

Homegroup Notes for Week Beginning 21st September 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 3



- What marks out a mold-breaker?
e.g. characteristics, behaviour, style, company they keep...?
- How do you respond to people who challenge your assumptions and routines?



Read Mark 3 together.

Before you read it keep in mind the question, 'Who is this man?' and be prepared to share your thoughts after reading the chapter.

Firstly, are there any words / events in the passage further clarification? Take a few minutes to ensure everyone has a good sense of this passage.

Share your thoughts from the earlier question.

Mark 3 is a series of encounters with others. For each encounter in Mark 3 (see below), consider what provoked people? What reaction came? How did Jesus respond? You could do this in pairs / threes and share insights.

For each of the sections here's a question to help us think about the impact of Jesus in this area of our lives.

v 1 – 6 The Pharisees – where are we in danger of lacking compassion?

v 7 – 12 The Crowd; The Evil Spirits – what are we looking for in Jesus?

v 13 – 19 The apostles – how do we respond when we recognise the call of Jesus?

v 20 – 30 The Teachers of the Law – How do we keep alert to and rightly recognise God's work?

v 31 – 35 Jesus' family – how can we step across family boundaries and develop church family?

How do we respond to these portraits? Are we uneasy with Jesus shaking up the religious norms of our day and our lives? What do you think about Jesus' choice of followers? What about commitment to our families?

What do some of the portraits tell us about Jesus' mission?

He's come to lift the burden of the Law; he's bringing healing and restoration; he's forming a new people (12 apostles, new family); he's challenging the powers of evil;

How does this change our approach to the week ahead? How will you invest time?

Share a time of prayer, focused on



- How we seek to be the people and presence of Jesus on our Frontlines?
- What mold do we need to break / challenge?
- What confidence do we need to live and speak about him when others condemn him?