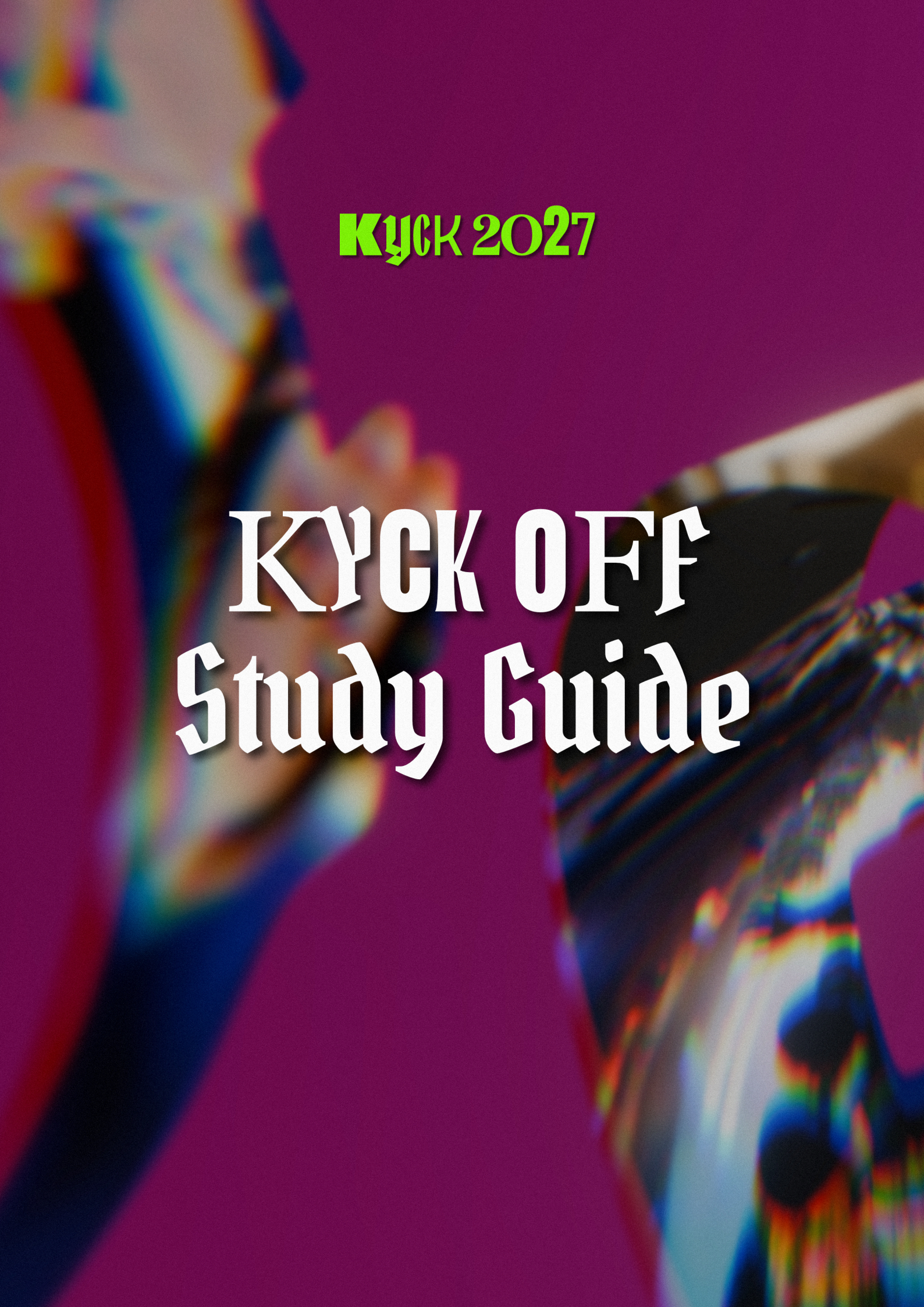

KYCK 2027
KYCK OFF
Study Guide

KYCK OFF | Mark 1-8 | Meet Jesus

Welcome! In 2023 at KYCK, we spent some time in Mark 1–8 meeting Jesus. We saw His power. We saw His authority. We saw His integrity. We saw His compassion. We saw His love. We saw that He is God's promised King. We saw His impact on people.

In 2027 at KYCK, we're diving into the second half of Mark's gospel. We will see that He is the King who has come not to be served but to serve.

We want youth to know Jesus. And we want leaders of youth groups to help youth know Jesus! So we have put together this resource as a toolbox for you and your church to Meet Jesus. Different members of the committee have worked hard on one chapter each, so you have some helpful resources for your group, whatever your context.

What is this?

This is an 8-week youth program that provides resources to help you run a great youth group in whatever context you are in. Whether you are a youth group at a church with a full-time youth minister or a small volunteer team at a church with no paid staff, we want you to focus on the important task of discipling young people to know and grow in Jesus.

It's a buffet, not a set menu. That is, this is a collection of things for you to draw on to fit your context. This isn't a prescribed curriculum that you have to do in order to come to KYCK.

Want to just pillage the Bible studies for your Sunday arvo youth Bible study? Go for it! Want to use the Bible reading plan as a spur to help your young people engage with Jesus throughout the week? Winner! Want to use every item of the program and get on with discipling the young people God has entrusted to your care? Please do!

What is in each week of the program?

- Bible reading plan for youth throughout the week.
- Key passage for your youth program.
- Potential talk outline on key passage.
- Short reflection questions on key passage.
- Longer Bible study on key passage.
- Anthem for the week (a song to listen to throughout the week or sing at youth).
- Some weeks have deep-dive resources for this passage that may be helpful.

Overview of Mark.

Mark 1:1 is the title of the book of Mark: "The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God." The next 16 chapters unpack this good news: who Jesus is (Mark 1–8) and what Jesus has done (Mark 9–16). Mark was the first written gospel of Jesus, utilising key Old Testament passages and the good news preached by the apostles to proclaim clearly that Jesus is Lord; repent and believe.

The identity of Jesus is particularly on display in the first 8 chapters. As we read, we learn of the good news that Jesus is the Messiah. We see His authority over sin and the resulting clash with the Pharisees. We see that Jesus is the King who came to address the problem of sin which affects every person.

Mark chapters 1–8 are a fast-paced introduction to the identity of Jesus, the Messiah, God's Son. The word "immediately" is used a whole heap (about 33 times in 8 chapters!) to keep the action going and keep blowing the reader's mind.

After reading these chapters, you can't help but see a little more clearly who Jesus is. But the disciples who were with Him seemed to really take a while to get it. Those who saw His miracles still couldn't grasp why He had come. Take Peter, for example, who knew that Jesus was the Messiah... yet tried to tell Jesus not to die and rise again... (Mark 8:31–33).

Will we see Jesus clearly? How will we respond? That is the question of Mark 1–8.

Mark 9–16 slows right down, as Jesus approaches the reality of what He came to do: suffer, be rejected by those he came to save, be killed on the cross, and rise in victory.

This other-person-centred act is what a life of faith in Jesus will look like. Just as He didn't come to be served but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45), so those who trust Him will seek to serve Him and others in everything.

Praise God for Jesus, our Servant King! You're welcome to read ahead in Mark—in fact, please do! — but more to come on that at KYCK in 2027!

We pray this may be a blessing for you and your youth ministry in whatever context that may be.

Love in Christ,

The KYCK Committee

Jeremy, Bec, Ed, Josh, Daniel, Hannah, Hugh, Amos, Bianca, Luke, Ben and Keegan.

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Resources on Mark's Gospel.

For Leaders

- Gospel Coalition Course – Introduction to Mark
- Gospel Coalition Course – Knowing the Bible: Mark by Dane Ortlund
- Gospel Coalition Commentary – Invitation to Mark by Mark L. Strauss
- Nancy Guthrie Podcast – Help me teach the Bible
- Christ Church St Ives Bible Studies – We've Never Seen Anything Like This!
- Pete Orr's daily devotions on Mark (daily devotions throughout August 2021)
- Mark: The Servant King by Paul Barnett

For Youth

- Bible Project – Overview of Mark
- Jesus' Epic Story by Dave Miers
- What Now?: Taking your first steps as a follower of Jesus by Matt Shannon (Journey through Mark and read for yourself)
- Meet Jesus KYCK 2023 talks (KCC One app)
- Uncover (Meet Jesus in the Word with a friend!)
- Searching for the Man who is God? by Scott Petty

KEY AUDIO BOOK COMMENTARY DEVOTION VIDEO VIDEO DEVOTION

Week 1 | Mark 1 | Jesus brings good news.

What's the best news you've ever received? Maybe it was the news you're going to have a younger sibling. Perhaps it was passing an exam you absolutely didn't deserve to!

