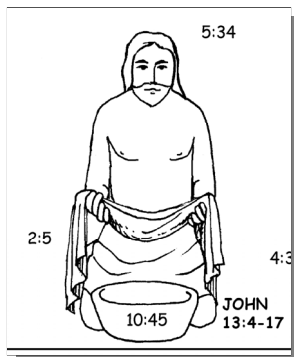


MARK

Messiah - Servant

Orientation: (Write: Title & subtitle in box provided on Student Sheet)

John Mark (his full name) was possibly the young man in the Garden of Gethsemane who left his cloak and ran when the mob came after Jesus (14:51). Eventually, Mark became part of the Paul/Barnabas ministry team, but left them (the reason is not recorded) and went home (Acts 13:13). Paul refused Mark's "application" for a later trip because of this desertion. Barnabas possibly argued, "Hey, he was just a kid then. Now he is grown up. He's my cousin and he's going with me." God later worked a beautiful reconciliation between Paul and Mark (Col. 4:10, II Tim. 4:11). The Apostle Peter had a great influence on Mark, calling him "my son" (1 Pet. 5:13). For this reason, some scholars have suggested that the book of Mark is really the "Gospel according to Peter." Mark's epistle may have been the first Gospel to be written. At this time, the church was in the middle of heavy persecution. Nero had burned Rome and blamed the Christians. Peter and Paul had been martyred. The frequent use of "immediately," in this letter gives the reader a sense of both encouragement and urgency. The book was written to a Roman audience who seemed to have little time for words or explanations.



A. Mark's Theme: Messiah - Servant. (Draw: Jesus kneeling with bowl & towel)

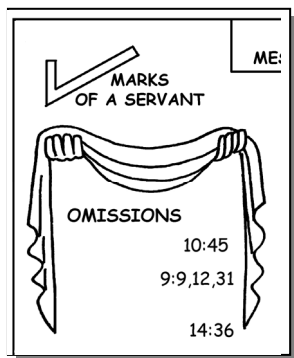
1. A key Scripture that seems to capture Mark's theme is Mark 10:45: "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." From the beginning, the Triune Godhead was involved in the creation of man and his habitat (Gen. 1:1-2, 26). Then, "... in the fullness of time, God sent forth His Son" (Gal. 4:4-7). The Son did not come to earth reluctantly but He willingly laid down His life for us.

2. Later, the Apostle Paul adds insight to this image saying, "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in the very nature of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness" (Phil. 2:7)

3. For our illustration, we borrow a picture from John's Gospel as Jesus prepares to wash the disciples' feet. Man, in his fallen nature, keeps trying to gain equality with God, but Jesus, Who already had such rank, privilege and rights, was willing to let it go that He might become a servant.

B. His Identity. (Draw: hands holding towel & large mark. Write: "Marks of a Servant" & "Omissions") Mark speaks volumes about Jesus' servant stature, by what he does not say.

1. For instance, in this book there is no reference to: The virgin birth. The entire account of Mary's pregnancy and Jesus' birth (recorded in Matthew and Luke) is omitted. Mark chooses to prove His Divine Sonship in other ways.



2. Genealogy. While the other Gospel writers took great care in detailing the family tree, Mark may have reasoned—Romans would not be interested in the pedigree of a slave. Mark starts with John the Baptist—a character with whom the Romans were very familiar—to introduce Jesus.

3. The visit of the wise men bringing gifts to the King is not part of Mark's message to his Roman audience. Again, this reference could have confused or angered Mark's audience.

4. Sermon on the Mount. Mark does not omit the "Kingdom" principles from his narrative, but it is not emphasized as it is in the other Gospel books.

5. Prophetic quotes. The Roman audience had no experience or interest in Jewish Scripture; therefore, Mark contains few Old Testament references.

C. His Purpose. (Write: "Purpose") As mentioned above, Mark feels that the life of Christ demonstrates the words Jesus spoke, namely, He did not come to be served, but to serve. Jesus was a servant in purpose and manner of life. He was a caring, giving, loving kind of Man.

