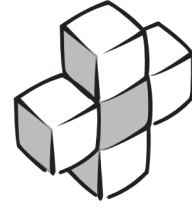




SMACC
Making Disciples of Jesus Christ



Bible Study Series:

Mark



Our Mission:

*To glorify God together in response to his grace
by making disciples of Jesus Christ*

About These Studies

These studies were written by various SMACC leaders for use among young working adults and university students. You are most welcome to use and adapt these studies for your own context. Where you do so please provide the following acknowledgment.

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Study 1: “Jesus: Who is He and Why He Came” (Mark 1:1-13)

Getting started

1. Before we dive into the text of the gospel, share one thing (fun facts) you know about the book.

Digging in

2. Identify the main sections and give them a short title

Verses	Title

Read Mark 1:1-5

3. How did Mark start the book? And what did he establish the book is about?
4. Read Malachi 3:1, Isaiah 40:3 Who is the messenger the Prophets in the Old Testament prophesy about? What is his mission?
5. How did John the Baptist prepare the way for the Lord?
6. How was the response of John’s ministry and what does it signifies?

Read Mark 1:6-8

7. How did John describe the man who is coming after him, and how is he so mighty?

8. Who is the person John is mentioning about?

9. What's the difference between the baptism done by John the Baptist and Jesus? Read Romans 8:9-11. What does this mean to us now?

Read Mark 1:9-11

10. When Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan, what happened? And what does it signify?

11. Why did Jesus need to be baptized? Isn't he sinless?

12. We see the beginning of Jesus's ministry, how was it?

Read Mark 1:12-13

13. What happens immediately?

14. What do these events signify?

Application

15. So far in the Gospel of Mark we see four witnesses testifying to Jesus, can you spot who are they?

16. Who is Jesus in our life?

Prayer

Thank God that we have the great privilege to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ who is the Son of God as proclaimed by not only Mark, John the Baptist but God the Father himself. And thank you for all the things He has come to earth to fulfilled resulting in us receiving the great gift of life all because of God's grace for us. Let us remind each other of who Jesus is in our life.

Study 2: “The Authority of Jesus” (Mark 1:14-1:45)

Getting started

1. Think of an authoritative figure. Can you separate this person’s authority from his/her identity?

Context

Previously, we saw the many testimonies of Jesus - Mark testifies that Jesus is the Christ (God’s chosen king), John the Baptist said that Jesus is much mightier and God the Father declared that Jesus is His beloved Son.

Digging in

Read Mark 1:14-45.

2. Identify the main sections and give them a short title

Verses	Title

Read Mark 1:14-15

3. “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.” How is this Good News? (cf. Daniel 2:44)

Read Mark 1:16-20

4. How did the fishermen respond to Jesus when He called? What does that show about Jesus?

Read Mark 1:21-22

5. How is it that people could tell Jesus taught differently from the scribes? What does that mean?

Read Mark 1:23-28

6. How did all these groups react toward Jesus when he taught and casted out demons in the synagogue?

Reactions toward Jesus	
People of Capernaum	
Demons	

Read Mark 1:29-34

7. Consider the way Simon's mother-in-law behaves after being healed by Jesus? What is our attitude toward God and how do we behave after recovering from an illness or disease?

8. Why did Jesus prohibit the demons to speak even though they knew exactly who he was?

Read Mark 1:35-39

9. What was the Messiah concerned with primarily?

10. Read Lev 13:46. Why does Jesus cleanse the leper and what are the implications?

Application

11. What does it mean to repent and believe in the gospel?

12. What are our attitudes toward Jesus? Have we been treating Him rightly?

13. What do we need to repent of and what would our lives look like if we believe in the gospel?

Prayer

Thank God that our Lord Jesus came to preach the gospel with such urgency that we might repent and believe. Pray that we will recognise and acknowledge His authority over our lives and the world that we live in by submitting to Him. Ask God for help to continue turning away from sin and turn to Him instead.

Study 3: “Christ Our Saviour” (Mark 2:1-17)

Getting started

1. Share of a time you had a “holier-than-thou” moment. How did you feel during that moment of time?

Context

Last week, we saw that Jesus, the son of God, the King appointed by God, came to the world in the form of a man to proclaim the gospel. He called men to repent and believe for the Kingdom of God is near! We also saw that Jesus has authority over all things, even the power to cleanse the outcast so that he (the leper) can once again join the congregation to worship God—a foreshadow of what Christ would do on the cross to bring reconciliation between men and God! Throughout the study, we saw that Jesus came not to be a cool miracle worker/ an awesome political messiah, BUT for one sole purpose: To preach the good news! This week, we will continue to find out more about Jesus, his identity and his mission.

Digging in

Read Mark 2:1-17

2. Identify the main sections and give them a short title

Verses	Title

Read Mark 2:1-5

3. Based on what we read so far, what are some possible intentions the crowd may have in gathering so eagerly wherever Jesus is?

4. What is it about “their faith” that Jesus saw in verse 5?

5. Why did Jesus said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven” instead of healing him first?

Read Mark 2:6-12

6. On what basis did the scribes say that Jesus is blaspheming?

7. What does verse 8 tell us about Jesus?

8. What point is Jesus trying to make in verse 9-10? Why does he refer to himself as the Son of Man?
(cf. Daniel 7:13-14)

9. What was the response of the crowd in verse 12?

Read Mark 2:13-17

10. What does verse 14-16 tell us about:

Jesus	
Tax Collector & Sinners	
Scribes of Pharisees	

11. In verse 17, is Jesus suggesting that the scribes of the Pharisees are righteous as compared to those Jesus is dining with?

