



### WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

Are you ready to make your mark for the Gospel? It's as natural as telling the story of God's work in your life. Write out and practice a 3-minute version in your own words using this outline.

#### Before I became a Christian...

Briefly summarize your background and what your life used to be like: lifestyle and behavior (but not the sordid details), thoughts and feelings (maybe indifferent, self-righteous, skeptical, fearful, angry, arrogant, guilty).

#### How I became a Christian...

Briefly describe where you were and who was involved when you received Christ. This is a good time to summarize the Gospel: "I realized I am a sinner... God loves me... Jesus died and rose for me... I repented of my sin... I asked Jesus to come into my heart and life and save my soul."

#### Since I became a Christian...

Briefly describe some ways your faith changed your life such as your thinking (beliefs, values, purpose, goals) personality (patience, kindness, humility) relationships (marriage, family, work), emotions (freedom from guilt, love, joy, peace, hope).

**Believe the Gospel - Proclaim the Gospel**

*Mark 1:15, 16:15*

# The Mark of the Gospel

**Take Your Mark**

**Make Your Mark**



**Believe  
the  
Gospel**

*Jesus said,  
"The kingdom of God  
is near.  
Repent and  
believe the Gospel."*

*Mark 1:15*

**Proclaim  
the  
Gospel**

*Jesus said,  
"Go into  
all the world  
and  
proclaim the Gospel."*

*Mark 16:15*



The  
**MARK of the GOSPEL**

*Take Your Mark - Make Your Mark*



**MARK CHAPTER 4  
THE SEED OF THE GOSPEL**

**The L \_\_\_\_\_ of the Seed (1-20)**  
*Cultivate a heart that is receptive to the Word..*

**The L \_\_\_ in the Seed (26-29)**  
*Appreciate the life-changing potential of the Word.*

**The L \_\_\_\_\_ from the Seed (30-32)**  
*Branch out and be a blessing.*

**The L \_\_\_ among the Seed (21-23)**  
*Shine.*

**The L \_\_\_ for the Seed (24-25)**  
*Stay Hungry.*

**DIGGING DEEPER**

*See the next page for a study guide that you can use in a variety of ways  
- in your LIFE group, at the family dinner table, with friends over coffee, in private devotions -  
to help you understand the Bible better and apply it to your life.*

**Believe the Gospel - Proclaim the Gospel**  
*Mark 1:15, 16:15*

**DIGGING DEEPER**

SOIL HEART	RESPONSE	RESULTS	ENEMY TACTIC
Packed & Hard	No Roots Seed Stolen	Lifeless Fruitless	Forgetfulness Satan steals Word
Rocky & Shallow	Springs up but shallow roots	Dry Withered	Trouble & Threats The Heat is On!
Mixed with Weeds	Receptive but distracted	Choked Fruitless	Temptation The Three W's
Good & Receptive	Takes Deep Root & Grows	Vibrant Productive	Defeated Enemy Fruitful Believer

**Read 1-20**

Talk through the various elements of the chart above. Do most people go through a time of being like each of the soils? Do you know someone in each category right now? What is your role with them? Which soil is the best description of your heart right now? Look up Ephesians 2:1-3. Talk/think of how that compares to the "Three W's" of verse 19: worries, wealth, wants.

**Read 26-29**

Read these passages and think/talk about the life that exists in the Word: Psalm 19, 1 Corinthians 3:6, Hebrews 4:12, 1 Peter 1:22-25. Has the Bible ever "spoken" to your heart? What changes in your heart and mind and life have been produced by the living Word?

**Read 30-32**

What is the impact of Christianity on the world? How does that show up from our church? Your small group? Your home? Your life?

**Read 21-23**

What is the purpose of a lamp? Compare Matthew 5:14-16 and Ephesians 4-6 (esp.4:8). . What is the purpose of your life? Home? Small group? Church? Are you fulfilling your purpose?

**Read 24-25**

True or False:  
*There is no spiritual neutral—you will gain or lose ground*  
Is your spiritual life right now closer to forward, reverse, or neutral? Which would you prefer? What can you do to renew your drive?  
Bonus: What is the loooongest chapter in the Bible? Read it and note some favorite verses. Look for words like "love" and "delight".