In Mark 1, we're introduced to some good news that God's people had been waiting for, for centuries. We are met with Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God. And He brings the best news ever.

Throughout the second half of Mark 1, we see many responses to this good news. Keep an eye out for what these responses say about who Jesus is, and what the responses show about why He really is the best news.

Bible Reading Plan.
Use the 5 R's
(thanks to Uncover for these questions!)

Retell	Retell the narrative (and recap what's come before). Note anything that's unclear or confusing.
React	How are people reacting to Jesus?
Reveal	What is revealed about Jesus (and those meeting Him) through words and actions?
Reason	What reason might Mark have for including this event?
Respond	What does Mark teach us about how to respond to Jesus?

Bible Reading Plan.

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Mark 1:1–13	Mark 1:14-20	Mark 1:21-28	Mark 1:29-34	Mark 1:35-45

Key Passage

Mark 1:14-20 (NIV).

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him. When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

Potential Talk Outline

Mark 1:14-20 - The King deserves to be followed.

Intro - Why do you follow people?

- Raise the question of what makes people worth following.
- Then consider what it is about Jesus that makes Him worth following?

1. The gospel of the king. (1:14-15)

- Speak of the importance of the kingdom. Speak of how it was long awaited and the time is now. (You might like to look back at the Old Testament people of God and what they were awaiting).
- The good news comes from the king Himself. Look to Him!

2. The gospel of repentance (1:14-15)

- Jesus says "repent and believe the good news."
- Speak of the intersection of repentance and belief. They are two sides of the same coin. Belief will obviously change our attitudes. Repentance doesn't happen without belief.
- Speak of the necessity of repentance, and give some concrete examples of what this might look like (both actions and attitudes).

3. The gospel worth following (1:16-20)

- Note how they responded to Jesus' call to follow Him. They left everything.
- What is it about Jesus that is worth following? Do you really think He is worth it? These people did!

Conclusion - Jesus really is worth following!

Shorter Reflection Questions.

1. **What is it about Jesus that makes Him worth following?**
2. **What are some things that are holding you back from following Jesus?**
3. **If Jesus really is the King, how would that change your life?**

Longer Bible Study.

Big Idea of passage: Jesus is good news that is worth following.

Suggested Application: Get people to consider who Jesus is to them. In light of that, consider how they are repenting

1. **If your house was on fire, what would be the first thing you'd grab as you sprint out of there?**

   This is to get the idea of what you hold valuable. And potentially a bit funny!

Read Mark 1:14-20

2. **Who was John? (Read 1:1–8 if you need to). Why do you think he was put into prison?**

John the Baptist was the prophet, announcing the news of Jesus and preparing the way. He was put into prison because those with authority didn't like his message of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. That meant they didn't have power or authority.

3. **What are the two commands that Jesus gives in verse 15? How do you think they work together?**

Repent and believe. To repent is to turn from your ways and turn to God. To believe is to trust the good news of who Jesus is. They have to work together; repentance without belief isn't real repentance, because you are just doing so on your own strength. Belief and repentance are linked together. Belief without repentance isn't real belief, because belief leads to repentance. (See 1:4 for John's baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins — repentance leads to forgiveness).

4. **For the average first-century Jewish person, who would they say that Jesus is? What about the people mentioned in verses 16–20?**

They might have said He was a prophet. They might have said He was a great teacher. Those who left their nets realised that He had great authority. They left behind their nets (i.e. their jobs, families, and future prospects!) because Jesus was worth following. If the kingdom is here, He is the King!

5. **The fishermen seemed to leave everything behind pretty quickly (1:18, 20). Write out the responses your group chat would leave if someone random joined and said: "Come, follow me... and I will send you out to fish for people." Best one wins.**

Get creative! Have some fun. This activity helps us see just how wild Jesus' request is. But they still followed Him. This shows us that Jesus is definitely worth following and giving everything up for!

6. **What does this show about their view of Jesus? How does this challenge our view of Jesus?**

These men knew that Jesus was worth following and did not want to waste a second living their old lives! This shows us both the urgency of responding to Jesus and the beauty. If He really is the king (which He is), then He is worth responding to right away! No need to put off a decision like following Jesus!

7. **These men now "fish for men" - what do you think that means? What might it look like for us to be fishing for men?**

Those who follow Jesus are called to join Jesus in His mission of helping people understand the good news. For them? Sharing Jesus with all they meet. The book of Acts details some of the ways they testified to the gospel call of obedience for those they meet. For us? Sharing Jesus with those we meet, those we know. Not being afraid to open the Bible with people, seeking to proclaim the good news to them. Maybe a gospel outline like Two Ways to Live might be a helpful prompt!

8. **If Jesus really is the king worth following, what does that mean for:**

    a. **Your future decisions?**

    It means recognising that He is in charge of now and the future. It means that decisions you make are in light of His rule and reign, so seeking to honour Him as we trust Him is a good thing. It could mean pursuing a relationship with someone who is also living for Jesus. It could mean choosing to invest in Christian friends at school so that you don't get caught up in unhelpful friendships. It could mean considering serving Jesus with your life by training to be a minister or missionary. Whatever it might look like, it means trusting that Jesus is in charge with your decisions, so seeking to honour Him.

    b. **Where you go for comfort and security?**

    It means that He is our comfort and security. If your natural reaction in times of stress is to binge Netflix or doomscroll, maybe that's a sign that Jesus as King could be a much better comfort for you. When you're confronted with your sin, Jesus is the one to go to. He can deal with it! He is our security against evil. In the language of Psalm 46, He is our refuge and strength. Nowhere else will you find safety from the judgment you deserve for your sin!

c. How you feel about your sin?

Jesus as King means that we repent from our sin. We hate our sin. This isn't just a guilt thing. But it's recognising that if Jesus died for our sin (which He did!), it is deadly serious. When you sin, ask for forgiveness.

d. How you treat your family?

Jesus as our King means that we submit to the authorities He has placed over us (i.e. our parents). Jesus as our King means joyfully loving those we live with. Jesus as our King means we will be quick to recognise we have done wrong and quick to apologise and seek forgiveness. Jesus as our King means we will be loving and patient and kind, just as He was for us!

Pray

Pray for one another in light of Jesus' kingship.

Pray that you would take Jesus and live like He is worth following.

Pray that repentance and belief would be a key marker of this group for the term.

Praise God for His good news in Jesus!

Anthem for the week - Promised One (Live) - Justin Tweito

This song speaks of the longings that the people of God had for centuries before Jesus. They awaited the Messiah, who was long-promised, to deal with the guilt of their sin. It speaks of the joy of the people when Jesus pops onto the scene:

A Savior born in David's line, our hope has finally arrived!

Hallelujah, behold the Promised One!

Listen Here

Jesus' Epic Story – Mark 1 by Dave Miers

Dave Miers filmed a short video for each chapter of Mark, with some reflection questions, while he was the youth minister at St Faiths, Narrabeen. Worth a watch if you want an overview of the chapter!

Mark 1:1–13 Youth Talk – Jesus is truly good news for all people by Josh Hayward

Have a listen to this youth talk from Mark 1:1–13 to see that the good news of Jesus is life-giving, identity-defining, purpose-transforming, & eternity-changing.

Mark – The 555 Challenge – Youthworks (Family Devotion on Mark 1)

This is a great opportunity to read the Bible and ask some questions over the dinner table for a week for your young people!

Week 2 | Mark 2
Jesus has authority over sin and sickness.

In Mark chapter 2, we continue to see Jesus showing that He not only has power to perform miracles but also has the power to forgive sins. This is massive and very controversial, as seen in the teachers of the law and the Pharisees' response throughout the chapter, regularly questioning and judging Jesus for His actions.

What we see is that Jesus isn't just a miraculous person who is going around healing the sick, but, in fact, dealing with our biggest problem of sin, as seen through the healing of the sins of the paralysed man, and in 2:17, where Jesus says, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Bible Reading Plan.
Use the 5 R's

Retell	Retell the narrative (and recap what's come before). Note anything that's unclear or confusing.
React	How are people reacting to Jesus?
Reveal	What is revealed about Jesus (and those meeting Him) through words and actions?
Reason	What reason might Mark have for including this event?
Respond	What does Mark teach us about how to respond to Jesus?

Bible Reading Plan.

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Mark 2:1–12	Mark 2:13-17	Mark 2:18-22	Mark 2:23-28	Psalms* 103:6-12

* This psalm speaks of the goodness of God's forgiveness. Note that it is God who forgives sin. How does this shape our understanding of Jesus?

Key Passage

Mark 2:1-12 (NIV).

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.

So, he said to the man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Potential Talk Outline.

Mark 2:1-12 - Jesus sees our biggest problem, sin, and has authority over it.

