

Homegroup Notes for Week Beginning March 1st, 2026.

Introduction:

The next few housegroup notes follow our morning services as we look at the second half of Mark's gospel. The pivot of the gospel, which sees Jesus move from his ministry in Galilee to set a course for Jerusalem and the cross, comes when he asks first, '**Who do the crowds say that I am?**' and then follows this with the critical question, '**Who do you say I am?**' We left the gospel at this point last term. Now, as we move towards Easter, we plot the journey of Jesus to the cross and the resurrection. It is a bit of a mouthful, but the second half of our look at Mark's Gospel is less 'Who is this man?' and more 'How is Jesus the Messiah?'

From a discipleship point of view, we might say, *To enter this life of faith we need to know **who** Jesus was and **how** Jesus was **who** Jesus was, in order that we might know **who** we are and **how** we are to be **who** we are.* The Bible Project introduction to Mark's gospel says, *The structure of Mark's Gospel provides the key to the author's purpose. The first half of the Gospel concerns the identity of Jesus as the mighty Messiah and Son of God (Mark 1:1–8:30). The second half concerns the mission of Jesus (Mark 8:31–16:8). Shockingly, the Messiah is not here to conquer the Roman legions but to suffer and die as an atoning sacrifice for sins. Mark writes to show that Jesus' crucifixion does not negate his claim to be the Messiah but rather affirms it! His faithfulness to this mission becomes the model for all discipleship. Following Jesus means denying yourself, taking up your cross, and following him (Mark 8:34).*

Each week in the spring, we will be reading a chapter of Mark together. The speaker will be concentrating on a section of that chapter to preach. Our services will culminate in our celebration of Easter from Maundy Thursday through Good Friday to Easter Sunday.

In housegroup, you might begin by asking:

- What stood out to you in the passage?
- What did you find difficult to understand or troubling?
- What practical application do you think we need to remember?
- What does the passage offer in answering the question 'What sort of Messiah is Jesus?'

Perhaps you might like to agree on a memory verse from each chapter that you will seek to learn together? Perhaps you might like to resolve to do something as an act of discipleship or witness from each chapter and hold each other to account?

Further resources worth drawing from are:

- This Bible Project overview video: <https://bibleproject.com/videos/mark/>
- This Bible Project guide, <https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-mark/>
- Mark for Everyone by Tom Wright

Do take time to pray each week for each other, for the church, and for any witnessing opportunities people might be having.

Mark 10



Following Jesus is a radical call. In the chapter we are reading today, several of the stories focus on the unique place of Christ as not only our Saviour but also as our Lord.

Begin this evening by reflecting on what it means to know Jesus as Saviour and what it means to know him as LORD?

What happens if we only focus on one of these? What is it to know him as Saviour but not as LORD, or as LORD but not as Saviour?

You might like to end this section in prayer and listening to a version of 'When I survey the Wondrous Cross', a hymn that brings together the two themes. Here is a version I like,

<https://open.spotify.com/track/5couaGxHvleUli0IT94eeG?si=396b9b84922b4fe2>



Read Mark 10- you might like to offer these questions before reading and then get people into pairs to share any thoughts before sharing more widely as a group

What does this passage communicate about Jesus as Saviour and as LORD?

What moments of radical commitment to Christ are communicated?

Are there any indications of how we might be able to make such commitments?

For most of this evening, our focus will be on verses 32-45

- The context and significance of the second half of Mark's gospel is communicated in verses 32-34.
 - What do you make of verse 32? How does it link to what has gone before, and how does it point to the climax of the gospel?
 - This is the third time Jesus has explained to the disciples what is going to happen. Why three times? What impact has it had?
- Read verses 35-40
 - Is it surprising that James and John make their request after Jesus has spoken of his death?
 - What do you think they have grasped about what Jesus is doing and what has passed them by?
 - What is their priority, and what does Jesus hint at they may experience in the future?
 - How does this reflect the way we approach Jesus?
- Read verses 41-45
 - Jesus is describing a different way of life. How would you sum it up? Can you suggest any ways that this may challenge the way we live in our situations?
 - Jesus sets an example in serving, but also has a unique act of service that is his alone. Reflect on verse 45. What do you draw from this verse? What comfort? What is the challenge?
- In verse 36 and verse 51, Jesus poses the same question. What is the difference between the attitudes of James and John and the attitude of Bartimaeus? Which attitude do you have?



Close by praying for each other in the light of Mark 10.45.

Can you learn this verse together? Share it at the beginning of the next meeting you have!