Application

12. In light of today's study, what are some things you have learned about Jesus today? Share one or two ways in which you might be challenged to have a change in your attitude towards Jesus.

13. Do you present yourself as a Pharisee or as a tax collector? How do you identify others?

14. From the first part of today's passage, we know that every person's greatest need is to have their sins forgiven. Reflect and share on how that changes the way in which we relate to our family and friends.

Prayer

Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. (Matthew 6:9-13)

Study 4: “Jesus vs the Pharisees” (Mark 2:18-3:6)

Getting started

1. “Christians are a group of bigots who only seek to impose burdensome and unnecessary rules on other people.” Comment on the statement. Why is the misconception so common?

Context

In the previous study, we saw how Jesus heals a paralytic, while declaring that his sins are forgiven as well. This declaration drew the ire of the scribes who thought Jesus was blaspheming since only God can forgive sins. Later on, He passed by a tax collector by the name of Levi, who immediately chose to follow Him after Jesus asked him to follow Him. This week, we will be looking at how Jesus continues to draw the ire of the Pharisees.

Digging in

2. Identify the main sections and give them a short title

Verses	Title

3. From the text, what issue sparked confusion, which led to people questioning Jesus?
4. How does Jesus answer their question? Is it contrary to what’s mentioned in the Old Testament? (cf. 1 Samuel 31:13, 2 Samuel 1:12, Esther 4:3)
5. What is the significance of Jesus’ usage of the imagery of Him being the bridegroom? (cf. Isaiah 54:5, 62:4-5)

6. What was Jesus hinting at in v20? Was Jesus putting a requirement on His disciples to be fasting on 'that day'?

7. What does the old garment / wineskin and the unshrunk cloth / new wine refer to? What point was Jesus trying to get across?

8. Was the Pharisees' accusation of Jesus' disciples doing what was 'not lawful' on the Sabbath accurate? Why or why not?

9. What was the link between what David did and what Jesus' disciples did – what point was Jesus making?

10. What does Jesus' concluding remark say about him?

11. Were the Pharisees genuinely concerned about adherence to God's law? How do we know?

12. How did Jesus dispel their accusation against him? How does Jesus define what should and shouldn't be done on the Sabbath?

13. Using Jesus' definition then, who were the ones breaking the Sabbath?

14. What does the healing of the man with withered hand show about Jesus? (cf. Exodus 4:6-7)

Application

15. From what we have seen today, how is Jesus different from everyone? What does what we've seen today say about the person of Jesus? How are we to respond to it?

16. Do we too, like the Pharisees, try to jump on every opportunity to be accusing someone of sin? Or are we genuinely concerned about the growth and salvation of those around us? How do we avoid the former and cultivate the latter / How do we distinguish the two?

17. Do we try to get other people to adhere to our definition of what's right / wrong, or do we point them to Christ, the Son of Man who is Lord of all?

Prayer

We humbly ask you, O Father, to look upon our weaknesses with mercy, and for the glory of Your name, turn from us all those evils that we rightfully deserve, and grant us that we can place our whole trust and confidence in your mercy, and always serve You in holiness and pureness in living, to your honour and glory, through our only Mediator and Advocate, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (adapted from the Book of Common Prayer)

Study 5: “Jesus is the Lord and He Demands Us to Obey” (Mark 3:7-35)

Getting started

1. Think of a time when you’ve met someone who really disliked Jesus or rejects Him. Why do you think people reject Jesus even though he does good things?

Context

Last week we saw Jesus has authority over a new kingdom. In the new kingdom righteousness doesn’t come through fasting and Sabbath-keeping but through Jesus who calls sinners to himself. Jesus brings joy and an end to fasting, and is the Lord of the Sabbath bringing people true rest and salvation. Jesus’ teaching and healings have led to increasing confrontation with the old Israel (religious rulers) who plot together to destroy Jesus. This week we see that Jesus has authority over a new people even though old Israel’s rejection of him continues.

Digging in

Read Mark 3:7-35

2. Identify the main sections and give them a short title

Verses	Title

Read Mark 3:7-12

3. What made such large crowds follow Jesus? What are some possible motivations/intentions that they want to meet Jesus, even from distant places? (v7-9)

4. Why did Jesus sternly bid the unclean spirits/demons to remain silent in v.12? (cf. 1:24-26)

Read Mark 3:13-19

5. Read Exodus 19:1-6. In the light of the Old Testament, what is the significance of what Jesus is doing on the mountain when he calls the twelve?

6. What are they chosen to do? Have they 'earned the right' to be chosen as his apostle? (v.13, cf. 2:17)

Read Mark 3:20-35

7. Fill in the boxes below:

	Accusation about Jesus:	How did Jesus respond?
Family	3:20-21	3:31-35
Scribes	3:30	3:23-27

8. What is the real reason Jesus can drive out the unclean spirits/demons? Why are the words that the scribes said (blasphemy against the Holy Spirit) dangerous to them (cf v28-29)?

9. What is the hidden meaning behind this sin (vs.29-30) that Jesus is trying to address? (cf. Matthew 12:31-32)

10. What does the 'will of God' mean in v.35? How can we then be part of Jesus's family? (cf. Matthew 7:21; Romans 2:13)

Application

11. From this study, who is Jesus and why he came? Fill in the blanks for the title today.

12. What particular area of your life are you not giving up to Jesus? Are you willing to consider doing so now?

13. Are you Jesus' brother/sister/mother? If so, how can you make sure you are responding correctly to him and does it matter?

