

## **On Your Mark: Reading and Prayer Plan**

### **January 6 - 10**

Monday: Mark 1:1-8 (John the Baptist Prepares the Way)

Prayer Focus: Pray for God to prepare your heart to *follow Jesus* and to *boldly share* His message like John the Baptist. Confess any sin that is tripping you up. Repent of that sin, and turn to Jesus.

Tuesday: Mark 1:9-13 (The Baptism and Temptation of Jesus)

Prayer Focus: Ask for strength to resist temptation and remain faithful to God's purposes. Ask for God to show you the way of escape (1 Cor. 10:13). Praise God that despite our unfaithfulness at times, Jesus was faithful and perfectly obedient on our behalf.

Wednesday: Mark 1:14-20 (Jesus Begins His Ministry)

Prayer Focus: Pray for courage to follow Jesus wholeheartedly, leaving behind worldly distractions. Ask Him to reveal who in your life needs to hear the good news of the Gospel.

Thursday: Mark 1:21-28 (Jesus Heals a Man with an Unclean Spirit)

Prayer Focus: Pray for spiritual freedom for yourself and others. Place your trust in Jesus' authority over everything!

Friday: Mark 1:29-34 (Jesus Heals Many)

Prayer Focus: Pray for physical and emotional healing for those in need, and trust Jesus as the Great Healer.

### **January 13 - 17**

Monday: Mark 1:35-39 (Jesus' Purpose in Preaching)

Prayer Focus: Pray for clarity in your life's purpose according to God's Word. Ask the Father for a heart that prioritizes time with Him in prayer.

Tuesday: Mark 1:40-45 (Jesus Heals a Leper)

Prayer Focus: Pray for compassion and empathy to reach out to those who are hurting. Believe that Jesus still offers hope to the lost, forgotten, and outcast of our society.

Wednesday: Mark 2:1-12 (Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man)

Prayer Focus: Bring your pain and brokenness to Jesus and ask for healing. Recognize that your greatest need is forgiveness and ask for it (1 John 1:9). Pray for boldness to bring those close to you but far from God before the Lord and watch what He can do.

Thursday: Mark 2:13-17 (Jesus Calls Levi)

Prayer Focus: Spend some time praising God that He chose a sinner like Matthew (Levi) and you—We couldn't earn it, nor did we deserve His love. Pray for the humility and purity needed to "recline with sinners and tax collectors" without compromising truth.

Friday: Mark 2:18-22 (A Question About Fasting)

Prayer Focus: Ask God to renew your spirit. Pray for more margin and space for His work in your life.

## **January 20 - 24**

Monday: Mark 2:23-28 (Lord of the Sabbath)

Prayer Focus: Pray for rest. Bring your burdens and worries to Jesus and know that He cares for you (Matthew 11:28-30, 1 Peter 5:7). Trust in God's provision and acknowledge Him as Lord of all.

Tuesday: Mark 3:1-6 (Healing on the Sabbath)

Prayer Focus: Pray for boldness to do what is right, even when it challenges traditions.

Wednesday: Mark 3:7-12 (Jesus' Popularity and Power)

Prayer Focus: Pray for others to recognize and trust in Jesus' power and authority over all things. Pray for lost people, those with unclean spirits, to recognize Jesus as the Son of God.

Thursday: Mark 3:13-19 (The Choosing of the Twelve Apostles)

Prayer Focus: Ask for God's strength, equipping, and guidance for Crosstown's pastors and elders. Pray that the Lord continues to raise up leaders for His church and the mission of helping other struggling and dying churches.

Friday: Mark 3:20-35 (Jesus, Beelzebul, and God's Family)

Prayer Focus: Pray for unity in God's family and faithfulness in doing His will.

## **January 27 - 31**

Monday: Mark 4:1-9 (Parable of the Sower)

Prayer Focus: Pray for ears to hear and a heart to respond to the Word of God.