D. His Title. (Write: "Title")

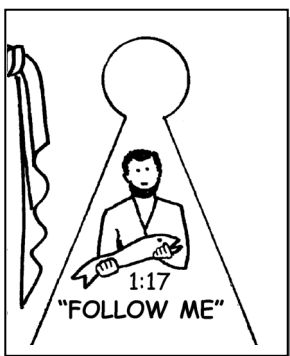
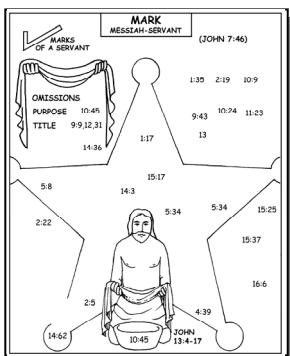
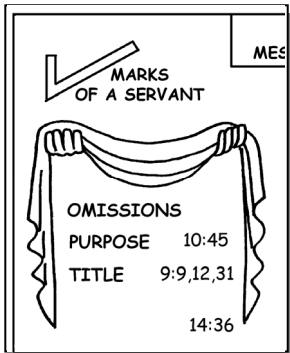
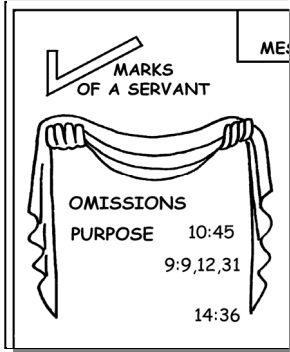
1. From the text, a number of titles could be given to Jesus. John the Baptist declared Him to be the "**Baptizer**" in the Holy Spirit (1:8). He is recognized as the "**Son of God**" by the Father (1:11), by the Roman centurion (15:39), and even by demons (3:11, 5:7)

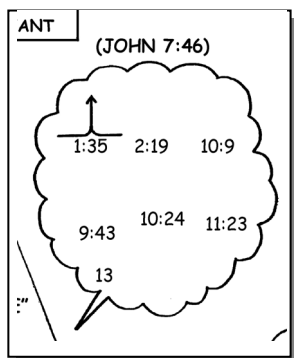
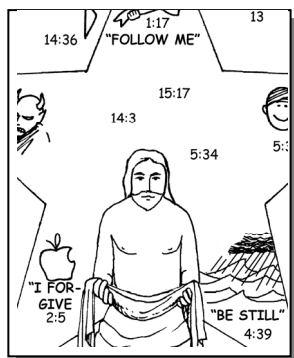
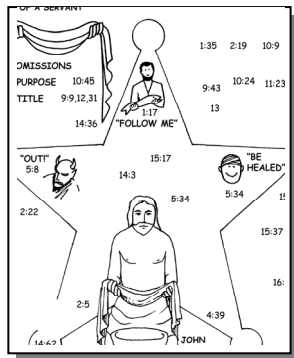
2. Jesus' own friends, having known His family so well, could only see Him as the "**carpenter**" (6:3) and, some even called Him "**crazy**" (3:21). Peter proclaims Jesus to be "**the Christ**" (8:29)

3. But the title Jesus seemed to ascribe to Himself most was, "**Son of Man.**" As you will remember, this title was used in Ezekiel over 100 times—referring to the prophet. In Old Testament "preappearances," Jesus is often described as "the son of man" (Dan. 7:13-14). In Mark, the term "Son of Man" would possibly make Jesus immediately acceptable to both Jews and Romans and it is more descriptive of a Servant.

E. A Servant with Authority. (Draw: star) (Because most "badges of authority" contain a five-pointed star, we will use this as a symbol for Jesus' authority.) Jesus came to serve (as a choice), but His demonstrated authority, even over His own life, was never diminished.

