

Homegroup Notes for Week Beginning October 6th 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 4



What memories do you have of being in a fierce storm? Perhaps you might recall the memory of where you were in the 'hurricane' of 1987 (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NnxjZ-aFkjs>)

What emotions were involved?

This week we are going to be talking about Jesus as the one even the wind and waves obey.

Listen to this song together, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JqK-UnsRTFI&list=RDJqK-UnsRTFI&start_radio=1 or

<https://open.spotify.com/track/0AiyyLq6sH7N1LA2knRrL7?si=a44900ac57b340d7>

And pray your response to the one who is with us through the storm



Read Mark 4 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.

Choose one of these options for a more focused study

Read Mark 4.1-20

- Jesus draws his teaching from stories of everyday life- here, a Sower. What do you think he would be telling stories about today?
- The parable teaches about seed that is sown in four different types of soil. These refer to the readiness of people to respond to Jesus.
 - Identify each soil...does the soil described still ring true today?
 - Jesus was sowing into a society familiar with God's story and religious by nature. What fresh challenges do we face in sowing into our world today?
 - Who is the Sower? What role do we have? What does 1 Corinthians 3.6 add to our thinking?
- Given the description of Jesus' ministry thus far in Mark, what fruit do you think this parable is looking for?
- How do you think we should respond to this parable? How then should we live?

OR Read Mark 4.35-41

- The sea in the Bible is a symbol of chaos. The sea is put in its place in creation and removed in the consummation described in Revelation. You might like to read Psalm 93.3-4 for context. All this is background to the incident in Mark 4.
- What do you make of Jesus asleep in the boat? What does this convey of his humanity and of his character?
- Look at the dialogue in the account in Mark 4- there are four pieces of dialogue.
 - What is conveyed through this dialogue in the story?
 - What questions are asked of the disciples? Why does Jesus ask the questions he does? How do these same questions address us as readers in our lives?
 - What question or conclusion arises from this account?
- How do you think we should respond to this story? How then should we live?