

BOOK OF FAITH

By Barb Bunk

JOIN THE BOOK OF THE MONTH CLUB! This is my FREE gift to you! To make it easy, I've chosen the book of Mark in the New Testament. If you accept this gift, like a "fruit of the month" club, you can "eat it all up" right away, but then have it again, spread out over 4 weeks. What I mean is, it's nice to read this ACTION PACKED book all in one sitting, or in two. It might even be fun for you to read it out loud!

If you choose to split it up, then over 4 weeks, you could read chapters 1-4 the week of Feb. 1-7; chapters 5-8 Feb. 8-14; chapters 9-12 Feb. 15-21; then chapters 13-16 Feb. 22-28th. Here's some background information to help you:

Mark, the writer, was the first to assemble various stories being told about Jesus, and wrote them down in a document called a "gospel", or "good news". The stories have a fast pace as Mark reports the activities of Jesus and his ministry. Count and write down how many times the word "immediately" is used in your Bible. Chapters 1-10 cover the activities in about a 3-year time span, but chapters 11-16 record the events of a single week.

The entire story has us following Jesus to the cross, but back out into mission in the world again after the resurrection. The intent of this gospel is to strengthen our faith in the LIVING JESUS. Put yourself in the story, in the place of a follower of Jesus. As faithful disciples of Jesus we find that it is in dying to our own selves, putting others first and serving them, that we find meaning in our own lives.

Times are not easy for us right now! Many are worried about the weather and its effect on our crops and economy. Many are struggling with questions about where God is leading us in our faith walk these days. This GOOD NEWS in Mark is OUR STORY, today! We're in it. May you be blessed by however much or little you get to read it this month. Let me know what you thought of this, whether or not you counted how many times you found the word "immediately" in Mark, and maybe one other thing you noticed that helped you in your present life this month. I hope to hear from you.

Barb Bunk bcbunk@venturecomm.net 605-493-6538