1. **With Men. (Draw: man with fish. Write: "Follow Me")** Jesus had no clever recruiting campaign or words of persuasion. To fishermen Simon, Andrew, James and John, as He did to Matthew the tax collector, Jesus simply says, "**Follow Me,**" and they did. They left their jobs, career, family





and inheritance to follow this man from Galilee (1:16-17, 2:14).

2. **Over Demons.** (Draw: face of demon. Write: “Out!”) Light overcomes darkness and demons could not stay or even be quiet when Jesus was around. They begged Jesus to let them possess swine feeding on a nearby hill. When He said, “Go” or “Get out” they scattered quickly (5:8)!

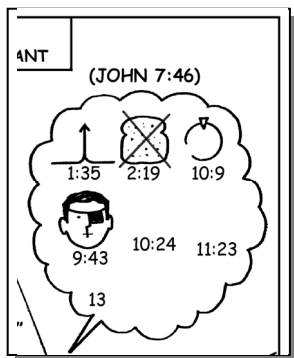
3. **Over Sickness.** (Draw: face of man with bandaged head. Write: “Be Healed!”) From Peter’s mother-in-law (1:30) to a suffering woman who tried to secretly touch Him (5:34), Jesus’ healing power went forth. He dared to touch, and heal a leper. He healed a paralytic let down through the roof, the deaf mute and blind Bartimaeus. His “prayers” were simple—He said, “Be healed, be clean, be opened” (1:41, 5:34, 7:34).

4. **Over Sin.** (Draw: apple with bite gone. Write: “I forgive”) The man lowered through the roof by his friends, because of the crowd around Jesus, is paralyzed. He needs healing, but Jesus said, “**I forgive you**” (2:5). Is he saying sin is, after all, the result of sin? No! Is He saying that He, Jesus, has authority to forgive sins? Yes! And to prove it, He instantaneously heals the paralytic. His critics are silenced; the crowd glorifies God!

5. **Over Nature.** (Draw: dark cloud, waves & rain. Write: “Be Still”) In the beginning, God spoke to water, “This far you may come, but no further,” and the beaches were formed (Job 38:11). Elijah and Elisha parted the waters (II Kings 2:8, 14). Why should the apostles be surprised when He, the Son of God, commands the wind, “Peace, be still!” and it happens (4:39). Their fears did not disappear; they were more afraid than ever asking, “Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?” The answer of course is: “This is God.”

F. His Teaching was also with authority (1:22). (Draw: balloon & items mentioned as they are discussed) Jesus had authority, not because of His physical size or masterful enunciation, but because He was the Source of knowledge. He did not refer, or defer, to anyone for His credentials. Those sent to arrest Jesus came back stating in bewilderment, “No man ever spoke like this Man!” (John 7:46). Parables are a vital part of Mark’s Gospel. As a master Teacher, Jesus interprets nature and demonstrates spiritual truths. Mark includes the Sower, world-wide evangelists who faithfully preach the word of God, which is the Seed. (4:3-20)

1. **Prayer.** (Draw: arrow pointing upward) Jesus taught prayer by example in the book of Mark. His answer for exhaustion, after ministering to a whole city the evening before, was to get up very early the next morning and pray (1:35). It happened again, after a long day of teaching and then



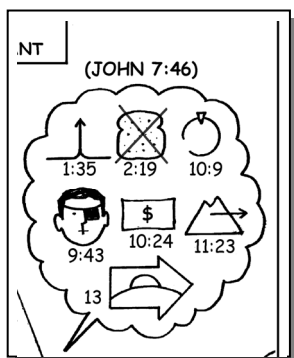
feeding 5,000 people. Jesus “departed to a mountain to pray” (6:46). Unfortunately, His disciples slept through Jesus’ most important time of prayer—in the Garden of Gethsemane (14:32).

2. **Fasting.** (Draw: slice of bread crossed off) The Pharisees’ legalistic mind managed to make a ritual out of everything, including fasting. They had become so hardened and insensitive to God’s way that they could not understand that Jesus was the “Bridegroom” or a reason to fast (2:19).

