

Homegroup Notes for Week Beginning September 8th 2025.

Introduction:

This term, the notes follow our morning services as we look at the first half of Mark's gospel. One way of reading this gospel is to understand it as a document that examines the question of who Jesus is. When he calms the waves in Mark 4.41, the disciples ask each other, "**Who is this?** Even the wind and the waves obey him!" 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?**'

Each week in the autumn we will be reading a chapter of Mark together. The speaker will be concentrating on a section of that chapter to preach, but as house groups, we will have the opportunity to explore each chapter more fully. It would be good to encourage members of your group to read the section of the gospel before they come each week- 2 chapters given our bi-weekly pattern of meeting.

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 'Who 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?

The notes that follow here are designed to take you in more detail into aspects of the chapter.

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 1



Share how many of your group became believers through growing up in a Christian family and how many came to faith later?

- What view of Jesus did you have when you were growing up?
- Where do you think your view of Jesus came from? Society? Church? Bible? Family?
- How has that view changed over the years if at all?
- What do you think your neighbours would say if you asked them, 'Who is Jesus?'



Share a time of prayer, focused on giving thanks for who Jesus is...

Use simple prayers that begin 'Isn't he...?' eg 'Isn't he holy?' 'Isn't he the friend of sinners?' 'Isn't he patient?', 'Isn't he our hope?' and respond by saying Amen

What pooled picture of Jesus do you create?



Read Mark 1 together.

Before you read it be prepared to share any thought responding to the question, 'Who is this man?'

Share your thoughts.

John the Baptist is described in the early verses of Mark (1:4 – 8) anticipating the coming of Christ?

- How does this hope emerge from the broader story of the Bible? Read Isaiah 40.1-5. What does the coming of Jesus have to do with the story of returning from exile?
- John speaks of Jesus as being greater than himself. This has to do with being baptised in the Holy Spirit. What do you think he means by that?

The beginning of Jesus' public ministry is described in verses 9-13.

- What do you think Jesus' baptism and temptation tell us about who Jesus is?
- How is his baptism and his temptation like an echo of the story of the Exodus?
- What does the coming of Jesus have to do with the story of the Exodus?

In Mark 1.15 is a verse that might be described as programmatic of Jesus' vocation, **"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"**

- Does this verse tell us something about the fact that Jesus was expected? What might that mean?
- What is the Kingdom of God?
- What does it mean to repent here?
- What does it mean to believe?
- How is Jesus at the centre of all of this? What does that say about who he is?
- What difference does that makes to you today?

In verse 17, Jesus explains something of our response to him...Discuss this and pray...