Tuesday: Mark 4:10-20 (The Purpose of the Parables)

Prayer Focus: Pray for understanding and wisdom to apply God's truth (James 1:5).

Wednesday: Mark 4:21-34 (Parables of Light and Growth)

Prayer Focus: Pray for God's light to shine through your life. May people come to know Jesus as we shine the light of Christ. Pray also for more and more spiritual growth to happen in our church.

Thursday: Mark 4:35-41 (Jesus Calms the Storm)

Prayer Focus: Pray for a peace that surpasses all understanding to guard your heart and mind (Philippians 4:6-7). Pray for a deep trust in God's sovereignty amidst life's storms.

Friday: Mark 5:1-20 (Jesus Heals a Man with a Demon)

Prayer Focus: Pray against the devil's schemes. Recognize that we have a spiritual enemy that would like for nothing more than to steal, kill, and destroy what matters to God (John 10:10). Pray for people in your life who seem to be under spiritual bondage. Ask Jesus to break every chain that keeps them from recognizing Jesus as Lord.

## **February 3 - 7**

Monday: Mark 5:21-43 (Healing of Jairus' Daughter and the Woman with the Issue of Blood)

*Prayer Focus:* Pray for faith to trust in Jesus' power and timing to heal and restore, even in situations that seem hopeless.

Tuesday: Mark 6:1-6 (Jesus Rejected at Nazareth)

*Prayer Focus:* Pray for perseverance when facing rejection or opposition for your faith. Pray for the kind of boldness that we see in our persecuted brothers and sisters around the world. Learn more about their stories here: <https://www.persecution.com>

Wednesday: Mark 6:7-13 (Sending Out the Twelve)

*Prayer Focus:* Pray for boldness to share the Gospel in your neighborhood and for a heart to support those doing so around the world. Learn more about Alliance missions here: <https://cmalliance.org/our-work/alliance-missions/>

Thursday: Mark 6:14-29 (The Death of John the Baptist)

*Prayer Focus:* Pray for those who are persecuted for their faith to remain steadfast and find strength in Christ. You can find specific prayer requests here: <https://www.icommittoprayer.com>

Friday: Mark 6:30-44 (Feeding of the Five Thousand)

*Prayer Focus:* Pray for God to use you as a vessel to bless those around you. Ask the Lord for eyes to see both the spiritual and physical needs of others.

## **February 10 - 14**

Monday: Mark 6:45-56 (Jesus Walks on Water)

*Prayer Focus:* Ask for a deeper sense of God's presence and power when "making headway painfully". Know that your pastors are praying for you especially today to keep going in this reading and prayer plan. Research shows that 80% of people quit their New Year's resolutions by February! *Be the 20%... You got this!*

Tuesday: Mark 7:1-13 (Traditions and Commandments)

*Prayer Focus:* Ask for discernment to follow God's Word over man-made traditions or empty practices.

Wednesday: Mark 7:14-23 (What Defiles a Person)

*Prayer Focus:* Pray for a pure heart and for God to help you avoid sin that stems from within. Pray the Psalm of David: *"He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. He will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation. "Give us clean hands, give us pure heart" (Psalm 24:4-5)*

Thursday: Mark 7:24-30 (The Faith of a Syrophenician Woman)

*Prayer Focus:* Persist in prayer, with humility, for God's provision in your life. Pray, "Lord, I'm coming to you again because I believe; help my unbelief."

Friday: Mark 7:31-37 (Jesus Heals a Deaf Man)

*Prayer Focus:* Be amazed at Jesus' power today! Pray for spiritual ears to hear God's voice clearly and respond in obedience. Pray this same prayer for the students who are attending Snow Camp.

## **February 17 - 21**

Monday: Mark 8:1-10 (Feeding the Four Thousand)

*Prayer Focus:* Thank God for His provision in your life. Ask the Lord for opportunities to share His blessings with others.