3. **Divorce.** (Draw: broken wedding ring) Although the motive behind the question was to test Jesus, His answer regarding “Is it lawful to divorce?” was hard hitting. “God’s original design and purpose,” He said, “was that a man and woman would become one flesh. Therefore, man should make no attempt to separate what God has joined together” (10:9).

4. **Temptation.** (Draw: man with patch over eye) Though we have pictured a man with an eye patch to illustrate the words of Jesus (“If your eye offends you, pluck it out”), temptation is a matter of the heart. Jesus is saying we must cut off the cause of temptation (9:43-47). Paul says it another way, “Make no provision for the flesh to fulfill its lusts” (Rom. 13:14). If a certain activity causes you to stumble, stop doing it. If a particular environment weakens your resistance, don’t walk into it.

5. **Riches.** (Draw: bill with dollar sign) Watching the rich young ruler, whom He loved, turn away from following Him, Jesus remarked, “How hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the Kingdom of God” (10:24). Riches can insulate us from the reality of true value and give a false sense of security. Jesus tells this man that, for him, the only way to know true security was to sell all of his possessions and give the proceeds to the poor.

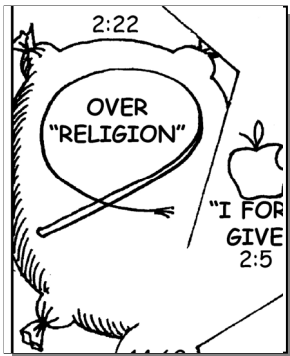


6. **Faith.** (Draw: mountain with small arrow) At first, Jesus’ teaching on faith appears to be our Father’s blank check for receiving, “Whatever things you ask,” even to moving mountains into the sea (11:23-26). However, as we look again, there are limits stated in this passage: 1) There can be no doubt in our hearts—we must believe we will receive. 2) We must forgive. Notice: results are not because of our perfect living or speaking; results depend on our faith in God (11:22).

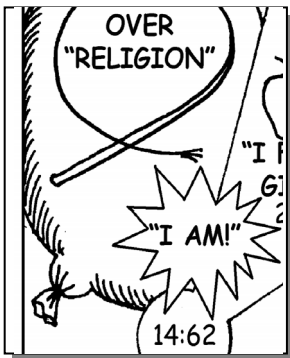
7. **End Times.** (Draw: arrow with hill & sunrise) Jesus taught that tough times for believers is a reality. It is coming, but don’t panic. Read the signs as you would watch leaves on a fig tree. There will be false christs, wars, earthquakes, famines, and worse (13:6-8). And to His disciples, sitting in front of Him, He warns, “You will be brought before the council, beaten in the synagogue, betrayed by your own family and

hated by everyone. But, My glory is coming, and you will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds. Look up!” (13:26)

G. Authority Over “Religion.” (Draw: wineskin bag. Write: “Over ‘Religion’”) (Teachers: it may be necessary to explain that in Jesus’ time, goat skins were used to hold wine. Old skins became brittle and would no longer hold new, fermenting and “expanding” wine.) Jesus has run counter to the Pharisees’ dogmas on every front. Because the “skin of their minds” had become hard, like a brittle container, it was virtually impossible for them to accept new concepts.



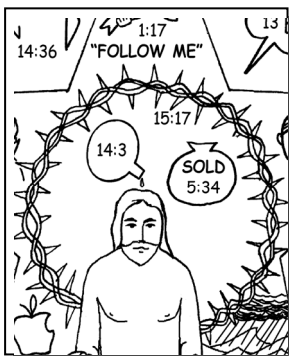
1. (Draw: whip) No doubt some of them were angry because He drove the money changers from the Temple (11:15). They were incensed that He had the audacity to claim authority to **forgive sins** (2:7). He further offended them when **He ate with sinners** (2:15). Under their law, Jews could never associate or have fellowship with Gentiles. He both **harvested** (when his disciples picked corn), and **healed** on the Sabbath (2:23, 3:4). He failed to ceremonially wash His hands before eating (7:2). No self-respecting Jew would be so thoughtless! They didn’t like His answers regarding paying **taxes**. He called them “experts in the Law,” but ignorant “regarding the Scriptures” (12:22-27).