Prayer

Lord God, help us to understand that you are Lord and you were here to proclaim your Kingdom. Help us to understand the truth, conquer our unbelief, and let us not reject you in any way which one could conceive. Lord, in your mercy, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

Study 6: “The Secret of God’s Kingdom” (Mark 4:1-34)

Getting started

1. What does the word ‘parable’ mean to you? Share your findings among each other.

Context

Jesus was introduced as the long awaited king and God’s own beloved son > he does miracles and wonders, gaining fame > he declares that he came to call the sinners to repentance > he faces strong opposition from religious leaders, and even his own family members. This week, we will be looking at Jesus telling several parables.

Digging in

Read Mark 4:1-34

2. Identify the main sections and give them a short title

Verses	Title

Read Mark 4:1-20.

3. What were the four different soil types in the first parable and what did Jesus say they meant?
4. What does Jesus say parables are meant to do? (vv.11-12) Which Old Testament reference does he use and how may this add to our understanding?

5. How might this idea of parables be shocking to the readers? How would you explain this to your friend?

6. Compare the settings in which Jesus taught the parable (vv.1-2) and when he explained it (v.10). Why do you think Mark shows this to us?

7. Read verses 21-23 again. What analogy does Jesus use and what point is he trying to make with it?

8. What do you make of verses 24-25?

9. How does this parable add to the readers' understanding of the secret of God's kingdom in the earlier part of the passage?

10. How does this parable add to the readers' understanding of the secret of God's kingdom in the earlier part of the passage?

11. What is the point Jesus is trying to make in this parable?

12. Contrast the mustard seed and the tree it grows up to be.

13. What is the point Jesus is trying to make in this case?

14. What are similar themes in these four parables? How would you tie it together?

Application

15. How could Christians follow Jesus' exhortation to "pay attention to what we hear", especially after his death and resurrection?

16. How have your ideas of God's kingdom been changed / reinforced following this passage? Have you been struggling with living in light of this truth?

Prayer

Lord, we ask that you open our minds to understand the mystery of your Kingdom. Help us to be like the seed which was sowed in the fertile ground, that we may bear fruit that is a hundred fold of what it was initially. Help us to be open for teaching, that we have the grace to lend our ears to hear the truth, even though it may not be immediately clear at first. Lord, in your mercy, accept these prayers for the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

Study 7: “The King who has Power over Nature and Demons” (Mark 4:35-5:20)

Getting started

1. How do you look at someone who claims that they can communicate with the spiritual world? Why?

Context

In the previous chapter, Jesus emphasized about listening well so that by listening we may have faith because faith comes from listening (Romans 10:17). Jesus also showed the various examples of what the Kingdom of God is like; it may seem insignificant at first glance but its prominence cannot be denied and it keeps growing. This week we will look at some of the character of the King of the Kingdom and how that relates to faith.

Digging in

Read Mark 4:35:5:20

2. Identify the main sections and give them a short title

Verses	Title

Read Mark 4:35-41

3. What happened that caused the disciples to be alarmed?

4. What was Jesus doing at the time of the storm? What does this tells us about Him?

5. How did the disciples react to the possibility of in danger of drowning?

6. What did Jesus do to quell the situation? What does this tell about Jesus?

7. What was Jesus' response to the disciples after calming the storm?

Read Mark 5:1-20

8. Who met with Jesus as soon as he got out of the boat? What can we infer about this person?

9. How did Jesus demonstrate His authority over the demons?

10. What was the people's response to the event that has just happened in v.13?

11. What was the man's (who was once demon-possessed) response?

12. What was the good that came out because Jesus didn't allow him to follow?

13. Based on the 2 passages; what does the 2 passages tells us about Jesus?

Application

14. During the 2 miracles, we see the deity of Jesus. Why should it matter? How does it apply to us?
What should be our response that fact?

15. How do react/respond when we are besieged with unfavorable circumstances in life? How did this Jesus – the Jesus of miraculous redemption fit into helping us understand and working out our problems?

Prayer

Lord, help us to continue to see that You are indeed divine and exercise authority over nature and demons. Even while the nearer waters flow, and the tempest remains high, help us to remain strong in their face, knowing that You are in control, and You will deliver and guide us into your haven.

Study 8: “Do Not Fear, Only Believe” (Mark 5:21-43)

Getting started

1. Have you been through a near death experience? Or had a disease or sickness that brought you a lot of suffering? What did you do during these desperate times? Share your experience, your thought and your emotions at that time.

Context

From the start of Mark, we have seen the beginning of Jesus ministry on earth. We have seen his authority over men, authority over unclean spirit, authority over nature and authority to heal so far. We have also seen how Jesus teaches God’s words with authority, many came to hear his preaching but not everyone understands. Today we continue to see what Jesus has done to 2 women(daughters) he encountered during his ministry.

Digging in

Read Mark 5:21-43

2. Identify the main sections and give them a short title

Verses	Title

Read Mark 5:21-24a

3. Who is Jairus, and how is he different from the rest of the ruler of synagogue?
4. Why did Jairus came to see Jesus for?
5. Why do you think Jesus went with Jairus?

Read Mark 5:24b-34

6. What happened when Jesus was on his way to Jairus's house?

7. What does her condition signify during that era?

8. What did the woman do in desperation?

9. How did Jesus react to this incident?

10. What you think cured the woman's disease?

Read Mark 5:35-43

11. What happened when Jesus was still speaking to the woman?

12. How did Jesus respond to the tragic news?

13. How did the crowd react to Jesus's comment?

14. What did Jesus do to the girl and what is the significance?

15. After this miracle, Jesus asked those who witnessed not to tell the crowd, why does he do so?

Application

16. What can we learn from Jairus and the woman (with haemorrhage) especially during times of desperation?

17. Looking back to our first question, what do you tend to do during times of desperation? And is there anything you would do differently after this study?