Tuesday: Mark 8:11-13 (The Sign of Jonah)

*Prayer Focus:* Pray for faith to trust in God's plan, even when you don't see immediate signs or answers.

Wednesday: Mark 8:14-21 (The Yeast of the Pharisees)

*Prayer Focus:* Pray for protection from false teachings and for wisdom to discern God's truth. Spend some time thanking God for the elders and pastors in our church who joyfully watch over your soul (Hebrews 13:17). Pray for each of them as they teach God's Word to you, either on Sunday morning or throughout the week.

Thursday: Mark 8:22-30 (Healing of a Blind Man and Peter's Confession)

*Prayer Focus:* Pray for spiritual eyes to recognize Jesus as the Messiah over every area of your life. If there is an area that is not aligned with your confession of Jesus as Lord, submit to His leadership and lordship today.

Friday: Mark 8:31-38 (Jesus Predicts His Death and the Cost of Discipleship)

*Prayer Focus:* Spend some time today counting the cost of following Jesus. Pray for the strength to take up your cross daily and live as a faithful disciple.

## **February 24 - 28**

Monday: Mark 9:1-13 (The Transfiguration)

*Prayer Focus:* Pray for a deeper understanding of Jesus' glory and how to reflect Him in your life. Ask the Lord for the ability to see Jesus clearly before making key decisions in your life.

Tuesday: Mark 9:14-29 (Healing a Boy with an Unclean Spirit)

*Prayer Focus:* Pray for faith in God's power to overcome the spiritual battles you or others are facing. In your doubt remember Jesus' words: "All things are possible for one who believes."

Wednesday: Mark 9:30-37 (Jesus on Greatness and Servanthood)

*Prayer Focus:* Pray for a servant's heart and for humility to put others' needs before your own. Ask God to reveal to you, today, one person who you can serve with the love of Christ.

Thursday: Mark 9:38-50 (Whoever is Not Against Us is for Us)

*Prayer Focus:* Pray for unity in Christ's Church. Pray for a spirit of togetherness at Crosstown Alliance. Ask God for wisdom to avoid causing others to stumble.

Friday: Mark 10:1-12 (Teaching About Divorce)

*Prayer Focus:* Pray for God to strengthen the marriages in our church. Ask Him to bring healing and restoration in broken marriages.

## **March 3 - 7**

Monday: Mark 10:13-16 (Let the Little Children Come)

*Prayer Focus:* Pray for a childlike faith and a heart that fully trusts in God's love and care. Spend some time praying for the children and teenagers in our church that they would grow up to truly know and love God.

Tuesday: Mark 10:17-22 (The Rich Young Ruler)

*Prayer Focus:* Pray for God to loosen the grip of greed in your life. Pray for the willingness to surrender anything that hinders your relationship with Christ.

Wednesday: Mark 10:23-31 (The Danger of Riches)

*Prayer Focus:* Pray for contentment in God's provision and freedom from the love of worldly wealth. Remember Paul's words to Timothy: "But godliness with contentment is great gain," (1 Tim. 6:6).

Thursday: Mark 10:32-34 (Jesus Predicts His Death a Third Time)

*Prayer Focus:* Pray for a deeper understanding of Jesus' sacrifice. Spend some time thanking God for sending His son to die for your sins.

Friday: Mark 10:35-45 (The Request of James and John)

*Prayer Focus:* Pray for more and more humility in your life (James 4:6). Ask God for a servant's heart. Find someone today, or this weekend, to serve with no strings attached.

### **March 10 - 14**

Monday: Mark 10:46-52 (Healing of Blind Bartimaeus)

*Prayer Focus:* Pray for spiritual eyes to see Jesus clearly and the faith to follow Him wholeheartedly. If you have a physical need, do what the blind beggar did and cry out to Jesus, saying, "have mercy on me!"

Tuesday: Mark 11:1-11 (The Triumphal Entry)

*Prayer Focus:* Praise Jesus as savior! Pray for a heart of worship that welcomes Jesus as King in every area of your life.

