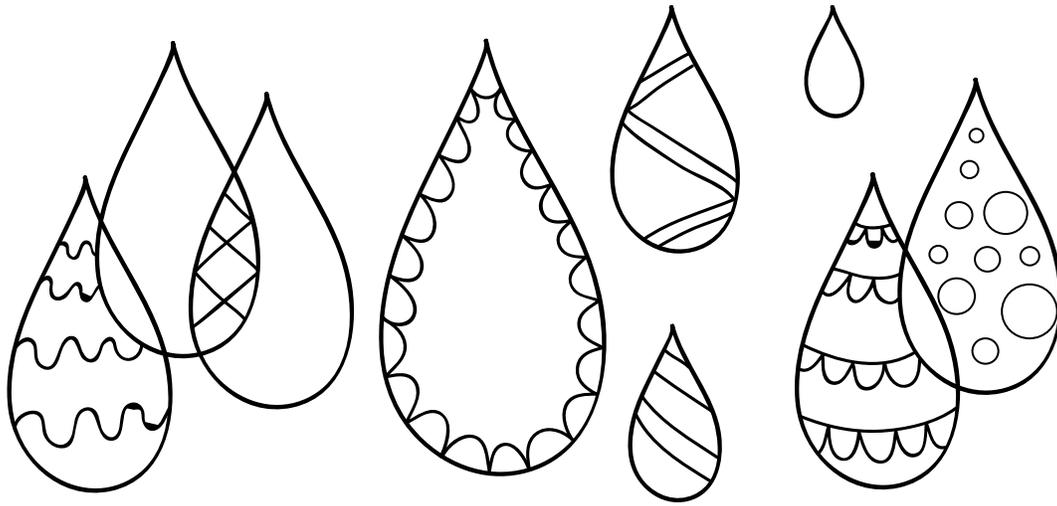


REMARKABLE

A 40-DAY JOURNEY THROUGH
THE BOOK OF MARK

MARGARET FEINBERG



Copyright © 2018 by Margaret Feinberg (margaretfeinberg.com)

All rights reserved. No portion of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, scanning, or other—except for brief quotations in critical reviews or articles without the prior written permission of the author.

Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide The “NIV” and “New International Version” are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™ 1. Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible, New International Reader’s Version®, Nlrv® Copyright © 1995, 1996, 1998, 2014 by Biblica, Inc. Used by permission of Zondervan. The “Nlrv” and “New International Reader’s Version” are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc. Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996, 2004, 2007, 2013 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations from THE MESSAGE. Copyright © by Eugene H. Peterson 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. Scripture quotations taken from the New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. All rights reserved. The New Testament in Modern English by J.B Phillips copyright © 1960, 1972 J. B. Phillips. Administered by The Archbishops’ Council of the Church of England. Used by Permission. Scripture taken from the New Century Version®. Copyright © 2005 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved. The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®). ESV® Text Edition: 2016. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. The ESV® text has been reproduced in cooperation with and by permission of Good News Publishers. Unauthorized reproduction of this publication is prohibited. All rights reserved. The Christian Standard Bible. Copyright © 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Christian Standard Bible®, and CSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers, all rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked NKJV are taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked HCSB®, are taken from the Holman Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2009 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. HCSB® is a federally registered trademark of Holman Bible Publishers. Scripture quotations marked NRSV are from New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations from The Authorized (King James) Version. Rights in the Authorized Version in the United Kingdom are vested in the Crown. Reproduced by permission of the Crown’s patentee, Cambridge University Press.

REMARKABLE

A 40-DAY JOURNEY THROUGH
THE BOOK OF MARK

A Letter from Margaret	6
How to Use the Color Method	7
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 1: Where Freedom Awaits Mark 1:1-13.....	8
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 2: When God Interrupts Your Day Mark 1:14-28	10
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 3: Let This Move You Mark 1:29-45	11
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 4: How to Be a Remarkable Friend Mark 2:1-13	12
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 5: The Party You Don't Want to Miss Mark 2:14-22	14
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 6: There's Never a Bad Day to Do This Mark 2:23-3:12	16
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 7: How to Join the Greatest Family Mark 3:13-35	18
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 8: What Makes the Farmer Dance Mark 4:1-25	20
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 9: When God Says "Hush" Mark 4:26-41.....	22
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 10: When You're Tempted by Shame Mark 5:1-20	24
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 11: Look for More Than One of These Mark 5:21-43	26
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 12: When You're Denied a Carry-On Mark 6:1-13	28
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 13: Before You Say Another Word Mark 6:14-32	30
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 14: This Is Better Than a Short-Term Fix Mark 6:33-44	32
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 15: Where Christ Meets You Mark 6:45-56	34
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 16: Why Legalism Is Toxic Mark 7:1-23	36
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 17: Do This When You Want to Quit Mark 7:24-37.....	38
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 18: This Story Deserves a Second Glance Mark 8:1-21	40
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 19: What to Do When Life's Out of Focus Mark 8:22-38	42
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 20: Let's Do This Together Mark 9:1-13.....	44
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 21: What if You're Measuring Things All Wrong? Mark 9:14-29	45
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 22: You Can Ask This Anytime Mark 9:30-50	47
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 23: The Truth About Loopholes Mark 10:1-12	48
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 24: What's in It for You Mark 10:13-31	50
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 25: This Is a Better Way of Living Mark 10:32-52	52
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 26: More Like Us Than We Realized Mark 11:1-12	54
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 27: When Seasons Change Mark 11:13-33	55
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 28: What to Do When You Make a Huge Mistake Mark 12:1-12	57
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 29: How to Get Life Right Every Time Mark 12:13-34.....	58
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 30: How to Be a Great Giver Mark 12:35-44	61
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 31: Why Jesus Warns of the End Times Mark 13:1-23	62
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 32: When Will Jesus Make His Remarkable Entrance? Mark 13:24-37	64
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 33: How to Wear the Fragrance of Christ Mark 14:1-11	66
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 34: Why Your Sacrifice Matters Mark 14:12-31.....	68
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 35: The Best Gift You Can Give to God Mark 14:32-52	70
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 36: Never Say This Mark 14:53-72	72
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 37: The Ultimate Trade Mark 15:1-15	74
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 38: When Heaven and Hell Collide Mark 15:16-41	76
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 39: When It's Still Saturday Mark 15:42-47.....	78
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 40: He Is Risen Indeed! Mark 16:1-20	80

