

LESSON THREE | MARK 3:13-4:34

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

WELCOME

Growing
2–3 mins.

DRILL TIME

The first disciples
3–5 mins.

W.O.W!

Satan
3–5 mins.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Timeline
2–3 mins.

BIBLE

INVESTIGATION

Mark 3:13-4:34
20–30 mins.

LESSON-AT-HOME

Mark 3:35
3–5 mins.

OVERVIEW

Our reading today begins with Jesus calling the rest of the twelve disciples, also called apostles. We learn just a bit more about these men, including the fact that Judas Iscariot will betray Jesus. Then, the religious leaders go after Jesus again, accusing Him of being crazy and being possessed by Satan. Jesus rebukes them, teaching all who would listen that blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is the unforgivable sin! Chapter Three ends with Jesus making the amazing statement that all who follow God's will are His brothers and sisters.

Most of Chapter Four presents several of Christ's kingdom parables. The Parable of the Sower shows how God's Word only produces fruit in "good soil" hearts that are changed by the Holy Spirit. The Parable of the Lamp teaches that God's kingdom may be hidden for a little while, but it will shine in the darkness as it's fully revealed. The Parable of the Growing Seed shows that God is the one who grows His kingdom. Finally, the Parable of the Mustard Seed says that the kingdom of God may have small beginnings, but it is the greatest and most powerful kingdom of the world. It will conquer the kingdom of darkness.

PREPARATION

Read and meditate on Mark 3-4 this week. **Use flannelgraph figures or other pictures to illustrate the lesson.**

TEACHING ENCOURAGEMENT

We should never be adverse to teach our children about Satan. Our culture is so uncomfortable with the notion of Hell and the Devil that they make Hell into a party and Satan into a cartoon with a pitchfork. Our children need to know the reality of Heaven and Hell, God and Satan. They need to know that Satan is their great adversary and accuser, always attempting to draw our hearts from God to false gods. He is the great deceiver, filling our lives with lies and deceptions in order for us to ultimately reject God and His truth. We don't teach about Satan in order to scare our children into Heaven. He is not a Halloween tale. Instead, we want our children to know the ever-present spiritual warfare that goes on for their souls so that they can trust in God all their lives!



WELCOME

Greet the students. Welcome visitors.

Say: *Who here is growing up? Can you tell you are getting a little taller each year? It's amazing how God has made us grow up from babies—to children, to teenagers, and to adults.*

Yet the most important sort of growing up is growing spiritually, in our relationship with God. When you put your faith in Jesus, you begin growing as a baby Christian. The Holy Spirit works in your life to grow you up to be a mature Christian adult. Isn't that great? Studying God's Word is one of the means God uses to grow us up. So pay close attention and let's learn together!



DRILL TIME

But first, let's move on to DRILL TIME—our weekly opportunity to review what we have learned in the past.

Today's questions: *What were the names of the first four disciples that Jesus called to follow Him? What had these four men been doing for a living? What was the name of the next disciple Jesus called (Jesus ate at his house)? What did Levi do for a living? What were some things that the Pharisees accused the disciples of doing wrong?*

Call on volunteers or select students to make attempts.

Answers:

1. Simon, Andrew, James and John.
2. They were fishermen.
3. Levi (Matthew).
4. He was a tax collector.
5. Not fasting. Working on the Sabbath.

Say: *These first disciples were committed to following Jesus—to learn from Him and to obey Him. Other disciples were added later, as we will read in the Bible Investigation time today. Will you be a disciple of Jesus?*

THE ANSWERS TO TODAY'S
DRILL TIME QUESTIONS
ARE FOUND IN MARK 1-3



W.O.W!

So, are you ready to learn a new word? You probably have heard this word already. Our W.O.W! (Word of the Week) this week is actually a name—**SATAN**. Write the word on the board.

As many of you know, SATAN is the main name for the Devil. The name SATAN actually means “adversary.” An adversary is an enemy that is constantly fighting against you.

The Bible uses several other names for SATAN. He is called “the tempter,” “Beelzebub,” “the wicked one,” “the ruler of this world,” “the god of this age,” “Belial,” and “the prince of the power of the air.”

Is SATAN a real being? [Yes!] Many people believe SATAN is just a made-up cartoon character. They picture Him with horns, a red suit and a pitchfork. But SATAN is real, and he is constantly at work as a deceiver and an accuser.

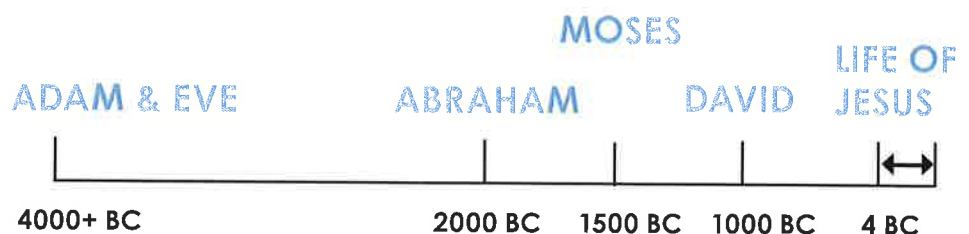
We will hear Jesus talk about SATAN in our reading today. Watch for our Word of the Week and always remember that SATAN is the great enemy of God’s people!