Prayer

Please pray for one another over what you have learned from this study, trusting that the Lord will continue to be in control, even at times of our desperation.

Study 9: “Rejection is Real” (Mark 6:1-29)

Getting started

1. Have you ever been blue-ticked on WhatsApp and the person you’re messaging just refuses to listen to what you’re saying and so wouldn’t reply you or tells you to stop? Why do you think they do that?

Context

Last week, we saw after Jesus crossed over the Sea of Galilee again, he was immediately approached by Jairus, who begged Jesus to save his dying daughter. Yet when they were on their way, a woman with a blood flow for twelve years came behind Jesus in a crowd and touched Him. At that instant, her ailment was healed and upon being questioned, she expressed her faith in Jesus’ ability to heal her.

Jairus’ daughter died, but Jesus told Jairus to only believe, as He entered the house, telling the girl to rise, which amazed everyone...

Digging in

Read Mark 6:1-29

2. Identify the main sections and give them a short title

Verses	Title

Read Mark 6:1-6

3. The people of Nazareth seem to be asking a lot of questions. What do these questions attribute to? Split them into categories according to what the questions attribute to.

Category of questions		
Questions from the text		

4. Based on these questions, how did the Nazarenes come to the conclusion of taking offence at Jesus?

5. What does Jesus' response (v4) show about His mission and purpose? (cf. 1 Kings 19:10, 2 Chronicles 36:16 and Jeremiah 2:30)

6. Why couldn't Jesus do any mighty work in his hometown? Was he intimidated and limited by the people's rejection?

Read Mark 6:7-13

7. Why do you think Jesus charged the disciples to take nothing for their journey except for a staff and sandals?

8. Jesus tells the disciples to "shake the dust of their feet as a testimony against" (V11) those who will not receive them or listen to their message. Why is he so harsh?

Read Mark 6:14-29

9. What is the significance of some people claiming that Jesus is the resurrected John the Baptist (Mark 1:2-8) or Elijah (2 Kings 2:1, 11)?

10. What caused John to be arrested?

11. Who was more sinful in the account of John's arrest and murder?

Herod	Herodias

Application

12. When we hear God's word to us: His commands, His rebuke in the Bible. How should we respond to Him? Is our response correct?

13. What kind of expectations should we have as Christians when we preach the gospel to others?

Prayer

Lord, help us to continue trust in you, that as we continue to share your word to the world, we may have the grace to accept rejection from people who may not be interested in listening.

Study 10: “The True Shepherd” (Mark 6:30-56)

Getting started

1. Who would you trust your life with? Why?

Context

Last week, we saw how the people doubted and rejected Jesus, the apostles, and John (Beheaded). We’re shown that there is a ‘limit’ to God’s patience. Where He will just “shake the dust off feet on His feet”, and leave. Therefore, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts...”

Throughout Mark, we’re made to consider who Jesus is. We’ve seen what He is capable of, “...wisdom given to Him... mighty works done by his hands...” (Mk 6:2). Up till now, we see Him preaching as one with authority, has the power to heal, has authority over nature, has command over demons, and even brings the dead to life.

Digging in

Read Mark 6:30 - 6:56

2. Identify the main sections and give them a short title

Verses	Title

3. From Mark’s perspective so far, what impression do you have of Israel’s Leaders? (t)

- a. Herod Antipas

- b. Pharisees and Scribes

Read Mark 6:30-44

4. Why did Jesus feed the crowd?

The language of sheep and shepherds traces back deep into the Old Testament. To truly appreciate the significance of this miracle, we need to dig into some key passages in the Old Testament.

Read Exodus 3:10, 16:9-18, 34-35

5. How is Jesus like Moses?

Read Ezekiel 34:1-24

The Shepherds of Israel in Ezekiel

What they should have done	What were they doing instead

As a result, the sheep _____

6. What did God promise to do for his flock?

7. Whom would he send?

Read Numbers 27:15-18

8. Given that "Joshua" is simply the Hebrew form of "Jesus", what do you think is being said about Jesus in Mark 6?

9. Based on your reading of Mark and the OT links above, how is Jesus the promised true shepherd of Israel?

Read Mark 6:45-56

10. What do you think the disciples were thinking about when they saw Jesus walking on water?

11. What did Jesus mean to do in v48? What do you think that means?

Looking back to the OT...

12. Who is the one that passes by in Exodus 34:4-8?

13. After reading all the verses above, compare Jesus, Moses, and Herod & the Pharisees.

14. Instead of being fearful, how should the disciples have responded? Why?

Application

15. Have there been times where you felt God is incapable/impassionate of solving your problem?

16. As Christians - knowing that Christ who cares, has died on the cross and dealt with our greatest problem - what should we do when we face trials?

Prayer

Please read through Psalm 23, and then pray as we remember how God has sent Jesus to become our shepherd.

Study 11: “True Defilement & What to do With It” (Mark 7:1-23)

Getting started

1. Have you ever misjudged someone by his/her outward performance? What made you realize that you had misjudged?

Context

In the previous study, we saw how Jesus fed the five thousand as time was getting late. After that, Jesus sent His disciples away as He remained alone. While out at sea, the disciples encountered a storm and at the fourth watch, Jesus appeared to them while walking on water, followed by the calming of the storm.

As they sat foot at Gennaseret, many people came to Jesus wanting to get healed, and this is where we will begin today’s study, when the Pharisees and the scribes entered the scene...

