primary Scripture: Mark 6:45-56

#### Connecting Scriptures

Isaiah 41:10 – Do not fear

Matthew 14:28-31 – Walking on water

Psalms 77:19 – God's path through the sea

Philippians 4:6-7 – Peace beyond understanding

#### Reflection Questions

- Where do I need courage right now?
- What does stepping out in faith look like for me this week?
- How have I experienced God's presence in difficult moments?

