

Homegroup Notes for Week Beginning February 16th, 2026.

Introduction:

The next few housegroup notes follow our morning services as we look at the second half of Mark's gospel. 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?**' We left the gospel at this point last term. Now, as we move towards Easter, we plot the journey of Jesus to the cross and the resurrection. It is a bit of a mouthful, but the second half of our look at Mark's Gospel is less 'Who is this man?' and more 'How is Jesus the Messiah?'

From a discipleship point of view, we might say, *To enter this life of faith we need to know who Jesus was and how Jesus was who Jesus was, in order that we might know who we are and how we are to be who we are.* The Bible Project introduction to Mark's gospel says, *The structure of Mark's Gospel provides the key to the author's purpose. The first half of the Gospel concerns the identity of Jesus as the mighty Messiah and Son of God (Mark 1:1–8:30). The second half concerns the mission of Jesus (Mark 8:31–16:8). Shockingly, the Messiah is not here to conquer the Roman legions but to suffer and die as an atoning sacrifice for sins. Mark writes to show that Jesus' crucifixion does not negate his claim to be the Messiah but rather affirms it! His faithfulness to this mission becomes the model for all discipleship. Following Jesus means denying yourself, taking up your cross, and following him (Mark 8:34).*

Each week in the spring, we will be reading a chapter of Mark together. The speaker will be concentrating on a section of that chapter to preach. Our services will culminate in our celebration of Easter from Maundy Thursday through Good Friday to Easter Sunday.

In housegroup, 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 'What sort of Messiah 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?

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 9



Have you ever heard the phrase 'Too heavenly-minded to be of any earthly good'? Do you think that is true?

Might it also be true to say that we need to be heavenly-minded if we are to be of any earthly use?

This term, we will be discussing how Jesus is the Messiah- and that includes how he brings heaven and earth together.

Read **Mark 8.33**. What does this suggest about being heavenly-minded and of earthly use?

You might like to share how you need a heavenly perspective on something in your life OR how you need to put that perspective into effect ...



Remind yourselves of the conclusion we reached in the autumn by reading **Mark 8.27-30**, then read **Mark 9**.

- Can you see points in the story where Jesus expresses urgency about the disciples grasping who he is? Perhaps even frustration?

The majority of tonight's study will concentrate on the Transfiguration in verses 2-13.

- What do you think Jesus wanted to show Peter, James and John on the mountainside?
- Jesus is seen talking with Moses and Elijah, who represent the Law and the Prophets. Why do you think they are there? What might this conversation suggest about Jesus and his ministry in relation to the Old Testament? (Consider **Matthew 5.17**, **Romans 10.4**). How might this affect how you read the Old Testament?
- The Transfiguration anticipates the vision of Jesus seen in **Revelation 1.12-18**. Do you see Jesus as the man in the gospels or as the revelation of the Transfiguration and Revelation? Why do we need to hold both together?
- Verse 7 recalls the words at Jesus' baptism in **Mark 1.11** and left an impression on Peter, see **2 Peter 1.16-18**. What might we take as encouragement from these words?
- The vision of the Transfiguration is momentary, and Jesus leads his followers swiftly down the mountain and back into ministry afterwards. What questions do you think this vision will have stirred? How will it affect the disciples' understanding of Jesus?
- It is tempting to want to stay on the mountain top. What might the equivalent of that be for us?
- How does this all relate to being heavenly-minded and of earthly use?
- How does this story develop our idea of how Jesus was the Son of God, the Messiah? Why did he not just come as the man on the mountain top? Would we rather he did!!!



You might like to look at **Mark 9.23-24**, **Mark 9.35** or **Mark 9.50** to discuss and guide your prayers.

How do these verses add to our understanding of how Jesus is who he is...