Digging in

Read Mark 7:1-23

2. Identify the main sections and give them a short title

Verses	Title

Read Mark 7:1-5

3. What did the Pharisees mean, when they said that the hands of the disciple are defiled?

4. Who are the ones who came up with all these traditions? What are they based on?

Read Mark 7:6-13

5. Why are these traditions so important to the Pharisees? (cf. Lk 11:37-44)

6. How did the Pharisees leave the commandments of God? What is the example stated by Jesus? (cf. Luke 11:42)

7. What are the possible reasons of why the Pharisees and scribes in doing the above? (cf. Matthew 23:13-15, 23-24)

Read Mark 7:14-23

8. How did Jesus define defilement?

What does not defile a person:	What defiles a person:
Explanation:	Explanation:

9. In Leviticus Chapter 11, it is written that 'you shall not eat... because ... is unclean to you.' (eg. v4) Why and how did Jesus declare all foods clean when some foods are declared unclean in Leviticus 11? (cf. Lev 16)

10. How does Jesus' teaching on defilement tie in to the issue regarding traditions? (cf. Deut 10:12-22)

Application

11. Why is it easier to do what the Pharisees did (focus on the externals) than to do what Jesus wants us to do (focus on the heart)?

12. In what ways might we be like the Pharisees and scribes, putting our focus solely on our 'externals'?

13. How might we change our focus to the heart and not go back to the easy path?

14. Who might you be able to share this message with this week?

Prayer

Lord, please help us to understand that faith in the gospel is sufficient for us to be saved, and there is no need for us to rely upon man-made traditions which may take us away from the message of the gospel. Help us to also realize that it is from what is happening within us that cause us to defile our walk with you, less so from external circumstances. Amen.

c. Isaiah 2:1-3

d. Zechariah 8:20-23

4. How do these passages explain the priority of Jesus ministry at this point to the Jews before the Gentiles?

5. The Syrophenician woman is a Greek, a foreigner to Israel. Jesus points out that she is one of the 'dogs', one of the unclean, with whom Jews were not to associate.
 - a. How does this Gentile woman respond to Jesus?

 - b. What is remarkable about her response?

Read Mark 7:31-37 – Tyre, Sidon and the Decapolis were in Gentile territory. The man from Mark 5:20 seems to have done his work well!

6. Why did Jesus sigh in verse 34? Is it because Jesus is so distressed by this fallen world?

7. Read Isaiah 35:1-10. What is the significance of Jesus healing a deaf/mute man in Gentile territory?

8. Given the state of people's hearts of the people of Israel (its leaders, crowds and the disciples), what hope is shown in these verses?

13. Do we trust that Jesus says who He is and has the power and desire to save all types of people (including the Gentiles in our society who are considered unclean and undeserving of compassion and care)?

14. In light of knowing Jesus's compassion and heart to care for all types of people, what implications does this passage have for evangelism and our care for others?

Prayer

Please pray for one another over what you have learned from this study, among other things.

Study 13: “Do You Not Yet Understand?” (Mark 8:11-21)

Getting started

1. What miracle did Jesus perform? How does it help us understand Jesus’ identity better? (cf. Mark 8:1-10)

Digging in

2. Identify the main sections and give them a short title

Verses	Title

Read Mark 8:11-13

3. Why did the Pharisees seek a sign from Jesus?
4. How did Jesus respond to the Pharisees?
5. Why do you think Jesus responded in this way? (v12)

Read Mark 8:14-21

6. What did Jesus mean by ‘the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod’ in Mark 8:15? (see Matthew 16:12, Luke 12:1, 1 Corinthians 5:6-8)

7. What is Jesus trying to highlight in Mark 8:18 by asking, “Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember?”

8. Why did Jesus ask the disciples twice, “Do you not yet understand?” (Mark 8:17, 21)

Application

9. Who do you identify with, the pharisees or the disciples?

10. Seeing Jesus’ miracles, do you think the Pharisees and the disciples responded to Jesus correctly? If yes, why? If not, how should they respond?

11. Seeing how the disciples responded to Jesus, how should we respond to him personally?

12. As a church, how should this passage encourage us to look for the Son of God rather than miracle?

Prayer

Lord, please help us to continue understand that it is not the purpose of Jesus to create miracles in order to impress the people; instead He is here to proclaim the gospel and the coming of your Kingdom. Amen.

Study 14: “Who Do People Say I Am?” (Mark 8:22-9:1)

Getting started

1. If you asked people at work/university “Who is Jesus?”, what kinds of responses would you expect?

Digging in

Mark 8:22-9:1

2. Identify the main sections and give them a short title

Verses	Title

3. How are the disciples blind in v17-21? How are eyes being opened in v27-29? How is there still some blindness in v31-33?
4. So how is the two-stage healing in v22-25 a picture of what will happen to Peter and the other disciples?
5. Why do you think the disciples were able to confess that Jesus was the Christ?
 - a. What evidence did they have, at this point in the Gospel story?
 - b. Why did Jesus charge and command them ‘to no one about him’ (v30)?

6. What is Jesus' big mission? (v31)

7. Why does he say he "must" accomplish it?

8. Why did Jesus wait until this point to reveal to the disciples the necessity for his suffering and death?

9. How does Jesus' incredibly strong reaction to Peter's words (v33) underline the vital importance of this mission and the awfulness of Cross-less Christianity?

10. In this context, what does Jesus mean by 'take up his cross' (v34)?
 - a. What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus?

 - b. What does Jesus call for?

11. How does v34-38 compare with our expectations of the Christian life?

Application

12. How can we focus our personal and public worship more on the cross of Christ?

13. What will it look like to lose our life for the gospel this week?

Prayer

- **Praise** Jesus that he was willing to suffer and die for us.
- **Pray** that we would not be ashamed of Jesus, his words or his Cross but gladly lose our life and find out identity in the suffering Christ.