2. (Draw: burst at bottom of wineskin. Write: “I Am”) For all of the above, and more, the religious leaders wanted Jesus dead! Then, one day when Jesus stood before the Sanhedrin Council, they finally had their chance: Jesus claimed to be the Son of **God!** (14:62) That was the final blow! The Nazarene deserved to die!

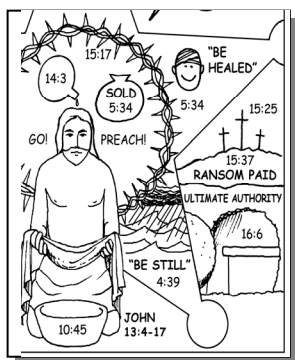
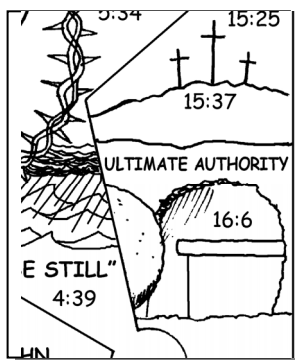
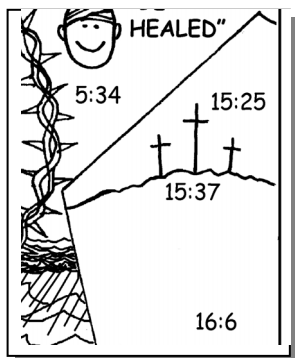
H. Jesus’ final hours.

1. (Draw: oil flask with drop of oil) Jesus is anointed for burial by a courageous woman who interrupts their meal and offends the disciples’ sense of propriety (14:3-9). He observes a painful last meal with His disciples, realizing one of them was about to betray Him (14:17-25). Then, alone in Gethsemane, Jesus, the Man, pours out His heart to His Father (14:32-42). The Master is not only betrayed, but deserted by His own associates (14:43-52).



2. (Draw: money bag. Write: “Sold”) Jesus was sold for the going price of a common slave: 30 pieces of silver. Delivered into the hands of the Sanhedrin, Jesus endures a mock trial and is ridiculed, spit upon and severely beaten (14:57-15:15).

3. (Draw: crown of thorns) His back is laid open with a cruel whip, and soldiers twist a crown of thorns pushing it into His skull. They mock Him with, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and continue to beat Him. Servants of course, could not resist, or



talk back. As recorded in Isaiah, the Lamb “opened not its mouth” (Isa. 53:7).

4. **(Draw: hill with 3 crosses. Write: “Submission” under “Marks of a Servant”)** Jesus is led to the “Place of the Skull” (15:22) and crucified—His final act of submission—He is obedient to the point of death. His cross is placed between two robbers, who also harass Him (15:32). Even as Jesus hangs suspended on the cross, His tormenters continue, “If you have so much authority and power, come down from the cross (15:30). He saved others, but He can’t save Himself.” (A true statement. He could, but He would not. Servants cannot save themselves.) When Jesus “breathed His last,” the veil of the temple was torn from top to bottom (15:37-38). His body was taken from the cross and placed in a borrowed tomb by Joseph of Arimathea (15:42-47).

I. Ultimate Authority!

1. **(Draw: second hill, tomb & slab. Write: “Ultimate Authority”)** Jesus’ ultimate authority, power over death, became evident the next morning. An angel rolled away the massive stone, revealing an empty tomb, a bench and a shroud. Jesus Christ had risen from the dead! The women, who came to apply spices to the body before it began to decompose, found an open tomb and “a man in a white robe.” The man instructed them to go and tell the disciples to meet Jesus in Galilee, but the women were so frightened “they said nothing to anyone” (16:1-8).

