

Homegroup Notes for Week Beginning 16th November 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 do personal titles (e.g. Lord, Prince, Sir, CEO, Rev) tell us about a person?

What does the title / name 'Christ' mean?



Read Mark 8:27 – 30

Jesus asks, 'Who do people say I am?'. What do the different responses suggest?

- John the Baptist (moral reformer?)
- Elijah (new teacher?)
- One of the Prophets (social commentator?)

What sort of responses do we get to this question today? How are they like the responses given by the crowd / disciples?

What is the reason for these views and how does the evidence of Mark's gospel counter these responses?

The Messiah

Peter declares that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah. Although Peter had a limited understanding, his statement was informed by the Old Testament.

In smaller groups, take a look at the following verses to see specific expectations.

Psalms 2 v 6 – 9; Isaiah 9 v 6; Psalm 45 v 6 – 7; Isaiah 61 v 1 – 7; Daniel 7 v 13 – 14

The following video from the Bible Project outlines the Old Testament theme and expectation.

<https://bibleproject.com/videos/messiah/> (find it on the Bible Project website via Videos / Bible Themes / The Messiah)

What effect will this Messiah have? On Israel, on the whole world?

Read 8 v 31 – 9 v 1

The suffering servant

Jesus speaks about how the this anointed one (the Son of Man) will suffer. Why do you think this was such an offence to Peter?

What assumptions do we make about the mission of Jesus, and his work in the world, in our lives? How does Jesus' challenge to the disciples and the crowd correct this misunderstanding? How does this change the way we explain the good news to others?

Take up our cross

What does the phrase 'take up our cross and follow me' imply? What pattern of life do we then adopt? In what ways is this good news (Mark 1:15)?

At the beginning of the year, we focussed on Galatians 2 v 20 as a theme for the year. This verse echoes Jesus words of living fully and sacrificially for him. How has that been a reality for each of us this year as we follow Jesus, the Messiah? What can we give thanks for? Pray for each other as we continue in these ways.

Worship the Messiah

As you close, spend some time in worship and prayer. You could listen to one of the following songs:

Jesus by Chris Tomlin <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cEbQswNB6Wc>

O Lord My Rock and My Redeemer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TpELMk4-3n8>