Study 15: “The Pre-eminence and Supremacy of Christ Demands a Response of Faith” (Mark 9:2-29)

Getting started

1. When you were in school, why did you obey your teacher? What made you obey your teacher even though he/she is not your parent?

Context

In last week’s study, the disciples were warned by Jesus not to be like the Pharisees and Herod, who hardened their hearts by unbelief. We are reminded to set our minds on the things of God and not the things of man. We also learned that what does following Jesus means and entails. Lastly, Jesus’ death and resurrection is part of God’s plan and is tied in to His mission and identity.

Digging in

Read Mark 9:2-29

2. Identify the main sections and give them a short title

Verses	Title

3. What did Peter, James and John witness at the high mountain? (v2-4)
4. What does the transformation of Jesus’ clothing tell us about Jesus?
5. What does the appearance of Elijah and Moses mean?

6. What was the disciples' response when they saw what was happening? (v 5-6)

7. How did God responded? (v 7) What was the significance of the response?

Read Exodus 24:15-17

8. In v 12, Jesus said that Elijah will come first to restore all things. However, in v 13, Jesus said that Elijah has come. What do you think he meant by that?

9. What happened to the boy? What does this tell us about the boy's condition? (v 17, 20-22)

10. Why do you think the disciples were not able to cast out the unclean spirit from the boy? (v 18)

11. Read again v 23. What was the father's request to Jesus and how did Jesus respond to the request? Why didn't Jesus immediately heal? (v 23-24)

12. What does the boy's father's response tell us about faith? (v 23-24)

Application

13. How well do you really know who Jesus is? If you know, do you have faith in Him?

14. God commands everyone to listen to Jesus. How are you listening to that command? What are you doing in response to that commandment?

15. How will you trust Jesus in the area of your studies and/or relationships?

Other readings on the Transfiguration

The account of transfiguration of Jesus Christ is also recorded in Matthew 17:1-13 and Luke 9:28-36.

Prayer

Please pray for one another over what you have learned from the Transfiguration, among other things.

Study 16: “Entering the Kingdom” (Mark 9:30-10:31)

Getting started

1. What does the title above mean to you? Discuss with your partner.

Context

In our previous study, we looked through the account of the Transfiguration, where Jesus revealed His true form in front of Peter, James, and John. On top of that, they also saw Moses and Elijah. This was followed by an encounter with a boy who was possessed by a mute spirit. Upon being told by Jesus to believe, the father of the boy expressed faith and asked to conquer his own unbelief...

Digging in

Read Mark 9:30-10:31

2. Identify the main sections and give them a short title

Verses	Title

3. How does the theme of “children” run through this passage (9:20, 9:36-37, 9:42, 10:13-16, 10:24)?
What are children meant to symbolize throughout these verses?

Read Mark 9:30-37

4. What is the significance of Jesus being “delivered into the hands of men”? (Isaiah 53:4-6, 10)
5. How does the disciples’ response in 9:33-34 demonstrate their total understanding of his mission (9:32)?

6. What does true greatness look like? How is that illustrated by the child?

Read Mark 9:38-50

7. How does the disciple's response in verse 38-41 show they have still not grasped what Jesus meant in verse 37?

8. How does Jesus teaching in verse 42-50 highlight the seriousness of causing another disciple to stumble? (cf. Is. 66:24)

a) Does Jesus literally mean that we should chop off our limbs? What does he mean?

9. What does it mean to:

a) Be salted with fire?

b) Be salty?

At this point we turn to consider who can enter the Kingdom. Here we're given another Marcan sandwich – two groups who fail to enter, surrounded by one group who can.

Read Mark 10:1-12

10. What is God's intention for marriage? (v6-9)

11. How then are we to understand divorce? (10-12)

The question that the religious leaders pose, demonstrates the sinfulness in their hearts. Despite being religious leaders, they are far from the Kingdom.

Read Mark 10:13-16

12. Why was Jesus so indignant (very angry)?

13. What does it mean to receive the Kingdom of God like a child?

Read Mark 10:17-31

14. Why is it so surprising that the rich man doesn't enter in (cf. v26)?

15. How does verse 13-16 help us understand what the rich man is lacking?

16. Why then are riches so dangerous? (22-25)

17. The disciples were amazed (v22), and exceedingly astonished (v26), asking “Then who can be saved?”. How does Jesus comfort his disciples?

Application

18. How does this passage challenge you to live your life as someone in the Kingdom?

19. What things prevent you from following Jesus as you ought?

20. Why are Jesus’ words to the rich man (10:21) so challenging to us?

21. How would taking a child-position change our view of our salvation and of our ministry?

Prayer

Pray for one another over what you have learned from the passage.

Study 17: “Jesus, the Greatest Servant” (Mark 10:32-52)

Getting started

1. Among the people who are around you, who do you consider as a great person? What makes you think that he/she is great?

Context

Last week we looked at :

- Jesus teaches disciples to humble themselves and be willing to accept all kinds of people into God’s kingdom, even those who have low status in the society like children.
- Jesus teaches that we need to take action to deal with our sin in order to enter God’s kingdom.
- Jesus also teaches that only people who have a child-like faith which is of full dependence to God are able to receive God’s kingdom.
- Finally, Jesus assures that those who are willing to give up everything for Jesus’ sake and for the gospel will surely get their reward in eternal life.

Digging in

Read Mark 10:32-52.