Intro - What are big problems in this world that need dealing with?

- Get people thinking about what some of the big issues in the world around us are, or for them – global warming, poverty, world hunger, sickness etc.
- Move into acknowledging that these are important, but Jesus is saying something bigger. That it is our sin that is the biggest problem with our lives. Jesus has the authority to do these things.

Point 1 - People are interested in meeting Jesus (2:1-4)

- The paralysed man's friends were so eager to meet Jesus that they dug a hole through the roof.
- They heard about the miracles and were interested in meeting Jesus for their friend.

Point 2 - Jesus has authority over sin and sickness (2:5-10a)

- Jesus sees something else first.
  - He doesn't go straight to healing the man's physical needs like we would expect, but instead addresses his spiritual needs.
  - This is what makes the teachers so angry because only God can forgive sin.
- Jesus sees that the man is dead in his sin.
  - Unpack further that God is perfect and holy, and sin is us rejecting Him and putting ourselves first.
- We sin against God and hurt Him, but Jesus also forgives us.
  - He has the authority of God to forgive.
  - **Romans 5:8** states: "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us".
  - Jesus showed that He had power and love over the sickness by dealing with the man's sin.

Point 3 - Jesus uses authority to forgive our sin (2:10b-12)

- Just as Jesus calls this man to get up, so He calls us. He forgives us!
- Do we trust Jesus' forgiveness? That He has the authority to deal with our sin?

Conclusion - Jesus knows and deals with our greatest problem.

Shorter Reflection Questions.

1. **What would you/your friends say is the biggest problem in this world? What does Jesus say is the biggest problem?**
2. **Why was Jesus forgiving the man of his sins so controversial?**
3. **Jesus shows that He has the power and love to deal with our sin. How are you going about trusting in this forgiveness?**

Longer Bible Study.

Big Idea of passage: **Jesus sees our biggest problem, sin, and has authority over it.**

Suggested Application: **Trust Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins. Continue to trust in Jesus' authority to forgive your sins.**

1. **What are some problems that you have had this week?**

Read Mark 2:1-12

2. **Why were people so eager to come and meet Jesus and hear Him speak? (May need to quickly scan chapter 1).**

Performing miracles, announcing the good news.

3. **Why were the teachers of the law so outraged with Jesus?**

It is only God that can forgive sins, and so Jesus here is claiming to be God.

4. **What do you think Jesus sees as this man's biggest problem? Why?**

The man is dead in his sin.

5. **What do you think was the impact of Jesus still healing this man's paralysis?**

Jesus shows His love and power through healing the man as a physical thing for people to see, and strengthens His claim of healing the man's sin.

6. **What is sin? These passages will help to build your definition.**

    a. 1 John 3:4
    b. Romans 3:23
    c. Romans 6:23
    d. James 4:17
    e. 1 John 1:9

Sin is the rejection of God's good authority to rule our lives. Sin is taking the law into our own hands. Everyone is guilty of sin (Romans 3), yet in Jesus we can be forgiven from it. Sin isn't just the things we do, but our attitude.

7. **Why can't we have a relationship with God with our sin?**

God is holy and perfect.

8. **How did Jesus deal with our sin?**

Death on the cross and resurrection.

9. **Jesus shows that He has the power and love to deal with our sin. How are you going about trusting in this forgiveness?**

Try to think about the difference that knowing that Jesus forgives sin makes. It brings certainty and assurance as we trust in Him. It shows that He can deal with our greatest problem, which then puts other problems into perspective.

Anthem for the week - In Tenderness by Citizens

This song shows Christ's love for us in that even while we were full of sin, He did something to forgive us of these sins. It was through Jesus seeing our sick and sinful selves and dying for us that we can have a relationship with God.

In tenderness he sought me, weary and sick with sin.
And on His shoulders brought me, back to His fold again

Listen Here

Mark 2:1–12: Youth Talk – Jesus has authority over sickness and sin by Josh Hayward

This talk, given at Christ Church St Ives in 2023, gives a picture of Jesus' authority in our key passage.

Study 2 – And it's on! – Christ Church St Ives Bible Study (pp. 17–20)

Particularly helpful if you want a study and deeper dive into all of chapter 2.

Week 3 | Mark 3 | Jesus has the greatest authority.

In the last chapter, we were struck with Jesus' authority over both sin and sickness. This time around, we see this has had quite the effect on people! For some—those described in 3:7–12—they were amazed and wanted to get to know the one who healed them!

For others, though, they're a bit suspicious. The Pharisees we were introduced to in the last chapter are still pretty jealous of Jesus' authority. The start of our chapter shows them joining with the Herodians (a group they would usually disagree with) looking for a reason to accuse their common enemy (3:2), and ending up plotting to kill Him! (3:6).

Jesus appoints twelve people as His apostles (3:14–19), suggesting that Israel and its twelve tribes needed replacement leaders: Jesus and His people! In 3:20–35, we see that now even Jesus' family thinks He's lost the plot—as do the teachers of the law—and Jesus shows that His authority over sickness and sin extends over even the powers of evil and close family ties. He really does have great (and good) authority!

Bible Reading Plan.
Use the 5 R's

Retell	Retell the narrative (and recap what's come before). Note anything that's unclear or confusing.
React	How are people reacting to Jesus?
Reveal	What is revealed about Jesus (and those meeting Him) through words and actions?
Reason	What reason might Mark have for including this event?
Respond	What does Mark teach us about how to respond to Jesus?

Bible Reading Plan.

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Mark 3:1–6	Mark 3:7-12	Mark 3:13-19	Mark 3:20-30	Mark 3:31-35

Key Passage

Mark 3:20-35 (NIV).

Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "He is out of his mind." And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons."

So Jesus called them over to him and began to speak to them in parables: "How can Satan drive out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. In fact, no one can enter a strong man's house without first tying him up. Then he can plunder the strong man's house.

Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all their sins and every slander they utter, but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin." He said this because they were saying, "He has an impure spirit."

Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you." "Who are my mother and my brothers?" he asked.

Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

Potential Talk Outline.

Mark 3:20-35 - Jesus has the greatest authority.

Intro - How do we actually feel about authority over us?

- Observe that we usually don't like authority over us, even if that authority can sometimes be pretty good. Then suggest that Jesus' authority is different from the authorities we know (and that is a good thing!)

Point 1 - People get the authority of Jesus wrong (3:20-22)

- This section sees two groups of people miss the mark in terms of Jesus' authority. His family think he is crazy, and the teachers of the law think He is evil.
- Parallel with how we misidentify the authority of Jesus. We might not think His authority is good. We might think it is irrelevant for life today. "Jesus tells us to deny ourselves? He must be crazy!"

Point 2 - Jesus' authority is greater than evil. (3:23-30)

- Parable about evil not being able to stand against evil. Jesus' authority does not come from the evil one. His authority stands against the evil one. Jesus plunders the evil one.
- Because Jesus' authority is greater than the evil one, people are forgiven. They no longer have their sin held against them by the evil one, but can be forgiven!
- Like Mark 2, trust the authority of Jesus to forgive your sin.
- Eternal sin? If you reject the Spirit in His pointing to Jesus, you are rejecting Jesus Himself. The Spirit is empowering Jesus for His life and ministry. Keep your eyes fixed where He is pointing: the one who has freed us from the clutches of Satan by His blood.

Point 3 - Jesus' authority is greater than family. (3:31-35)

- Jesus is showing that following Him is more significant than even family. For the first century, that would be mind-blowing.
- Jesus' authority is more important than even the most important worldly authorities. More important than family, teachers, friends, influencers, etc.
- Think of relationships in pop culture that are deeper than family. E.g. The Straw Hat crew in One Piece or the weird family in The Fast and Furious.
- Jesus' authority really is better than family. Being part of His family by faith is more significant than the family you were born into or the friends you choose.
- So, do His will. What does that look like? Listen to Him, trust Him, obey Him. Even when it's hard. Think about a few chapters later, when Jesus did the will of God (14:36) in choosing to face the cross for His people.

Conclusion Why is Jesus' authority better than any authority we know? His power is greater than evil, and following His commands is better than anything else.

Shorter Reflection Questions.

1. **Do you think that Jesus' authority is good and important? Why or why not?**
2. **What does the parable of the strong man have to do with forgiving sin?**
3. **What actual difference should Jesus' authority make to our lives?**

Longer Bible Study.

Big Idea of passage: **Jesus has the greatest authority.**

Suggested Application: **Help people see that Jesus' authority is greater than any authority we can see, and that it is good.**

1. **Who is an authority figure from TV or books that you are glad you don't have to follow?**

This is to help us get the idea of authority in our minds.