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Draw this timeline on the board, if necessary. It is helpful to remind the students of historical context.

This Week’s Timeline





Introduction: *We left off right in the middle of Chapter Three of the Gospel of Mark. What is the Gospel of Mark all about? [The life of Jesus Christ.] Who is following Jesus everywhere He goes? [Great crowds.]*

*Let's continue reading today. **Read Mark 3:13-15.***

¹³ And he went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him. ¹⁴ And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach ¹⁵ and have authority to cast out demons.

Discussion: *How many disciples does Jesus have now? [Twelve.] What other name did Jesus give to this group of twelve disciples? [He called them apostles.] A disciple is one who follows a leader, and an apostle is one who is sent out by a leader to do his work. What work did Jesus give the apostles? [To preach and to drive out demons.] Notice that they could only drive out demons because they were given AUTHORITY by Jesus!*

*Let's read on. **Read verses 16-19.***

¹⁶ He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); ¹⁷ James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder); ¹⁸ Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot, ¹⁹ and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

Discussion: *These are Jesus' closest followers. They are often just called "the Twelve." We learn a little bit about a few of them here. What name did Jesus give Simon? [Peter.] What names did Jesus give James and John? [Boanerges, or Sons of Thunder.] Which disciple will betray Jesus? [Judas Iscariot.]*

*Let's continue. **Read verses 20-21.***

²⁰ Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. ²¹ And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, "He is out of his mind."

Discussion: *Did you hear what some of Jesus' own family thought about Him? They thought Jesus was crazy! They wanted to take control of Jesus. But they don't have AUTHORITY over Him.*



Application: *Many people today think Jesus was just a crazy man who thought He was God. They refuse to put their faith in Jesus for their salvation. Will you reject Jesus and call Him crazy or trust in Him as your Lord?*

Listen to what happens next. Read verse 22.

²² And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, “He is possessed by Beelzebul,” and “by the prince of demons he casts out the demons.”

Discussion: *Who is Beelzebub? [Satan.] The religious leaders were accusing Jesus of being possessed by SATAN! That’s how they explained how Jesus could cast out demons. Is Jesus really possessed by SATAN? [No.]*

Listen to what Jesus says. Read verses 23-30.

²³ And he called them to him and said to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵ And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶ And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end. ²⁷ But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house. ²⁸ “Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, ²⁹ but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”— ³⁰ for they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.”

Discussion: *Did you hear our Word of the Week? Jesus knew the religious readers were saying that He was possessed by SATAN. Jesus showed them how ridiculous this claim was. How can SATAN drive out SATAN? SATAN doesn’t drive away his own demons—God drives away demons! Worse than just being silly, these men were blaspheming the Son of God. That means they were saying that the Holy Spirit was actually an evil spirit. That is the worse thing you can say about God!*

Application: *Jesus said that blaspheming the Holy Spirit is an unforgivable sin. The reason it cannot be forgiven is because it is the ultimate rejection of Jesus! If you do not believe that Jesus has*



the power to save you, then you cannot be saved. The Holy Spirit changes hearts so that we can put our faith in Jesus!

*Let's finish this chapter. **Read verses 31-35.***

³¹ And his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him. ³² And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you." ³³ And he answered them, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" ³⁴ And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵ For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother."

Discussion: *Do you understand what amazing thing Jesus said? He said that anyone who does God's will is in Jesus' family. While Jesus did have an earthly family—with parents and brothers and sisters—His spiritual family are all who follow God. You are the brothers and sisters of Jesus if you follow Him!*

*Let's go to Chapter Four. **Read Mark 4:1-3.***

¹ Again he began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea, and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. ² And he was teaching them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: ³ "Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow.

Discussion: *Did you hear that large crowds were following Jesus again? What did He have to do in order to teach this large crowd? [Get into a boat in the lake.] Jesus often taught using parables—earthly stories with spiritual meanings. These parables gave pictures of the kingdom of God. What is this first parable about? [A farmer who went out to plant seed.]*

*Listen closely to this parable. **Read verses 4-9.***

⁴ And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. ⁵ Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil. ⁶ And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. ⁸ And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold." ⁹ And he said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."



Discussion: *The seed that the farmer planted fell on four different soils, but only grew well in the good soil. So what does this parable mean? We need Jesus to explain it to us.*

Listen. **Read verses 13-20.**

¹³ And he said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? ¹⁴ The sower sows the word. ¹⁵ And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. ¹⁶ And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. ¹⁷ And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. ¹⁸ And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, ¹⁹ but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²⁰ But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.”