2. Identify the main sections and give them a short title

Verses	Title

Read Mark 10:32-34

3. What are the state of disciples and other followers when they are going to Jerusalem? What might be the reason for that?

4. Who is the Son of Man referring to? What is going to happen to him?

Read Mark 10:35-45

5. What was in James' and John's mind when they ask Jesus to grant them to sit at his sides?

6. How did Jesus respond to them?

7. What is the cup that Jesus drink and what is the baptism with which Jesus is baptized?

Read Mark 10:46-52

8. What does it imply when Jesus says that the seat is not his to grant but it is for those for whom it has been prepared?

9. What was the other disciples' mood when they heard James' and John's request? How did Jesus respond to that?

10. What did Bartimaeus cry out when he heard that Jesus was there? How did Jesus respond to that?.

11. What does it show about Jesus?

12. In what way is Bartimaeus' response to Jesus a good example of what it means to be a disciple?

Application

13. Reflect on your life, are you more like the disciples who put much concern for their own glory, power, and comfortable life, or, are you more like Bartimaeus who desperately cried out for Jesus' mercy and had faith in him? Why?

14. How does this passage help us to define greatness/successfulness of a person?

15. How can we respond to the Christ, who came to serve and give his life as a ransom for many?

16. Is there anyone whom you think they don't deserve your good treatment? How can you start serving them?

Prayer

- *Pray that each of us will respond to God's mercy by having faith in Jesus and not seeking for our own glory.*
- *Pray that we will serve the people around us, with Jesus as the example.*

Study 18: “Have Genuine Faith in Jesus, the Saviour King”

(Mark 11:1-26)

Getting started

1. What do we admire about other religions?

Context

Peter has declared Jesus to be the Christ.

Jesus has foretold his death for three times ...

“See we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise.” (Mark 10:33-34)

He has made obvious his ultimate mission. And here He is, entering Jerusalem ...

Digging in

Read Mark 11:1-26

2. Identify the main sections and give them a short title

Verses	Title

Read through the following:

- Mark 11:1-11
- Zechariah 9:9-11 – King, righteous and having salvation, is coming on a colt
- 2 Kings 9:13 – They laid down their cloaks and proclaimed. ‘Jehu is King!’

3. Why did Jesus pick a colt? (cf. Zechariah 9:9-11)

4. What does Zech 9:9-11 imply, in regards to our understanding of Jesus’ main purpose/mission?

- Notice how the celebrations and shouts of the long-awaited coming of the saving Messiah, and how it ended in v11. Why did it end in such an anti-climactic way?

For the next section, read through the following:

- Mark 11:12-14*
- Isaiah 56 :1-8 – How Gentiles are able to partake in Israel’s blessing*
- Jeremiah 7:1-11 – True faith and obedience, not fake external offerings*

- What is the condition of the fig tree? Why did Jesus curse it?

- What were the people doing in the temple?

- Why is Jesus so angry about this?

- Why do the chief priests and scribes want to destroy him?

Mark 11:20-26

10. Markan Sandwich of the Fig Tree

Sandwich Layering	Verses	Underlying Meaning
Upper Bread		
Meat (Gist)		
Lower Bread		

11. Why did Jesus told Peter to 'Have faith in God'?

12. How was genuine faith described by Jesus?

13. According to Jesus, what should be our attitude when we pray?

14. Does verse 24 mean, literally, that 'whatever' we ask for will be answered as long as we believe? (cf. The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-15), Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane (Mark 14:36), 1 John 3:22, James 4:3))

Application

15. Summarize the big idea of the passage in a short sentence.

16. Is it right to have only the leaves (Works) or the fruits (Heart)? What should be the right picture?

17. As professing Christians..

a. In what ways are you participating/contributing in church?

b. What is your reason for doing these? Is it a response to our faith in Christ, or is it borderline works that seeks praises/consolation for ourselves?

18. Do we, as students, commonly only come to God in prayer only with our examination, relational and situational problems? Is this right?

19. Do we commonly think about things that we need to forgive others about, before coming to God in prayer?

Prayer Points

- Help us to constantly reflect, and with His help, be genuinely faithful to what He has done on the cross
- Help us to be faithful to Him, our God and King

Study 19: “Questions and Answers” (Mark 11:27-12:17)

Getting started

1. Share one time when you denied something good/ you were the one being denied. How did you react towards it?

Context

Last study, we learned that Jesus, the prophesied Saviour King of the world has finally come to Jerusalem. He comes to the temple expecting to find sincere repentance, and prayer but instead, it has become a place for hypocrites who falsely come with superficial offerings without repentance and true prayer. It ends with Jesus, teaching us of the importance of true faith in God, and forgiveness, with its manifestation in prayer.

Digging in

Read Mark 11:27-12:17.

2. Identify the main sections and give them a short title

Verses	Title

Read Mark 12:1-12 (the meat)

Characters	Roles	Consequences

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3. What does the vineyard in verse 1 mean? (cf. Isaiah 5:1-7)

4. From verse 12 we know that the purpose of the parable is to go against them, what is Jesus trying to imply?

5. What is the significance of Jesus ending the parable with the scripture? (cf. Psalm 118:22-23)

Read Mark 11:27-33; 12:13-17 (the bread)

6. How will the question from the opposition (the chief priests, the scribes and the elders) in v28 trap Jesus?

If Jesus answers...	Consequences will be...

7. What was Jesus' counter question? How was it answered by the opposition? (v30)

8. Do they really mean what they said? Why?

9. Looking at Mark 12:13-17, what was the question posed by the Pharisees and the Herodians? How is it designed to trap Jesus?

If Jesus answers...	Consequences will be...

