

MARKnest 2020 Frequently Asked Questions

What is MARKnest, exactly?

MARKnest is a weeklong (April 30 – May 6), **online event** for BC students and friends of InterVarsity. We believe that one of the **best ways to experience Scripture** is to **explore it in community**. Since we can't gather physically, we're using virtual platforms to discover Mark's gospel together in the Bible.

Participants will use a variety of platforms to engage with Scripture and other people — including live video stream, Zoom discussions, podcasts, as well as time away from the screen.

Why is it called MARKnest?

"MARK" because we love the **gospel of Mark!** Mark is the first person to put Jesus' story into writing. Jesus is compelling, controversial, and profoundly relevant to our current context. When you study Mark's gospel closely and discover what Jesus is *truly* about, you can't help but bring your own life into sharp focus. Jesus causes people to make decisions that alter the course of their lives, and affect the world around them.

"MARKnest" is a playful and hopeful response to the COVID-19 season we're all currently in. While everyone is **nesting** at home, we want to grow in our understanding of God's word and how it impacts our lives — both within the nest, and in the world around us when we finally "take flight".

What does the schedule look like? Am I going to be on a computer all day?

As much as we're thankful for the technology that helps us connect, we definitely don't want you to be glued constantly to a screen! Each day, there will be some scheduled time to be **online**, options for engaging with Scripture **offline**, and **free time** to rest, eat, and hang out with the people you live with.

The schedule is still being solidified, but you can expect a **typical day** to look like this:

10am-12pm	Online Zoom Bible Study
Afternoon	- Offline personal Scripture engagement (ie. reading Mark outside, journaling, making art) - Optional Activities - Free time
6:30-9pm	Online Worship, Podcast & Discussion

We will also have an **offline Sabbath day** on **Sunday, May 3**. That means you can still participate in another church live broadcast (if applicable), and receive some well-deserved rest.

Do I need to commit to all the scheduled components, or can I join for part of the time?

Since we're exploring Mark's gospel cumulatively and in community, it's important for participants to **be present for all scheduled components**. There is free time each day for you to attend to your personal needs.

If you have a pressing commitment that you cannot reschedule, please contact MARKnest Director **Alan Thorimbert** (athorimbert@ivcf.ca)

Who else is participating? Can I participate if I'm not part of InterVarsity?

MARKnest is open to **post-secondary and high school students from all over BC**. We are also open to participation from **alumni, Pioneer camp volunteers**, and other **friends of InterVarsity**. If you're interested in participating in MARKnest but aren't sure whether you should, our director **Alan Thorimbert** (athorimbert@ivcf.ca) would be happy to chat with you!

What apps/programs/equipment do I need to participate?

We will primarily use **Zoom** for our online components, and it works best if you download the app (you only need a basic/free account).

Since a significant portion of our Scripture engagement is group discussion, you'll need a **device with a camera***, **microphone**, and **speakers/headphones**, as well as a **stable internet connection**.

We'll be asking participants to print the study materials ahead of time, so make sure you have access to a **printer**. If you don't have access to a printer, please contact **Charis Goh** (cgoh@ivcf.ca) for assistance.

**All Zoom room meetings will be recorded for security reasons as well as for learning/development purposes. Participants (or guardians of participants under age 19) must consent to video recording/photos. If you do not want your face seen, you can simply turn off your video. The InterVarsity consent form is part of the online registration.*

How do I register?

The link to register will be posted on our **MARKnest Facebook event** and **BC InterVarsity Instagram** pages.

Registration includes two components: filling out the **online registration form** AND paying the **\$70 registration fee**. Once you complete both, you'll receive links to content and event details.

Do I need to have any previous Bible knowledge?

Not at all! Whether this is your first time or fiftieth time studying Mark, **we welcome your voice at the (virtual) table**. We love hearing a wide variety of perspectives in our Bible studies. We also try to provide historical/cultural context for our Mark studies, so that everyone can be on the same page. And don't be afraid to **ask questions** — the more questions, the better!

What's all this I hear about MARKwest?

MARKwest Pacific is InterVarsity's annual spring camp where BC students gather to study the gospel of Mark. Typically, we host this immersive Scripture experience at **Pioneer Camp Pacific** on Thetis Island, BC. Because of concerns around social distancing, we have decided to **cancel** MARKwest Pacific in its traditional camp format.

MARKnest 2020 is our **creative alternative** to get students studying Scripture together. We believe no pandemic can stop the power of God's word!

Why does MARKnest cost \$70?

A typical 7-day MARKwest experience at Pioneer Camp Pacific costs about \$450/person. Since we are no longer hosting a traditional camp format, the costs of running MARKnest have lowered considerably.

The \$70 registration fee helps cover our **production costs**, which include the technical components of executing a high-quality online broadcast. The fee also contributes to a **gift** that we are offering to our ministry partners at **Pioneer Camp Pacific**, who are experiencing significant financial losses due to their spring program cancellations. Your **generosity** in this matter will help Pioneer continue to bless thousands of campers in the future.

All payments, once made, are **final and non-refundable**.

What can I look forward to during MARKnest?

The aim of MARKnest is not to spew out content for the sake of consumption — the goal is to **get students around the story of Jesus** and to **respond to it with our hearts, minds, hands and feet**. What does Jesus have to say to us about living as young people in Canada, in a time of crisis and beyond?

Some **features of MARKnest** that we're excited to offer:

- a weeklong dive into **Mark's gospel** (there's something amazing that happens when you study a book over 7 days!)
- stimulating discussion with a **diverse community** of students
- **starting each day** with worship and Scripture
- structures and suggestions for **offline/personal Scripture engagement** in the afternoon
- **prayer ministry**
- outlets to be **creative**
- a chance to have **fun** with community in the midst of social distancing
- **hope, healing**, and an opportunity to **connect deeply with Jesus**

Who do I contact for more information about MARKnest?

- MARKnest Director **Alan Thorimbert** (athorimbert@ivcf.ca)
- **InterVarsity staff** from your campus