2. **Two different groups of people seem to miss the idea of Jesus' authority here. Who are they, and what do they think about His authority?**

Jesus' family thought that He was crazy (3:21). They thought they could take charge of Him, i.e. put His power under their control, which is not how it works!

The teachers of the law thought that He was doing miracles by an evil spirit (Beelzebul). They were accusing Him of not just being crazy, but being evil. Not good!

3. **What does Jesus say about the people who accused Him of having an evil spirit (3:30)? Why is this important?**

He says they committed blasphemy against the Holy Spirit (3:29). They reject the source of Jesus' authority. Blasphemy is mistreating the name and authority of the Lord. Blasphemy against the Spirit is rejecting His pointing to Jesus and His authority. It is rejecting the source of life and salvation. Not good!

4. **Get some butcher's paper and textas. In 4 groups around the paper, draw the 4 pictures of the parable in 3:23–27. As you draw, chat about why Jesus might have been telling this story to those who questioned His authority.**

See if you can point out in the drawings how impossible it is for something to stand or grow if it is attacking itself.

Jesus is sharing this to show He isn't attacking evil with evil. That makes no sense. Rather, Jesus' authority comes from the good Lord of the universe and is attested to by the Spirit.

5. Why do you think Jesus talks about forgiveness after this parable? What do you think the link is?

Because of who Jesus is and what He has done, the evil one is bound and able to be plundered. Jesus can take people from him who were under the accusation of sin but have now been forgiven. We are able to be forgiven on the basis of what Jesus has done!

6. How does 3:31–35 paint a picture of following Jesus?

Following Jesus is doing God's will. What does that look like here? It means trusting in the authority of the one who forgives us. It means trusting even when that might be hard.

Have a look at Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane (Mark 14:32–41) for a picture of Jesus Himself doing the will of God, which is a great example for us of what it looks like to trust God in hard times.

7. What does Jesus' authority mean for how we view our own authority?

It means we ought to recognise that His authority is not evil (teachers of the law) or crazy (Jesus' family). Jesus' authority is good and right. Jesus uses His authority to forgive, and has won victory over the evil one. That means that we can freely trust Him. And it means that we are His family, trusting Him over and above other authorities in our lives.

8. In small groups, come up with some short (likely!) scenarios where it would be hard to obey the authority of Jesus in either the next couple of weeks or the next couple of years. Together, work out how you might help one another trust Jesus' authority in that situation.

As people chat, try and gauge how people are treating the scenarios. Try and help them be more and more concrete. As people consider how to respond, try and help them see the goodness and power of Jesus' authority and that life lived doing His will really is good!

Pray

Praise God for the authority of Jesus. Thank God for the victory Jesus has won by His death and resurrection over Satan, and for the forgiveness we can receive as a result. Ask that we would be able to trust in the good authority of Jesus in every decision—big and small—over the coming weeks, years, and until He calls us home.

Anthem for the week - Christus Victor (Amen) - Live by Keith and Kristyn Getty

This song testifies to the victory of Jesus over sin through the cross and His resurrection. His authority has won the battle over sin, death, and the devil, and no one can change the result!

On that day who will not tremble?

When You stand, Christ the Victor, who was, and is, and is forever!

Listen Here

Mark 3:1-6: Meet Jesus... A hero among villains by Nathan Lee

Watch or listen to this talk from Nathan Lee at KYCK23, looking at Jesus among His enemies. Jesus really is good news; He's the real deal!

Mark 3: Jesus' Epic Story by Dave Miers

Dave Miers filmed a short video for each chapter of Mark, with some reflection questions, while he was the youth minister at St Faiths, Narrabeen. Worth a watch if you want an overview of the chapter!

Mark 3:20–35: Youth Talk – Jesus overcomes evil – Soph Thomas

Have a listen to this talk from Mark 3:20–35 by Soph Thomas (@faithchatswithsoph) at Christ Church St Ives in 2023, showing that Jesus has the power to overcome evil.

Week 4 | Mark 4 | Jesus' Kingdom rules over all.

Who is someone in your life who has authority over you? It could be your parents or the principal at your school. Maybe it's the police or the King!

In Mark 4, we find that someone has far greater authority than any of these people. His name is Jesus! Even the wind and the waves obey His commands. His authority stretches over creation, fear, and even sin - that's a power mightier than anything we could imagine.

As you walk through this chapter, spend some time thinking about what things you're fearful of, and why we can trust that Jesus is greater.

Bible Reading Plan.
Use the 5 R's

Retell	Retell the narrative (and recap what's come before). Note anything that's unclear or confusing.
React	How are people reacting to Jesus?
Reveal	What is revealed about Jesus (and those meeting Him) through words and actions?
Reason	What reason might Mark have for including this event?
Respond	What does Mark teach us about how to respond to Jesus?

Bible Reading Plan.

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Mark 4:1–20	Mark 4:21-25	Mark 4:26-29	Mark 4:30-34	Mark 4:35-41

Key Passage

Mark 4:35-41 (NIV).

That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped.

Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

Potential Talk Outline.

Mark 4:35-41 - The Greater Kingdom

Intro - Who has authority over you?

- Raise the question of who people would say has a level of authority over them. Then consider what gives them that authority and what makes people obey them. Introduce Jesus as a figure of authority.

Point 1 - A kingdom greater than creation (4:37-39)

- Jesus told the wind and the waves to 'Be still' and they obeyed.
- Speak of Jesus' authority over the storm, how a moment of terror brought on by the wind and the waves was stilled in an instant at the command of Jesus.
    - See also Colossians 1:15-17, Job 38:1-11, Psalm 104:2-9, Exodus 14:21-31.

Point 2 - A kingdom greater than fear (4:40)

- The disciples doubted Jesus' authority, and this led to great fear.
- Speak of Jesus' peace that conquers fear. He offers it freely!
- Speak of why we can trust Jesus with our fear.
    - See also 1 Peter 5:7, John 16:33, John 20:19-23, Isaiah 9:6-7, Isaiah 43:1-2.

Point 3 - A kingdom greater than all (4:41)

- Speak of how nothing is beyond the authority of Jesus. Not creation or fear. Not anything.
    - See also Philippians 3:20-21, Matthew 28:18-20, Ephesians 1:23.
- Speak of how Jesus' total authority means He has power to save us from the biggest problem of all: our sin.
    - See also Hebrews 9:15, John 8:34-36, Romans 6:6-10, Romans 8:1-4, Hebrews 7:25.

Conclusion - Jesus' kingdom is greater than anything else - even our sin!

Shorter Reflection Questions.

1. **What are some things that you fear that make it hard to follow Jesus?**
2. **Why can we trust Jesus with our fear?**
3. **If Jesus really is greater than all things, what is stopping you from trusting Him as your Saviour?**

Longer Bible Study.

Big Idea of passage: Jesus has authority over all things.

Suggested Application: Get people to consider their fears. Then consider how much greater our problem of sin is. In light of that, consider whether they trust Jesus' authority to save them from that sin.

1. Who in your life would you say has the most authority over you?

Examples may include parents, school principals, police, the King.

2. What gives them that authority? Why do you obey them?

This is to get them thinking about where the authority comes from and what makes them submit to it.

Read Mark 4:35-41

3. What was the disciples' response to the big storm? (Read 4:37-38)

- They became fearful and doubted Jesus' care for them.
- They woke Jesus in worry.

4. Who did the disciples believe Jesus was at this point?

You may need to look back through the first 3 chapters of Mark (God's dearly loved Son - 1:11, a great teacher - 1:22, a miracle worker - 1:23-28, a friend of sinners - 2:15-17).

5. How did Jesus respond when the disciples woke Him up? (Read 4:40)

Jesus challenged their fear and their lack of faith.

6. What made the wind and the waves settle? How did this happen? What does this tell us about Jesus' authority? (Read 4:39)

- Jesus commanded them to, and they instantly obeyed.
- Jesus' authority is greater than creation.

7. What else does Jesus have authority over?

Creation. Fear. Rulers. Life and death.

8. **Do you think the disciples' fear changed from the start of this passage to the end? How so?**

Encourage discussion around fear caused by worry and doubt, versus fear caused by reverence and recognition of power/might. During the storm, the disciples were fearful for their safety in a dangerous situation. Once Jesus calmed the storm, the disciples were fearful because they couldn't comprehend the vastness of His power.

9. **If Jesus has authority over all things, that includes sin. Why does that mean we should trust Jesus as our Saviour?**
   - We have no power over sin on our own, so we need Jesus.
   - Jesus sacrificed Himself to save us by dying on the cross.
   - Only God has power to forgive sins, so Jesus is God.

Pray

Pray for faith amidst your doubt.

Pray for a greater trust in Jesus' power to save you from your sin.

Pray for repentance for that sin.

Thank the Lord for the mercy and grace He offers freely!

