

# The Punctuation

“Repent and believe in the gospel.” Jesus gives us this command in Mark 1, before His miracles, before His death and before His resurrection. But if Easter is so crucial to our faith, what did Jesus mean? How should we respond? Let’s talk about how to believe AND live out our faith.



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## INTRODUCTION

In today’s Easter service, Pastor David kicked off a new series called The Overlooked Gospel. This series will go through Mark, the most overlooked book of the Gospel. In Mark 1:15, Jesus tells us that the kingdom of God is here, and it’s important to remember that during these difficult times.

## STARTER QUESTION

The Gospel is defined as the Good News. How are you—as an individual, small group, or family—spreading the Gospel? How can you better share about the kingdom of God?

## INTO THE WORD

The book of Mark is often overlooked because it was written for the non-Jews. Read Mark 15:39. What is significant about the Roman centurion in this passage?

One of the elements of the Kingdom of God that Pastor David discussed today is that God is near. How do you feel that God is near to you? Read James 4:8. Why does drawing near to God cause God to draw near to us? Does "cleanse your hands" mean that we need to fix our problems before we can approach God? Discuss this with your small group, or, if you’re studying alone, jot down some notes in a journal.

## APPLICATION

Pastor David said in today’s sermon that it is often in crisis that God comes into better focus. Have you found this to be true in your life? Why do you think this is so?

Even in this difficult time, how do you know or see that God is in control and that God is near? What thoughts or behaviors come to mind that would allow you to turn completely around, or change direction even a little, to get closer to God and allow more of His control in your life?

The Easter story is a message of love and hope. It is the Punctuation of the Gospel. How can we spread this message in this time of loneliness and separation?

## PRAYER

*Jesus, I am overwhelmed that you would die for me. I am amazed by your power to walk away from death. I desire to turn in a different direction toward you and to give myself entirely to you this Easter! May the Kingdom of God reign in my heart as I long to please you. Thank you for being in control, coming near, making it possible through Jesus, and for giving me the promise of everlasting life. Amen.*