

Homegroup Notes for Week Beginning March 29th, 2026.

Introduction:

This is the final set of notes for this term and the final notes drawing on Mark's Gospel. This term, we have been concentrating on the journey to the cross. We have said that it is here and through the resurrection that the glory of God is revealed in Christ. We see **how** he is our Saviour, **why** he is Lord and **what** it is to follow him...

This is what the Bible Project introduction to Mark's gospel explains saying, *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).*

This week's notes are designed to lead into our celebration of Easter. This week there are also opportunities to come together for services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday as well as on Easter Sunday.

Maundy Thursday: Light supper, communion and 'prayer in the garden' from 6pm

Good Friday: Morning:

Good Friday for Families at Belmont 10am,

CtAX Service at the Cathedral 10am

Evening:

Reflections round the Cross at Belmont, 5pm

Easter Sunday: Resurrection Celebration, 10am

Approaching Easter: Mark 14.1-11



What is Jesus worth? How do you reflect that worth in your living day by day?

In **Psalm 29.2** we are told to *Ascribe to the Lord the glory due to his name; worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness.*

In **Revelation 5.12**, the worth of Jesus echoes around heaven's worship and is tied to the events of Easter *'Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise!'*

- What do we ascribe glory to in our lives?
- What does our world ascribe glory to?
- As we approach Easter reflect on what it means to ascribe glory to Jesus. How might we do that? What does it look like?

Begin with a time of worship/prayer.



Look at the story of Martha and Mary in **Luke 10.38-42**

It is a story about worth- what is of value to Jesus and what is of value to us.

It hangs around verse 42, which reads, "There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her." (NLT)

- What is deemed of most worth in this account? How is it expressed?

Read **Mark 14.1-11**

Most scholars agree that the woman described here is Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus-reading it alongside John 12.

This is the woman who 'chooses the one thing that is necessary'. Our response to the story of Easter is best expressed in choosing the 'one thing that is necessary.'

Read **Mark 14.1-11 a second time**. This time, ask people to consider:

- The different people in the room
- What do different reactions express about the 'worth' of Jesus?

Share these impressions.

How does this lead us towards Easter and the cross?

In **John 12.1-11**, the parallel passage adds certain emphases:

- What does verse 3 add about the extravagance of Mary's gesture?
- What does verse 7 add about the significance of Mary's gesture?
- What do verses 9-11 add to our sense of matters coming to a head at the cross?

Read **Mark 14.1-11 for** a third time.



What does this story make you think about the worth of Christ and what it is to follow him?

Allow your thoughts to turn to prayer...

You might like to close by singing this simple song and thinking about the story we have been reading:

I love You, Lord

And I lift my voice

To worship You

Oh my soul rejoice

Take joy my King

In what You hear

Let it be a sweet, sweet sound

In Your ear

OR listen to it here...

<https://open.spotify.com/track/3mlyisrMRblpsInWOd3JTd?si=066f872b0f9e4a3e>