

Homegroup Notes for Week Beginning November 3rd 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 8.1-26



We approach the end of our time, looking at the first half of Mark's gospel and asking the question, 'Who is this man?'

Begin this evening by thinking back over the previous weeks. If you were to gather evidence based on what we have read about Jesus in these weeks, what would you have assembled? Perhaps divide into groups and skim back over chapters before sharing two or three headlines from each chapter.



Read Mark 8.1-26 together.

As you read it, be prepared to share any thoughts responding to the question, 'Who is this man?' from any part of the chapter. Share your thoughts.

What might you add to the list you have shared above?

We are going to spend a little time looking at the questions that Jesus asked in these verses. We are building to the climactic questions that he asks in the following verses, 'Who do the crowds say I am?' and 'Who do you say I am?'

- Look through the stories in verses 1-26. How would you describe Jesus' mood- as far as it is possible to make a judgement about that- in this section?
- At the end of the story of the feeding of the 4000, Jesus asks *"Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to it."*
 - Why do you think Jesus refused to give a sign?
(Signs are given to look beyond the sign to what it signifies. Jesus' whole life is a sign in this sense. He is looking for a response to **him** not simply to the signs he gives)
 - Are you looking for a sign? What would Jesus say to you?
- Twice in verses 14-21, Jesus asks *'Do you still not understand?'*
 - In these verses he also warns against the yeast of the Pharisees and of Herod. What is he referring to? What yeast might we need to watch out for?
 - Look at 1 Corinthians 5.6-8 and Matthew 13.33
- In verses 22-26, Jesus is seen healing a blind man. There, he asks the question, *'Do you see anything?'*
 - This account is unusual in that the healing does not happen all at once.
 - What might this teach us about prayer and witness?
 - Why do you think this story may be placed immediately before the key question, 'Who do you say I am?'
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Spend a time in prayer

- Praise God for what you have seen of Jesus?
- Ask God to see Jesus in situations you are facing now.