Application: *What is the seed? [The Word of God.] So these different plants are hearts of people. The point of the parable is that the Word of God will only grow in hearts that have been made “good soil” by the Holy Spirit. God’s Word does not grow in hard hearts. And, SATAN works to prevent God’s Word from taking root. We need hearts that are soft to God’s Word!*

Listen to the next parable. **Read verses 21-25.**

²¹ And he said to them, “Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket, or under a bed, and not on a stand? ²² For nothing is hidden except to be made manifest; nor is anything secret except to come to light. ²³ If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.” ²⁴ And he said to them, “Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you. ²⁵ For to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.”

Application: *This parable is hard to understand. Jesus is saying that the kingdom of God is hidden now, but it will soon be revealed as the light of this world! God’s people are to share the light of Jesus with the people of this world.*



*Listen to another parable. **Read verses 26-29.***

²⁶ And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. ²⁷ He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. ²⁸ The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. ²⁹ But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

Application: *Jesus is saying that the kingdom of God grows because God grows it. We don't understand how God changes hearts and brings people into His kingdom. All we know is that God is perfectly powerful to grow people to be like Jesus!*

*One last parable. **Read verses 30-34.***

³⁰ And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? ³¹ It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, ³² yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." ³³ With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. ³⁴ He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

Conclusion: *In this last parable, Jesus is saying that the kingdom of God may have started small, but it is growing to be the greatest kingdom in the world. SATAN may think he rules the world, yet God's kingdom is much more powerful than SATAN'S kingdom of darkness. By teaching these parables, healing the sick, casting out demons, and preaching to the people; Jesus is ushering in the kingdom of God as the King of kings and Lord of lords!*

We'll read more from the Gospel of Mark next time.



LESSON-AT-HOME

Distribute the “Lesson-At-Home” bookmarks. Read the Scripture Memory verse (Mark 3:35) together.

Mark 3:35 (ESV)

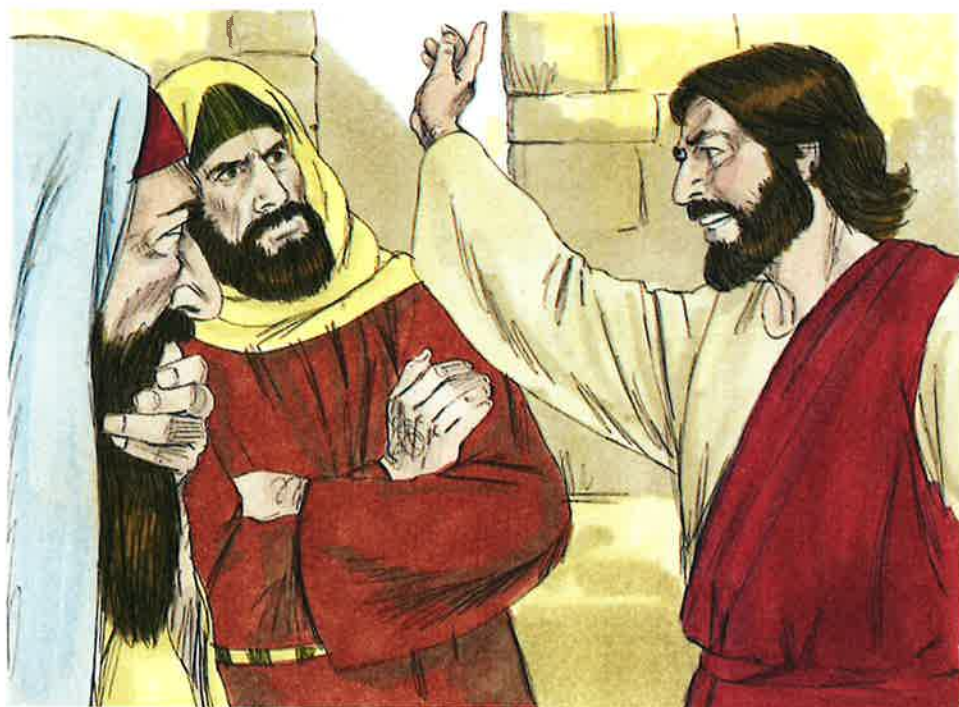
³⁵ “For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.”

Say: *We just read this verse, didn’t we? Isn’t it amazing that you and I can be brothers and sisters of Jesus if we do God’s will? We have two choices: To trust in Christ and follow God’s will, or continue to live in SATAN’S kingdom. Only by doing God’s will can we enjoy life in God’s family.*

Review the verse a couple of times.

Direct the students’ attentions to the bottom half of the bookmark. It includes reminder points of today’s lesson that can be discussed with their parents and reviewed during the week.

Close in prayer and dismiss the students.









Lesson-At-Home

Bookmark

Scripture Memory

Mark 3:35

“For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.”

Lesson Review

Mark 3:13-4:34

*Jesus calls more disciples.
Jesus accused of following SATAN.
Followers of Jesus are His brothers.
Jesus tells kingdom parables.*

Year TWO

Investigating God's Word...
Summer Quarter ~ Lesson Three

Lesson-At-Home

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Scripture Memory

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