

Homegroup Notes for Week Beginning 19th October 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 twice monthly 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 6



What is your response when things feel too big for you to deal with?



Read Mark 6 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, and also any responses to the sermon on Sunday

Back in Mark 3:14, Jesus appointed the apostles who he would send out into the surrounding area to teach, preach, perform miracles. Mark 6 tells us about this mission, about discipleship and response.

Mark 6 contains a 'Mark Sandwich'(!) where Mark tells an apparently disconnected story within another narrative. In this case he writes about the ministry of the apostles, and then he switches to the death of John the Baptist. They are in fact connected. Mark 6 is about discipleship, and the story of Herod & John is about the cost of discipleship.

The chapter can be divided into 5 sections. Choose one or more of these sections for a more focused study. In each section you could identify the main characters & their response to Jesus. How does their response challenge, encourage or inform our own discipleship? For each section there is an application question to consider

Mark 6: 1 – 6 Jesus and his hometown (Neighbours / Family)

Does my familiarity with the gospel stop me for seeing opportunities for the work of God in my daily life?

Mark 6: 7 – 13 Jesus sends the apostles out on mission (Apostles / hosts)

What opportunities do I have to serve Jesus and how do the instructions to the disciples help me to prepare?

Mark 6: 14 – 29 Herod and John the Baptist (Herod, Herodias, John)

Discipleship is costly, how do I engage with those who might be both curious and aggressive at the same time? How can I listen for the real questions behind the fear?

Mark 6: 30 – 44 Feeding the 5000 (Apostles)

Jesus gives us huge things to do, and we only have small resources. What can we offer and how can it be multiplied

Mark 6: 45 – 56 The crowds pursue Jesus. Jesus walks on water. (Disciples, crowds)

Who can I bring to Jesus this week — in prayer, invitation, or encouragement?

For prayer together: Where will we step out in obedient discipleship this week? How can we pray for each other in the face of the various responses we might encounter?