Wednesday: Mark 11:12-19 (Jesus Cleanses the Temple)

*Prayer Focus:* Pray for purity. Ask God to remove anything that dishonors Him from your life.

Thursday: Mark 11:20-25 (The Withered Fig Tree)

*Prayer Focus:* Pray for unwavering faith in God's power and for a forgiving heart toward others. If there is someone you need to extend forgiveness to, reach out to them today.

Friday: Mark 11:27-33 (Questioning Jesus' Authority)

*Prayer Focus:* Pray for humility to submit to Jesus' authority in your life. When you find yourself wrestling with what you know is the right thing to do from God's Word, ask for a heart of trust in God's wisdom.

### **March 17 - 21**

Monday: Mark 12:1-12 (Parable of the Tenants)

*Prayer Focus:* Simply spend some time today marveling at what the Lord has done on our behalf by becoming "The stone that the builders rejected" and the "cornerstone" of our lives. As the Scripture says, "this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?"

Tuesday: Mark 12:13-17 (Paying Taxes to Caesar)

*Prayer Focus:* Pray for wisdom to balance earthly responsibilities while remaining fully devoted to God. “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.”

Wednesday: Mark 12:18-27 (A Question About the Resurrection)

*Prayer Focus:* Pray for a faith that is steadfast and unwavering because of the certain hope in the resurrection. Begin praying about who you could invite to our Easter service on April 20—someone close to you but far from God or who doesn't attend a local church.

Thursday: Mark 12:28-34 (The Greatest Commandment)

*Prayer Focus:* Pray for a heart that loves God completely and loves others selflessly. Take inventory of your devotion—your heart (affections), your soul (inner self), your mind (thoughts), and your strength (actions). Remember, loving God includes all aspects of who we are, and out of that will come a life that loves others.

Friday: Mark 12:35-44 (Beware of the Scribes and a Lesson About the Widow's Offering)

*Prayer Focus:* Pray for an awareness that everything that we have comes from God. Ask God for a generous heart and a willingness to give sacrificially for God's glory.

### **March 24 - 28**

Monday: Mark 13:1-13 (Signs of the End of the Age)

*Prayer Focus:* Pray for spiritual focus and urgency as we live in the End of the Age. Ask for the courage needed to remain steadfast in your faith.

Tuesday: Mark 13:14-23 (The Abomination of Desolation)

*Prayer Focus:* Pray that you and others in our church will remain alert to God's warnings. Ask the Lord for strength to stay faithful to Him even in times of difficulty or persecution.

Wednesday: Mark 13:24-27 (The Coming of the Son of Man)

*Prayer Focus:* Pray for a joyful anticipation of Christ's return and readiness to meet Him. Allow the reality to create a sense of urgency to share the Gospel with others. Continue to be on the lookout for people that you could invite to our Easter service.

Thursday: Mark 13:28-37 (The Parable of the Fig Tree and Being Watchful)

*Prayer Focus:* Continue to pray for this week's theme of being ready for Christ's return. Specifically pray for lost people to “come awake”.

Friday: Mark 14:1-11 (The Plot Against Jesus and the Anointing at Bethany)

*Prayer Focus:* Pray for a heart of devotion, like the woman who anointed Jesus. Spend time pouring out gratitude to God for all that He has done in your life. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal anything you may be holding back, and surrender it fully to Jesus as an act of worship.

### **March 31 - April 4**

Monday: Mark 14:12-25 (The Last Supper)

*Prayer Focus:* Spend some time remembering and reflecting on Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and what He accomplished. Pray for a deep sense of unity among our church as we celebrate communion this upcoming Sunday.

Tuesday: Mark 14:26-31 (Jesus Foretells Peter's Denial)

*Prayer Focus:* Remember that just as Jesus prayed for Peter (Luke 22:31-32) He is praying for you—"I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." Pray that your faith may not fail. Spend some time praying for others who are going through a trial that they would remain steadfast in their faith.