Praise God for His authority and sovereignty!

Anthem for the week - Tremble by I AM THEY

This song reminds us of the peace that only Jesus can bring. At the name of Jesus, storms still. At the name of Jesus, darkness trembles. His peace transcends our human understanding and is far greater than anything the world could offer!

Your name is a light the shadows can't deny.

Your name cannot be overcome!

Listen Here

Mark 4:35–41: The Powerful Powerlessness of Jesus by Seth Fellow

This talk from Seth Fellows at KYCK23 helps us understand the power of Jesus, not just through what He does, but through who He is.

Mark 4: Jesus' Epic Story by Dave Miers

Dave Miers filmed a short video for each chapter of Mark, with some reflection questions, while he was the youth minister at St Faiths, Narrabeen. Worth a watch if you want an overview of the chapter!

Mark 4: The Kingdom Revealed by Cross and Crown, Gold Goast

Have a listen to this talk from Mark 4:21-34 as Dan Gorton walks us through how Jesus came to reveal the kingdom of God, and how He can bring abundant growth from our small acts of faithfulness.

Week 5 | Mark 5 | Jesus has power over death.

Death sucks. No matter who you are, no matter how much money you have, no matter how smart or popular or lucky you are... you will die. And until then, we'll unfortunately be faced with death and its consequences for those around us.

Mark 5 sees Jesus come face to face with death.

At the start of our chapter, Jesus continues His ministry and comes upon a man who is possessed by an unclean spirit (Mark 5:1–20). This encounter sees Jesus once again demonstrate His power and authority over evil (like we looked at in chapter 3).

Then, we see Him encounter two people in great need, sandwiched together. Imagine the horror the synagogue leader must be feeling as he asks Jesus to heal his dying daughter. Then, on the way, Jesus encounters a woman who is excluded because of her bleeding, and He does something about her shame.

Bible Reading Plan.
Use the 5 R's

Retell	Retell the narrative (and recap what's come before). Note anything that's unclear or confusing.
React	How are people reacting to Jesus?
Reveal	What is revealed about Jesus (and those meeting Him) through words and actions?
Reason	What reason might Mark have for including this event?
Respond	What does Mark teach us about how to respond to Jesus?

Bible Reading Plan.

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Mark 5:1–20	Mark 5:21-34	Mark 5:35-43	Psalms* 30	John** 11:25-26

*Consider King David's trust in the God who can bring him from the realm of the dead. How does point to Jesus?
**What does this say about who Jesus is? How should we respond to him?

Key Passage

Mark 5:21-43 (NIV).

When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. He pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." So Jesus went with him.

A large crowd followed and pressed around him. And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?" "You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?' " But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it.

Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher anymore?" Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, "Don't be afraid; just believe." He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James.

When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." But they laughed at him.

After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum!" (which means "Little girl, I say to you, get up!").

Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.

Potential Talk Outline.

Mark 5:21-43 - Jesus has authority over sickness and death.

Intro - "That escalated quickly"

- Use this phrase to share a personal story or major event where things got out of hand really quickly. Show how things went from bad to worse and perhaps even beyond fixing. Link to this passage by saying it's where things escalate quickly—even to the point of a young girl dying. Is it even beyond Jesus' power?!

Point 1: A desperate Father (5:21-24)

- The story introduces us to a desperate father, Jairus. A high-profile person (synagogue leader) is left on his knees begging Jesus to come quickly to him. This would have been quite humiliating for Jairus to do in a crowd, which tells you just how desperate he was.

- Jesus does not speak but goes immediately.

Point 2: A dying woman (5:25-34)

- We are then interrupted on that journey by the story of this woman, which raises the tension for Jairus and his daughter but also diverts our attention to another person who is also suffering.

- The details about her illness are extensive, which points to how she, too, is desperate—that after so many years, so many doctors and no more money, Jesus is her only hope. This escalates the situation beyond what we have seen in Mark so far. Yet she, like Jairus, seems to have great confidence in Jesus' ability to do the job.

- Jesus' reaction to being touched is comical to the disciples, but reveals His complete command over His power to heal. Alongside that, we get Jesus' reaction to the trembling woman, which displays His gentle and pastoral approach to her. The use of the word "daughter" gives allusions to Jairus' daughter, whom we are still waiting to hear about. Likewise, we will see that the young girl is 12 years old, matching the woman's 12 years of bleeding.

    - Note: Depending on your context, you may want to give a short aside or explanation about verse 34. In particular, you may want to clarify that it is not the amount of faith she has (as if you need 90% faith) but WHO she has faith in. Similarly, you may want to clarify that while this describes the event of her being healed, faith in Jesus will not guarantee that we can be healed of every sickness in this life. It is more of a glimpse of the kind of new kingdom that Jesus is introducing, and of the blessings of life we will experience in the new creation.

Point 3: A dead girl (5:35-43)

- With the interruption only just resolved, the narrative moves back to Jairus—"while Jesus was still speaking"—with some bad news. The state of the young girl has escalated all the way to death, leading the people to say, "Why bother the teacher anymore?" Because we have seen Jesus heal sickness but never overcome death. It seems to be a step too far…

- But Jesus again meets it with calm confidence and a simple phrase: "Don't be afraid, just believe."
- He sheds the crowd, taking only a few trusted disciples and the parents. He confronts the mourners at the house with a rebuke. Yet they laugh in response—showing again that there is a perception that death is a step too far for Jesus.
- Jesus gently takes the girl by the hand and raises her up simply by speaking. This shows again the authority that He has, to heal with simply His word and to even raise someone from the dead. Nothing is too much for him! We must not limit Jesus, but simply trust Him with all our fears.

Conclusion – Jesus has authority over sickness and death

Shorter Reflection Questions.

1. **How did events escalate in the passage?**
2. **When have you found yourself doubting Jesus or thinking you shouldn't bother Him with your problems?**
3. **What does this passage show us that we should do instead?**

Longer Bible Study.

Big Idea of passage: **Jesus has authority over sickness and death.**

Suggested Application: **Recognise that Jesus' authority really is powerful – He's raised someone from the dead! Help people be thankful that He calls us to life as well, and to trust Him even in times of great stress or fear ahead.**

1. Share a time when you were desperate (e.g. for a team to win, for marks to be good, for something bad to end).
Open discussion. No "right" answer.

2. Recap the story of Mark so far. What things has Jesus shown He has authority over?
Reflect on the series so far. Think of key events like healing the paralytic, calming the storm, casting out a demon. Jesus has shown that He has authority over many things. Note that He has not yet been confronted by anyone who was dead...

Read Mark 5:21-24

3. Choose an emoji to describe the kind of emotion Jairus is feeling.
Talk about different options that reflect his fear and desperation as he begs Jesus.

4. What is he hoping Jesus can do for him?
He clearly hopes that Jesus will come and heal his sick daughter, so much so that he is willing to embarrass himself and beg on his knees.

Read Mark 5:25-34

5. Why is this woman desperate (and why doesn't she want to be seen)?
She had been sick (bleeding) for twelve years, had tried many doctors and run out of money—yet still she was getting worse! This condition would have made her ceremonially unclean and therefore an outcast in society. That's why she didn't want to be seen by the crowd and to just sneak up and touch Jesus' cloak.

6. How does Jesus respond when she touches His cloak? What does that teach us about Him and His power?

Jesus notices when power goes out from Him, even though there is a big crowd pressing in on Him. Yet as he seeks out the woman, He then treats her gently rather than getting her into trouble. Jesus uses His power for the good of others.

Read Mark 5:35-43

7. Compare the reactions of different characters in this part of the story with how Jesus responds to the news (e.g. the people from Jairus' house, the people wailing)

- People from Jairus' house: They think that they shouldn't bother Jesus anymore.
- The mourners at the house: They laugh when Jesus says she is only asleep.
- By comparison, Jesus is calm and clear: "Don't be afraid, just believe… she is not dead but asleep."

8. How is this moment an escalation from what we have seen in Mark so far?

Jesus had healed people who were sick but had never raised someone who was dead. It was not surprising that people thought He was crazy or that they should not bother Him. People don't come back from the dead… the stakes are higher than anything in Mark so far!

9. What does this teach us about Jesus' power and authority?

He has power and authority—even over death!! That's astonishing.

10. Does this story mean that God will heal sick people we know or raise people from the dead? Why or why not?

Note: Obviously, you will need pastoral sensitivity in your own context as you come to this question. You may even choose to skip it if it's not appropriate for your audience.

This story does not guarantee that Jesus will heal or raise dead people we know. This passage describes events; it doesn't promise outcomes. However, it does show that God has power and authority over death. Therefore, we can have hope beyond the grave—there is a future resurrection coming when anyone who believes in Jesus will be raised to have eternal life in the new creation, where there is no more pain, crying or death (Rev 21:4).

