

2. What kind of times were they going through?
3. When we are going through difficult and trying times where should our focus be? Who was Mark trying to get his readers to focus on? Hebrews 12:1-2
4. According to the verses below where did Mark seem to spend a great deal of time? This gives us a hint to where he was when he wrote his gospel.

1 Peter 5:13-14 *(New Testament writers used Babylon as a code word for Rome)*
 13 She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark . 14 Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ. NIV

Also see: 2 Timothy 4:11-12, Colossians 4:10, Philemon 23-24

5. What does the verse below tell us about John Mark's family and connection with Peter?

Acts 12:12-17 12 When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying . 13 Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer the door. 14 When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, "Peter is at the door!" 15 "You're out of your mind," they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, "It must be his angel." 16 But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished. 17 Peter motioned with his hand for them to be quiet and described how the Lord had brought him out of prison. "Tell James and the brothers about this," he said, and then he left for another place. NIV

6. According to many scholars who do people think the naked man running out of the Garden of Gethsemane was?

Mark 14:51-52

51 A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, 52 he fled naked, leaving his garment behind. NIV

7. All of us have some embarrassing and shameful moments in the past but God still plans to use us and to include us into his plan. Discuss 1 Corinthians 1:27-30, Judges 15:15-17
8. Another false start for Mark was when he quit earlier on the first missionary journey. Another failure for Mark, yet he still would be used by God to give us the first gospel. Discuss Acts 13:4-13, Acts 15:37-41

Concluding Thought

Embarrassing moments, false starts and failure will not hinder God from using us in powerful ways to impact our generation.