Wednesday: Mark 14:32-42 (Jesus Prays in Gethsemane)

*Prayer Focus:* Ask the Lord to help you stay awake and alert, not allowing this world to lull you to sleep. Pray also for a heart that submits to the Father's will.

Thursday: Mark 14:43-50 (Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus)

*Prayer Focus:* Pray for the strength to stand firm in your faith, even when others turn away. Ask for forgiveness for the times that you have betrayed Jesus either by your words or actions.

Friday: Mark 14:51-72 (Peter's Denial)

*Prayer Focus:* Pray for forgiveness when you fall short and for the courage to boldly proclaim Christ. Pray also for Pastor Stu and the team heading to the Dominican Republic. Pray that the Lord would bless their travels and time of ministry in the DR.

## **April 7 - 11**

Monday: Mark 15:1-15 (Jesus Before Pilate)

*Prayer Focus:* Pray for courage to not satisfy the crowd but follow Jesus. Continue to pray for the team in the Dominican Republic that the Lord would use them to be a blessing to Brandon and Bethany Nutter (our International Worker partners).

Tuesday: Mark 15:16-20 (The Soldiers Mock Jesus)

*Prayer Focus:* Pray for deep humility and gratitude as you reflect on the today's reading. Jesus willingly endured humiliation and suffering for your sake—"Behold the man upon a cross: My sin upon His shoulders; Ashamed I hear my mocking voice, Call out among the scoffers. It was my sin that held Him there, Until it was accomplished; His dying breath has brought me life: I know that it is finished."

Wednesday: Mark 15:21-32 (The Crucifixion of Jesus)

*Prayer Focus:* Spend time thanking Jesus for His payment for your sin. Confess any sin that you might be holding onto. Claim the blood of Jesus to forgive you of that sin and to cleanse you from all unrighteousness.

Thursday: Mark 15:33-41 (The Death of Jesus)

*Prayer Focus:* After reading, simply be quiet and listen.

Friday: Mark 15:42-47 (The Burial of Jesus)

*Prayer Focus:* Pray for trust in God's perfect timing, even in seasons of waiting or uncertainty. Remember, *It may be Friday but Sunday's coming!*

## **April 14 - 18**

Monday: Mark 16:1-8 (The Resurrection)

*Prayer Focus:* Pray that God would increase your hope and confidence in the resurrection. What we read today is not just a story but a living, breathing, walking testimony of the God

who put death in its grave once and for all! This is a preview of what is to come this Sunday—take advantage of the amazing opportunity to invite someone close to you but far from God to a place of grace where they will hear the Gospel!

Tuesday: Mark 16:9-13 (Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene)

*Prayer Focus:* Pray for eyes to see Jesus in your daily life and boldness to share your faith with others. Remember, Found People Find People: When you've discovered the greatest news in the history of the world you'll naturally want to share it with others. Be intentional this week to invite lost and unchurched people to our Easter service. Pray that God gives you open doors.

Wednesday: Mark 16:14-18 (The Great Commission)

*Prayer Focus:* Pray for more opportunities to spread the Gospel in our neighborhood and the nations. Take a moment to pray for our IWs (International Workers) serving all over the world; specifically for Brandon and Bethany Nutter (Dominican Republic); Walter and Laura Hopkins (Spain); and Renee Valach (Africa).

Thursday: Mark 16:19-20 (The Ascension)

*Prayer Focus:* Pray for strength to live as Christ's witnesses, empowered by the Holy Spirit until His return (see also Acts 1:8). We have the opportunity to be his witnesses this week—don't forget to invite someone to a place of grace this Sunday! If you haven't already done so make plans to join us, and bring a friend, to our Easter service.

(Good) Friday: Congratulations! You've completed the reading and prayer plan!!

*Prayer Focus:* Spend time today reflecting on Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. Thank God for not leaving us separated from Him in our sin but redeeming and transforming our lives!