11. What hope and comfort do Jesus give us if we trust in Him?

We can bring all our concerns to Him—like Jairus and the woman—and He will hear our prayers of desperation. He has the power to act and the compassion to want to. Ultimately, He went on to die to deal with our sin and everything broken in the world. So that if we have faith in Him, He promises a future new creation where there will be no more sickness or death, and we can enjoy life with Him forever.

12.Think of 3 practical things you could do to put your trust in Jesus next time you're feeling afraid.

Brainstorm together to come up with three clear, concrete, practical steps. These could include memory verses, prayer prompts, phone wallpaper, accountability with friends and so on.

Pray

Praise God for His victory over death.

Pray for times ahead where we will need the hope and comfort that Jesus gives.

Ask that you would be able to share this message of life with those you encounter in the week ahead.

Anthem for the week - Glorious Day (Live) by Passion.

This song speaks of the joy and beauty of the day that Jesus has called us to life. His resurrection has secured our life with Him, conquered death, and sees us live in the freedom of life He has secured for us:

When you called my name and I ran out of that grave

Out of the darkness into Your glorious day!

Listen Here

Mark 5: Jesus' Epic Story by Dave Miers

Dave Miers helps us see the power Jesus has, even over death itself!

Mark 5:1-20 Youth Talk – How Much the Lord has Done by Sam Foster

Have a listen to this talk from youth at Richmond Anglican Church about the goodness of what Jesus has done.

Week 6 | Mark 6 | Jesus, the King who provides.

Mark 6 is chock-full of stories that show us pictures of King Jesus. Jesus is rejected in His hometown; His disciples are sent out with the same message of repentance; the message is not stopped by opposition, and Jesus' provision and power are on display.

Jesus is the King who knows what His people need, and He has the power to provide as our great shepherd.

Bible Reading Plan.

Use the 5 R's

Retell	Retell the narrative (and recap what's come before). Note anything that's unclear or confusing.
React	How are people reacting to Jesus?
Reveal	What is revealed about Jesus (and those meeting Him) through words and actions?
Reason	What reason might Mark have for including this event?
Respond	What does Mark teach us about how to respond to Jesus?

Bible Reading Plan.

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Mark 6:1–6a	Mark 6:6b-13	Mark 6:14-29	Mark 6:30-44	Mark 6:45-56

Key Passage

Mark 6:30-44 (NIV).

The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."

So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them.

When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. "This is a remote place," they said, "and it's already very late. Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat."

But he answered, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "That would take more than half a year's wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?" "How many loaves do you have?" he asked. "Go and see." When they found out, they said, "Five—and two fish."

Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.

Potential Talk Outline.

Mark 6:30-44: Jesus is the King who knows what we need and provides what we need.

Intro - Jesus both knows what we need and can provide it for us.

- Raise the idea that the most helpful leader is someone who knows what a group needs and can provide what that group needs. A person who knows what we need but can't provide has their heart in the right place, but can't help. A person who can provide but doesn't know what we need has useless power. Jesus displays that he is the great shepherd who both knows what we need and provides what we need.

Point 1: Jesus knows what we need (v.30-34)

- Context: Jesus' disciples had just been sent out to preach the same message of repentance that Jesus started preaching in 1:15. There was great success, and even though there was opposition to the gospel message (6:14–29), immediately preceding our key verses shows violent opposition), there was great success. So much success that they haven't even had a chance to stop and eat (6:31)!

- v.34 - Jesus sees the need of the crowd. They were sheep without a shepherd. So what does Jesus do? He teaches.

Point 2: Jesus provides what we need (v.35-44)

- Jesus provides bread that gives life in a supernatural way. The God of all things has the power to provide us with what we need - ultimately providing for us a way to heaven through His death.

- Jesus is the shepherd that was promised in the Old Testament, taking his sheep to green pasture (Jesus gets them to sit on green grass in v.39!). See Ezekiel 34:23-31, Isaiah 25:6-9 and Psalm 23:1 for Old Testament links that Mark is alluding to.

Conclusion: Look to Jesus and trust that He can provide for you. You don't need to look anywhere else.

Shorter Reflection Questions.

1. **How would you describe Jesus in 5 words?**
2. **What is your favourite part about Jesus' character?**
3. **What are the things in your life that you already trust Jesus to provide?**
4. **Do you trust that Jesus knows what you need most?**

Longer Bible Study.

Big Idea of passage: Jesus is the King who knows what we need and provides what we need

Suggested Application: Have youth identify areas in their lives where they need Jesus to provide. **Challenge youth:** What areas in their lives do they not trust Jesus to know best?

1. **Have you ever tried to cook up a big feast for your friends or family? How did it go?**

Read Mark 6:30-44.

2. Draw a comic strip of some key stories from the book of Mark so far.

Some potential stories that could be included:

- John the Baptist and Jesus' baptism: Mark 1:2–11
- The temptation in the desert: Mark 1:12–13
- Calling the first disciples (Simon, Andrew, James, and John): Mark 1:16–20
- Driving out an unclean spirit in Capernaum: Mark 1:21–28
- Jesus heals many, including a man with leprosy and the paralysed man lowered through the roof: Mark 1:29–2:12
- Jesus eating with sinners: Mark 2:13–17
- Jesus questioned about fasting and the Sabbath: Mark 2:18–28
- Healing the man with a withered hand on the Sabbath: Mark 3:1–6
- Choosing the twelve apostles: Mark 3:13–19
- Jesus accused of being possessed by a demon: Mark 3:20–35
- Parables about the Kingdom: Mark 4:1–32
- Calming the storm on the sea: Mark 4:35–41
- Healing the demon possessed man: Mark 5:1–20
- Healing the bleeding woman and raising Jairus's daughter: Mark 5:21–43
- Jesus' hometown (Nazareth) rejecting Him: Mark 6:1–6
- Sending out the twelve apostles: Mark 6:7–13
- The death of John the Baptist: Mark 6:14–29

3. Up until this point in the book of Mark, what are some of the ways that you would describe Jesus?

Try to help the youth come up with a comprehensive list of how Jesus has been portrayed so far in the book. See if they can each write down one attribute and where it comes from.

Read Mark 6:30-34.

4. Jesus takes His disciples away to a quiet place to rest. Why do they need rest?

a. There will be times in our lives when we need a break as well. What might be some ways that you can rest with God?

5. Imagine you were Jesus and the disciples seeing the large crowd in verse 34:

a. How would you react to the large crowd?

We might be tempted to shoo them off or get frustrated that we're not going to be able to get rest.

b. What was Jesus' reaction to the crowd? Why does He act like this?

Jesus looks on them with compassion, as they are like sheep without a shepherd. Then Jesus begins to teach. Jesus knows that these people are lost without the message of salvation that He brings. Jesus knows what they need: the gospel.

Read Mark 6:35-44.

6. This might be a familiar story to us, but what are some details from the story you haven't noticed before?

Some potential answers could be:

- The place was remote.
- The disciples suggest the people **buy their own** food.
- The price of the food (more than half a year's wages).
- The green grass in the place.
- The specific group sizes they sit in.
- Jesus looks up to heaven as He breaks the bread and fish.
- Everyone was satisfied.
- There was one basket of leftovers per disciple (12, the same as the number of the tribes of Israel).

Read Psalm 23

7. What are the similarities and differences between Jesus in Mark 6 and the shepherd of Psalm 23?

Some potential answers could be:

- Jesus acts as the shepherd of these people. They lack nothing as they eat and are satisfied.
- He makes them sit down in green pastures.
- He refreshes their soul and guides their path with His teaching.
- The people in this time don't seem to be walking through the darkest valley, although Jesus does consider them to be like sheep without a shepherd.

8. Jesus provides completely for these people. Are there areas in your life that you need to look to Jesus to provide?

9. Are you seeking Jesus only for the gifts He gives, or have you received Him as the bread of life?

An opportunity to consider our motivation for coming to Jesus deeply. Come to Him. Especially for those who might not yet be following Jesus, this is a good question to ponder over the coming week.

Pray

Pray to close, thanking God that Jesus is our King who provides all we need.

Anthem for the week - Shepherd by CityAlight

This song speaks of Jesus as our shepherd who provides all we need in life. Particularly in the hard times throughout our lives, our shepherd Jesus is always there with us and He in Himself is all we need.

For the Lord my shepherd leads me...

And He is all I need.

Listen Here

Mark 6: They Saw the Miracles but Missed the King by OnlineGiving

A super helpful resource that covers the whole chapter. Read a little bit at a time as you're going through the Bible reading plan to help you understand different sections of the chapter.