A LETTER FROM MARGARET

Sometimes we can lose sight of the remarkable nature of Jesus Christ. The teachings. The miracles. The presence. The writer of the Gospel of Mark reminds us of the beauty of Christ in a concise, thoughtful book. The smallest of the four Gospels, Mark doesn't waste time or words as he jettisons readers through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. More than anything, Mark wants the life of Christ to become our life.

Remarkable provides a 40-day journey into the Gospel of Mark. Each day is coupled with a devotional entry and reflection questions. Through the upcoming pages, you'll discover a better way to live through Jesus Christ.

Grab a handful of colored pencils, markers, or crayons to slow down as you read Scripture. Take time to circle the verbs, underline the names, and consider the details of the text as you doodle and reflect. Gather around the table. Invite a friend, your kids, or your grandkids to join.

My prayer is that during this time you'll awaken to Jesus and the wonder of Scripture, and you'll live out your faith in a more radiant and remarkable way.

Together, let's learn to know the Remarkable One.

Blessings,
Margaret



THE COLOR METHOD

Creativity splashes in my readings of Scripture. I'm learning to let my inner doodler dance and play. I scribble like a 4-year-old, but the swirls and colors provide time for the words and the phrases to sink deeper into my soul.

Coloring slows our pace.

Coloring highlights the patterns, repeated words, and holy emphasis.

Coloring invites us beyond reading the Scripture and invites the Scripture to read us.

Most days' readings in *Remarkable* take a handful of minutes. Adding the Color Method will double or triple your study time as you read through each portion of Scripture several times. The depth, the richness, the discoveries make this extra effort worth every moment.

Here is what I do with the different colors:

Circle verbs in **red** to highlight the activity of God and people.

Circle places in **brown** to note location.

Circle names in **purple** to identify people.

Mark numbers in **orange** to identify numerals and quantities.

Mark the Holy Spirit, angels, and the prophetic in **blue** to identify God's presence and handiwork.

Scribble observations in your **favorite colors** to record insights.

Bonus Challenge: The Gospel of Mark uses the word "euthus" over 40 times. "Euthus" translates as immediately, directly, straightway, at once, shortly, or forthwith. Star each occurrence of one of these translations in **yellow**. Why do you think Mark uses this word so often?

Following the Scripture reading, you'll find a devotion that zeroes in on one concept from the passage. I wrote these to spur your thoughts and hearts Christward. Each day's reading closes with reflection questions designed for personal or small group use.

As you finish studying each day, consider how you can respond in an active way. You may be nudged to prayer, repentance, a generous act, or a kind word. Ask God how you can be both a hearer and a doer of the day's reading.

WHERE FREEDOM AWAITS

Day 1 - Mark 1:1-13 NIV

¹ The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, ² as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way”—³ “a voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”

⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

⁶ John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.” ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

⁹ At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

¹² At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, ¹³ and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

John the Immerser appears weathered. Sunburned crow’s feet march around his eyes double time. Despite the ache in his back and pangs in his stomach, neither his voice nor his message waivers: Repent.

Wealthy men don wool and ornate belts. John’s dress includes scratchy camel hair and a leather belt. He’s enrobed in the clothes of the poor. John awaits to immerse any man, woman, or child willing to confess their failings to follow the law—the Torah—and live upright before God.