2. **(Write: “Ransom Paid!”)** With the death of Jesus, the second part of Mark 10:45 is fulfilled. The Son of God came “to give His life a ransom for many.” For those who will accept Him, Jesus becomes our sacrifice—the debt owed for our sins. He paid it all.

3. **(Read: 16:19-20)** Only Mark contains this final section (16:19- 20), but the same “picture,” “at the right hand of God,” is confirmed in at least two other New Testament verses (Acts 7:56, Eph. 1:20). Jesus sat down at the right hand of God, the place of all authority. There is no other name that is higher; there is no greater authority than that of Jesus Christ.

4. **The Commission. (Draw: On either side of Jesus Write: “Go” & “Preach”)** After His resurrection, Jesus met two of the disciples “in another form” (16:12)—an account covered in detail in Luke 24:13-35. Later, Jesus joins His disciples at dinner one evening and rebukes them for their unbelief and hardness of heart (16:14). He then gives them “The Great Commission” for world evangelism. “Go, preach the Gospel,” Jesus commands. “He who believes will be saved, but he who does not believe, will be condemned.” The risen Lord states

further that “signs,” the same miracles demonstrated in His life, will follow believers (16:15-20). *And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.*”

Applications for life:

1. Does Jesus still have the same authority over sin, sickness, Satan, nature, our hearts and our fears? Discuss.
2. What is your explanation for 9:43? (See also Rom. 13:43)
3. If it were required of us, are we ready for the same test as the rich man? (10:24)
4. Describe the qualities of a servant in the Kingdom of God.
5. The crowds saw Jesus’ works and glorified God (2:12). How can we direct the glory for good works to God?
6. In what sense do you believe God “forsook” Jesus on the cross? (15:34)
7. What are the implications of Jesus “sitting down at the right hand of God”? (16:19)

❖ **IMPLANT THE WORD:** Draw a picture to memorize Mark 10:45.

MARK MESSIAH-SERVANT

MARKS
OF A SERVANT

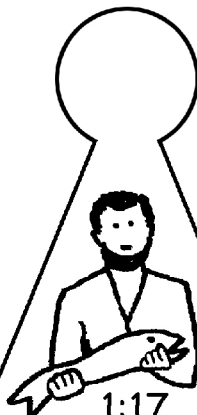
(JOHN 7:46)

OMISSIONS

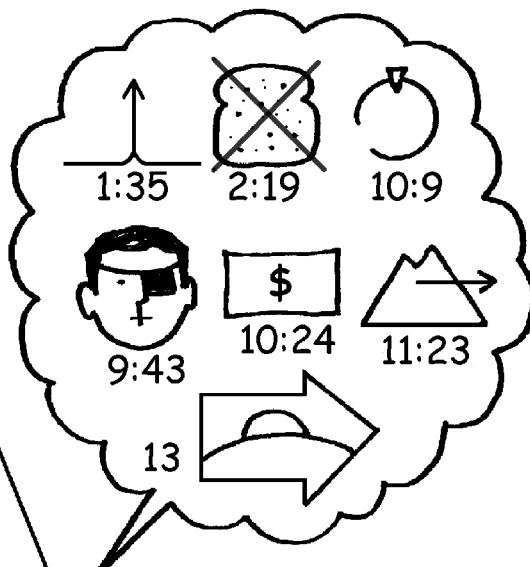
PURPOSE 10:45

TITLE 9:9,12,31

SUBMISSION 14:36



"FOLLOW ME"



"OUT!"
5:8

15:17

14:3

SOLD
5:34

"BE
HEALED"

5:34

2:22

OVER
"RELIGION"

GO!

PREACH!

15:25

15:37
RANSOM PAID

ULTIMATE AUTHORITY

"I FOR-
GIVE
2:5

"I AM!"