Mark 6: They Saw the Miracles but Missed the King by OnlineGiving

Similar to the above resource, this "podcast" takes us through the whole chapter to show why Mark has arranged the stories in this chapter the way he has. They all link together to show us a picture of King Jesus that helps to answer the big question posed in chapter 6: "Who is this man?!"



Mark 6: Jesus' Epic Story by Dave Miers

Great video from Dave Miers helping us see just how astonishing these miracles from Jesus in Mark 6 are, but more importantly who they show Jesus to be. Jesus is much more than a magician.



Week 7 | Mark 7 | Jesus is full of integrity.

Jesus' ministry is becoming more public; the crowds are gathering, and the Pharisees and teachers of the law are looking for ways to catch Jesus out on His authority.

Jesus first challenges the Pharisees not to follow their traditions over the commands of God, later telling all those who were with Him, "It is what comes out of a person that defiles them" (7:15, 20). Jesus is showing us the damage that can be done when we are not following God's commands with all our heart.

The back end of chapter 7 sees two people healed by Jesus. The first, a woman of great faith, seeks Jesus to free her daughter of a demon. Jesus compliments her reply and frees the woman's daughter of this evil. The second, a deaf and mute man. Jesus took the man away from the crowd, touched the man's tongue, looked up to heaven and spoke. After this, the man could speak. Though Jesus asked the man not to tell anyone, more people came to learn what had happened and the crowds were amazed.

Bible Reading Plan.
Use the 5 R's

Retell	Retell the narrative (and recap what's come before). Note anything that's unclear or confusing.
React	How are people reacting to Jesus?
Reveal	What is revealed about Jesus (and those meeting Him) through words and actions?
Reason	What reason might Mark have for including this event?
Respond	What does Mark teach us about how to respond to Jesus?

Bible Reading Plan.

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Mark 7:1–13	Mark 7:14-23	Mark 7:24-30	Mark 7:31-37	Psalm* 72

* Consider the righteousness of God's King as pictured in the Old Testament! How does Jesus embody this?

Key Passage

Mark 7:1-13 (NIV).

The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)

So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?"

He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: " 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.' You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions."

And he continued, "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! For Moses said, 'Honor your father and mother,' and, 'Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.' But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is Corban (that is, devoted to God)—then you no longer let them do anything for their father or mother. Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that."

Potential Talk Outline.

Mark 7:1-13 - Jesus teaches to follow and not change God's Word

Intro - What traditions do you have?

- Raise this question. Think of some ways you might be adding to or changing God's Word.

Point 1: Growing popularity (7:1-4)

- Give context to why the Pharisees are gathering here. Note Jesus' growing popularity.
- Provide context to ceremonial washing. Think about the separation of clean/unclean and Jew/Gentile.
- Understand the response of the Pharisees as rational in their own context.

Point 2: You hypocrites (7:5-8)

- Teach Jesus' response to the Pharisees' question. Think particularly about the way culture and routine have passed down opposing commands.
- Jesus speaks to letting go of the commands of God and holding onto human traditions. Consider what human traditions we hold onto broadly in everyday life, school, church, etc.

Point 3: Nullified commands (7:9-13)

- "Honour your father and mother".
- The Pharisees make it difficult to do so when they have taken what was for them and devoted it to God. Giving is a good thing, but here they are doing it at the cost of being unable to provide for their parents when they can't provide for themselves.
- Consider the image of a glass of water with dye. When more water is added, the colour begins to fade. This is what the Pharisees are doing with God's commands.

Conclusion - Jesus teaches to follow and not change God's Word

- Consider the ways we might be adding to or changing God's Word to make it fit better into our lives.
- Challenge yourselves to be following God's Word in your life, even at a cost.

Shorter Reflection Questions.

1. **What is a tradition you hold onto? This could be any tradition or routine you have.**

2. **Is there something you do at church that you do without knowing why?**

3. **Jesus is challenging us to consider what we are changing or adding to God's Word. What is one way we can change to follow God's Word?**

Longer Bible Study.

Big Idea of passage: **Jesus teaches to follow and not change God's Word**

Suggested Application: **Uphold the goodness of God's Word. Know God's Word, not just in your head (knowledge), but let your whole life be shaped by the goodness of listening to God.**

1. **What are some things you have always done, such as tradition or routines, etc? Ask yourself if there is a good reason or if it is just by chance that you do these things!**

Read Mark 7:1-4

2. What were the Pharisees upset by? Why was this such a problem?

Besides the hygienic answer, this was a practice that Jewish people had to remain clean from the unclean works of the Gentiles.

Read Mark 7:5-8

3. Jesus responds to the Pharisees by quoting Isaiah. What is the significance of this?

Pharisees typically were knowledgeable about the Old Testament. They likely would've known what Jesus was referencing.

4. Mark 7:6–8 tell us our worship is in vain when we let go of God's commands and follow our own traditions. What might some of those traditions be for us now?

Examples: Works-based faith; giving more makes you better in the eyes of God; relativism, making the gospel fit our world.

5. What does Jesus' response teach us about who He is?

Jesus doesn't lash out; he responds using Scripture. He is a man of integrity who is working to correct the wrongdoing of those around Him.

Read Mark 7:9-13

6. What is "Corban"?

Devoted to God / the act of devoting something to God.

7. Why is what the Pharisees are doing contradicting God's commands?

They are forcing people to dishonour their parents, as they must devote things to God and take away what would have cared for their parents (7:11-12).

8. What are some ways we might be tempted to change God's Word to make it more convenient for us?

We might be tempted to minimise King Jesus' teaching on sacrifice being costly. Maybe we want to water down what He says about arrogance or sexuality.

Trust His Word is good!

9. What is one way we can work to bring the gospel into our culture and not our culture into the gospel?

Brainstorm ways that you can bring up Jesus in natural ways. Emphasise that, as you do, your job isn't to help people fit Jesus into their worldview or their preferences. We will face some rejection. But that's because the gospel is opposed to culture; Jesus and this world are mutually exclusive.

Some examples might be thinking about how people seem to value satisfaction and happiness. Jesus truly satisfies and gives real happiness. However, that satisfaction is only properly experienced in relationship with God and fully experienced in the world to come.

Pray

Pray that we would be living for Jesus with our whole hearts, loving Him with everything.

Pray that we would know God's Word, love God's Word, and live out God's Word.

Pray we would be trusting Him with everything.

Anthem for the week - Take You at Your Word (Live) by Cody Carnes

This song emphasises both the depth of and our need for God's Word. It is a call for us to live according to the Word of God, recognising the truth it brings and the way in which we need it to know who God is.

I'll take You at Your word
You're good on Your promise!

Listen Here

Mark: The Servant King by Paul Barnett

Jump to chapters 14-15 for at look a Mark 7. Paul explores the context in which the Pharisees challenge Jesus and His disciples. He provides a helpful understanding of where the practices came from, alongside a brief overview of Mark 7.

Mark 7:1-13 Sermon by New Life Christian Church

A sermon on Mark 7:1-13 from New Life Christian Church explores what the Pharisees were doing and draws us back to Jesus, seeing forgiveness for the ways we let tradition rule our lives.

Mark 7:24–30 Youth Talk – Meet Jesus, A man for all people by Nathan Lee

Nathan Lee opens up from Mark 7:24–30 to provide some more context on the back end of Mark 7 from KYCK 2023.

Week 8 | Mark 8 | Jesus is the Messiah, God's long-promised, long-awaited King.

Over the last seven chapters, we have encountered Jesus' power and authority in several ways. He's been revealing who He is to His people!

Yet, His disciples—those He is closest to—still didn't get it! In our chapter, Jesus asks Peter, "Who do you say I am?" (8:29). And Peter gets it... sort of! "You are the Messiah," says Peter.

Yet, after Jesus begins telling him what that looks like—including suffering, rejection, and death—Peter rebukes Jesus! Jesus quickly lets Peter know that he has missed the point: following Jesus means following the way of the Messiah, who will face the cross for the sake of others (Mark 8:34–38).

Bible Reading Plan.
Use the 5 R's

Retell	Retell the narrative (and recap what's come before). Note anything that's unclear or confusing.
React	How are people reacting to Jesus?
Reveal	What is revealed about Jesus (and those meeting Him) through words and actions?
Reason	What reason might Mark have for including this event?
Respond	What does Mark teach us about how to respond to Jesus?

Bible Reading Plan.

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Mark 8:1–13	Mark 8:14-21	Mark 8:22-26	Mark 8:27-33	Mark 8:34-9:1

Key Passage

Mark 8:27-33 (NIV).

Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah." Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

Potential Talk Outline.

Big Idea: Jesus is the suffering Messiah, and nothing will get in His way, not even death.

Intro - Some questions can change your life.