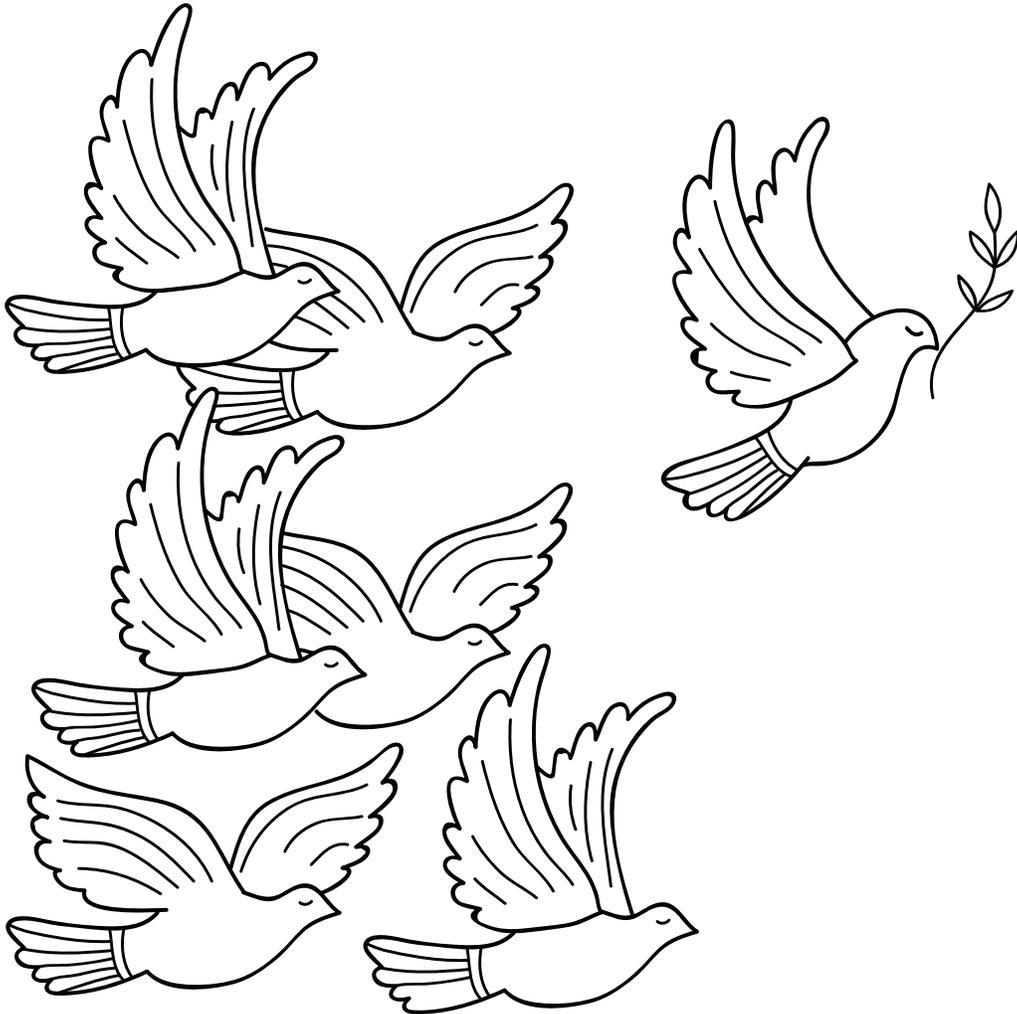
For John, only the Remarkable One is above reproach and has no reason for baptism. But Jesus insists, and all heaven tosses a party that day.

The Spirit nudges Jesus into the wilderness to face great temptation. That’s a fast change from heaven to hell. Cool waters and descending doves are replaced with heat and hunger.

Jesus triumphs over temptation so we can too.

This grueling triathlon of temptation becomes the launching pad for Jesus' ministry. He did what we could not. And do you know the first message Jesus preached? Repent.

John set Jesus up well. And Jesus set us up well by teaching us that there's no temptation we will face that Christ has not overcome. That's really good news.



1. Where are you being tempted most in your life?
2. How has God provided you a way of escape?
3. What steps do you need to take to rise above this temptation?
4. Using the Color Method, what stood out to you most from today's Scripture?

WHEN GOD INTERRUPTS YOUR DAY

Day 2 - Mark 1:14-28 NKJV

¹⁴ Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, ¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

¹⁶ And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ Then Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men."

¹⁸ They immediately left their nets and followed Him. ¹⁹ When He had gone a little farther from there, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the boat mending their nets. ²⁰ And immediately He called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went after Him.

²¹ Then they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and taught. ²² And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

²³ Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, ²⁴ saying, "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!"

²⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!" ²⁶ And when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him. ²⁷ Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? What new doctrine is this? For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him." ²⁸ And immediately His fame spread throughout all the region around Galilee.

Simon and Andrew focus on casting their nets when Jesus interrupts, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." In essence, Jesus says, "What you're doing is good, but I've got something remarkably better." With those words, *BAM*, two disciples begin following Jesus.

James and John focus on mending their nets when Jesus interrupts. Jesus calls them and, *BAM*, they follow Jesus, too.

Then, a tormented man appears in the synagogue. Jesus interrupts again by banishing the unclean spirit. Though these men are focused in different directions—casting, mending, being tormented—Jesus meets each one, interrupts their lives, and ushers them into greater purpose and freedom.

Unexpected interruptions are God's remarkable invitations.

No matter your focus of the day—in work or life—look for Jesus' interruption. They represent opportunities for God to display remarkable love and power in your life.