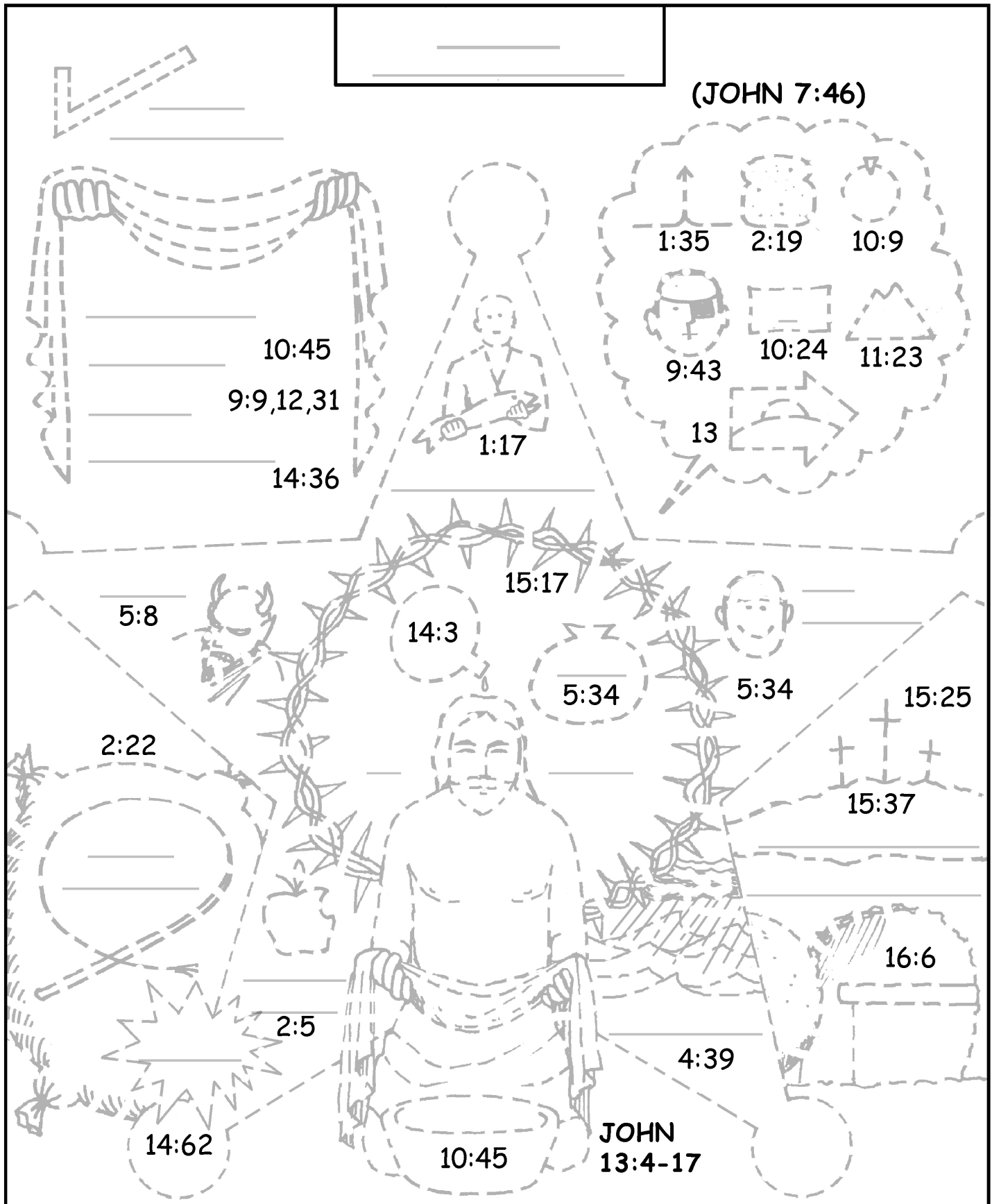
14:62

"BE STILL"
4:39

16:6

10:45

JOHN
13:4-17



Mark