- Life is full of questions. Some are more important than others. Should we get Domino's or Pizza Hut? Some questions can change the trajectory of a person's life. Will you marry me?
- How we answer the question Jesus poses in Mark 8:27 is one such question. How a person answers this question is probably the most important answer they will ever give to a question in their entire life: Who do you say that I am?

Point 1: Jesus is the Messiah (8:27-30)

- This is the halfway point of the Gospel of Mark, and the disciples have been following Jesus since the start (Mark 1:16-20). They have seen Him at work, and Jesus wants to check in with them to see what conclusions they have come to. He begins by asking what others are saying about Him (8:27). The disciples give feedback on some of what they have heard (8:28). John the Baptist and Elijah are two other prophets. So essentially, they report to Jesus that most people have concluded that Jesus Himself is a prophet- someone who speaks on God's behalf.

- Jesus narrows the question to find out what the disciples personally think (v.29). This is a question we all need to come to terms with: "Who do we say Jesus is?". Not arriving at an answer is an answer. There are no fences to sit on with this question.

- After 8 chapters of some significant clues, Peter arrives at a confession: "You are the Messiah." Messiah means King. More than a prophet, Peter correctly identifies Jesus as the King who has been promised to come to God's people and deliver them from their oppressors. Jesus' mission is more than speaking (like a prophet); He is going to act on God's behalf to deliver God's people (to understand how the Messiah was meant to act on behalf of God, see Psalm 2).

2. The Messiah must suffer (8:31)

The fact that Jesus is the Messiah is a revelation to the disciples, but we, the readers, have known this since Mark 1:1. What Jesus says in these verses is a surprise to everyone: "The Son of Man must suffer many things... He must be killed." The Messiah was supposed to be the victor, not the sufferer (again, see Psalm 2). This is why Peter pulls Jesus aside to rebuke Him (8:32). But Jesus says that He must suffer. There is something obligating Jesus to go and suffer and die at the hands of the Jewish leaders. So far in the Gospel, what is compelling Jesus has only been hinted at (2:1-11; 7:21-23), but in 10:45 Jesus spells it out: "The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many".

3. Nothing will get in his way (8:22-33)

- Back in 8:30, Jesus warned the disciples not to share the news that Jesus is the Messiah. He says this because He is concerned that the people will try to make Him King by force before His time (John 6:15). He doesn't want anything to get in the way of His mission.

- So, when Peter tries to talk Him out of going and suffering, Jesus rebukes Peter. Nothing can stand in the way of Jesus doing what God has given Him to do on this earth. This is why Jesus calls Peter 'Satan' in v.33. God has sent Jesus to die, and anyone who stands in the way is on team Satan, and against team God. Jesus confirms this when He says that Peter's concerns are more aligned with merely human concerns, and he isn't thinking about what God is doing in all this.

- So, Jesus won't let the crowds' desires get in His way; He won't let Peter's concerns get in His way, and there's one more thing that Jesus will not let stand in his way: death. In 8:31 Jesus says, "that He must suffer many things... He must be killed and after three days rise again". Even though the Messiah will suffer and die, He will rise again and continue to be the King who rules God's kingdom. Daniel 7:13-14 describes the Son of Man riding on clouds into God's presence and taking His place of glory and honour alongside God Himself. Jesus calls Himself the Son of Man in 8:31 to indicate that He is the one in Daniel 7. He is the Messiah who will suffer and die, and after His death He will rise again and rule from heaven over

His kingdom that will never be destroyed.

Conclusion- Big Questions that demand an answer

"Who do you say that I am?" It's a big question because He is the King of all things, and His kingdom will last forever. How you respond to Him matters.

Shorter Reflection Questions.

1. Why do you think Jesus says He "must suffer many things" (v.31)? Why does Peter take Jesus aside to correct Him?

2. How would you respond to the question, "Who do you say Jesus is"?

3. What do you think is the right response to King Jesus, who will reign forever?

Longer Bible Study.

Big Idea of the passage: **Jesus is the suffering Messiah, and nothing will get in His way, not even death.**

Suggested Application: **Get people to clarify who Jesus is and what it actually looks like to follow Him.**

1. What do you think are some of the biggest questions you will answer in your life?

In this passage, Jesus asks us a big question that we all need to answer.

Read Mark 8:27-30

2. After 8 chapters of a 16-chapter Gospel, why does Jesus think it's a good point to stop and discuss His identity?

After half the book, it is worth clarifying who Jesus is for readers. That is the most important question! All He has done testifies to who He is and His authority.

3. What do all the disciples' initial responses have in common? Is that a good assessment?

They note that He is a prophet. While this is absolutely true (He does speak the Word of God and calls people to respond), this isn't everything. There is much more: He is the Messiah.

4. In smaller groups, read a section of the Old Testament and then together discuss what promises God gives about who His Messiah is and what He will be like. (Discuss Psalm 2, Psalm 110 and 2 Samuel 7:1–17). What did they expect the Messiah to be like?

Psalm 2 speaks of God's anointed King (Messiah) being installed on Zion (God's place of worship; Jerusalem). It shows that God will have ultimate victory over His enemies, who plot against Him in vain. Those who take refuge in this son will be safe.

Psalm 110 speaks about God's King sitting at His right hand and will use his enemies as a footstool. This highlights how glorious and final God's victory will be.

2 Samuel 7:12–13 is part of God's promise to David, His king. This shows that one of David's descendants will always be on the throne (i.e. in charge of God's people).

These pictures show a Messiah who will be militant and victorious, who will destroy their enemies. This is significant for God's people at the time of Jesus because the Roman Empire is over them, and the Jewish people are hoping to be saved physically so that a Davidic King can reign.

Read Mark 8:31-32

5. Why would Peter pull Jesus aside to correct Him at this point? Why must the Son of Man suffer many things?

Peter had these expectations of worldly deliverance and military conquest. So, if Jesus is this Messiah, of course He won't suffer! The Son of Man must suffer because this is God's plan for how He is going to destroy His enemies: not with a physical display of might but with an ultimate spiritual victory.

6. How can Jesus be the Messiah who delivers God's people if He is also going to suffer and die?

Because God will win the victory through Jesus' death. God's victory is far bigger than the people can expect or even hope for: Jesus will conquer the enemies of sin, death, and the devil. He will win. And He will rise afterwards!

Read Mark 8:33

7. Why does Jesus call Peter "Satan"?

Because Peter doesn't get who Jesus is or why He came. Peter has his eyes on worldly concerns. This is a challenge for us: are we focusing too much on what Jesus can give to us in this world that we forget about the ultimate purpose of why He came? Are we misdirecting ourselves or others from His saving death and victorious resurrection?

8. Why does Jesus call Himself "the Son of Man" in Mark 8:31? (Maybe have a read of Daniel 7:13–14.)

The picture in Daniel is of someone whom God has appointed to receive glory and honour. This Son of Man approaches the Lord Himself and is given all authority, glory, and power, and has a kingdom that will not be destroyed.

"Son of Man" is Jesus' favourite term for Himself because it describes His heavenly authority and the invincibility of His kingdom.

Jesus will take His place in glory after His resurrection (8:32–33).

Since Jesus is the Messiah who suffers for our sake according to God's plan and will rise from the dead to sit on the eternal throne and reign forever, that informs the next couple of questions.

9. Why is it so important that we answer the question, "Who do we say that Jesus is?"

We can't put off this decision. All will have to give an account before Him because of His right to rule and judge. It's important that we have clarity as to who Jesus is: God's promised King. And not just a theoretical King over a theoretical kingdom, but the King over us, with authority over us.

10. What would it look like to live as if Jesus really were the King who rules forever?

He shapes everything. He is worthy of all glory and honour, so we don't seek to give ourselves glory. He has the right to rule over the big—and even little—decisions of life. Submitting to Him isn't a burden, because His way is actually good for us! We deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him through the path of suffering for His name. We love one another with a radical, other-person-centred love. We tell others about how great our King really is!

Pray

Confess to God ways you haven't submitted to Jesus as King and ask for forgiveness.

Ask that you would continue to know Jesus as your Lord.

Anthem for the week - Jesus Messiah by Chris Tomlin

Respond to the knowledge of who Jesus is by crying out, "Jesus Messiah" in this song. He is the name above all names. He is the rescue for sinners and the ransom from heaven. Praise Him!

The rescue for sinners, the ransom from Heaven

Jesus Messiah, Lord of all

Listen Here

Mark 8: Jesus' Epic Story by Dave Miers

Dave Miers has a look at the turning point of Mark as people come to start to get who Jesus is... the Messiah.

Mark 8:27–38 – KYCK23 – What is a Christian by Dave Jensen

Listen to Dave Jensen on our key passage from KYCK in 2023. What is a Christian? Someone who follows Christ.


Куск 2027