10. What was Jesus' response to this?

Application

11. From this study, we know that rejection towards God is a very serious issue. In today's context, what are the things we do/say are still clearly rejecting God? What should be our right response?

12. In reality, as a student/ working adult, how would it look like to render to God the things which are God's?

Prayer points

Pray that we will:

- *Recognize Jesus's authority*
- *Obey Jesus*
- *Keep each other accountable by encouraging one another to render to God the things which are God's*
- *Be able to speak to other people who are still rejecting God/challenging God's authority.*

Study 20: “The Greatest Commandment” (Mark 12:18-44)

Getting started

1. When you were younger, have you tried asking your teacher or parents a question about something you thought you knew better? What was your intention of doing so?

Context

After Jesus and his disciples have reached Jerusalem, there are many incidents where Jesus is being challenged in public on His authority. Chapter 12 practically consists of a series of questions from the religious leaders. Last 2 studies we saw questions from Sanhedrin, the Pharisees and the Herodians. Today we will see other groups of religious leaders challenging Jesus and how Jesus responds while teaching the crowd about God and His Kingdom.

Digging in

Read Mark 12:18-44

2. Identify the main sections and give them a short title

Verses	Title

Read Mark 12:18-27

3. Who are the Sadducees and what do they believe in?

4. What did the Sadducees asked Jesus? Why? (cf. Deut 25:5-10)

5. How did Jesus responds to the question? Why?

6. How did Jesus make his argument regarding resurrection?

Read Mark 12:28-34

7. What did Jesus say to the scribes when they ask which commandment is the most important of all? (cf. Deut 6:5; Lev 19:18)

8. How is the scribe's response different from the rest? And how did Jesus respond to his reaction?

Read Mark 12:35-37

9. The scribes say that the Christ is the son of David. What is Jesus' point in quoting the psalm? (cf. Ps 110:1-5)

Read Mark 12:38-44

10. What is Jesus' warning here about?

11. What did Jesus observed when the people are making their offerings?

12. What is the significance of their attitude through their offering?

Application

In this chapter we see many religious teachers and leaders challenging Jesus. We often forget or overlook the warning of Jesus towards those who oppose God. Even the Pharisees thought they knew God but they are warned about and their condemnation is certain.

13. Have we been behaving like these leaders? Have we start to use our understanding of Scriptures for our own gain and exterior religiousness, instead of furthering God's kingdom? Are there mixed motives?

14. Do we truly teach God's words faithfully or focus more on the public recognition?

15. Reflect on your offering to God - heart, time, energy, money etc. Are you giving out of comfort, or are sacrificially? (Consider Jesus' words in Mark 8:34-37 as you reflect.)

16. In what ways are you struggling to love God and people?

17. What do you believe is more important, that stops you from doing this?

Prayer

Lord, as we share the gospel to others who hear it, help us to convey the gospel message in a faithful manner, instead of pandering to what the audience likes to hear at the expense of the truth. Amen.

Study 21: “Be on Your Guard!” (Mark 13)

Getting started

1. If you knew that the thief is coming to your house tonight, what would you do to get ready for his “arrival”?

Context

In chapter 12, Jesus addressed his opponents when they asked him difficult questions to test Him after he spoke the parable of the tenants that they perceived was addressed against them (12:1-12). In the end, Jesus warned his hearers against the teachers of the law and commended the widow who gave everything she had. This week, we will be looking at the warnings Jesus presented to His hearers about the certainty of the end times that is to come and how his disciples are to respond to it.

Digging in

Read Mark 13

2. Identify the main sections and give them a short title

Verses	Title

Read Mark 13:1-2

3. What did Jesus say will happen to the Temple of Jerusalem? Why?

Read Mark 13:3-8

4. What did the disciples want and what did Jesus give them?

Read Mark 13:9-13

5. Why does Jesus warn the disciples to be on their guard?

Read Mark 13:14-27

6. What is this abomination of desolation or who is it?

7. How severe will the tribulation be and how is God's grace shown during those times? (cf. v17-27)

Read Mark 13:28-35

8. So what can we learn from the fig tree?

9. What did Jesus emphasised that a believer must do in these times?

Application

10. In this chapter we see that terrible things will happen to the believers in Jesus's day but what does this mean for us?

- a. The passage seems to make it clear that suffering does not relieve us (followers of Christ) from the duty of preaching the gospel. How are you persevering in preaching the gospel lately?

 - b. The 2nd point that is clear that we can see is God doesn't make suffering disappear or exempt us from suffering even though we follow Him but emphasised that we must persevere to the end. How does persevering look like to us as individual Christians? As a collective body of the church?
11. The closing of chapter 13, Jesus also emphasised for us not to be sleeping and be on our guard since he is coming again for sure. What are we doing to ensure we don't sleepwalk in our faith? What are we doing to remind our brothers/sisters of the faith not to sleepwalk?

Study 22: “Jesus is Going to Die” (Mark 14:1-11)

Getting started

1. Do you remember selling something or giving up something precious of yours for the first time for the sake of others? How did that feel?

Context

In the previous study, we saw how Jesus warned of the end times and exhorted people to be on their guard, for they would not know when the time will come. Today, we will be looking at the beginning of a set of events that will ultimately lead to Jesus’ death on the cross.

Digging in

Read Mark 14:1-11

2. Identify the main sections and give them a short title

Verses	Title

3. Why were the chief priests and scribes eager to arrest Jesus “by stealth” ?
4. Why did the disciples respond so harshly toward the unnamed woman’s act?
5. What was the implied message that the disciples give Jesus through their response to the unnamed woman? What does this show about their understanding of who Jesus is and what He came to do?

6. In verse 7, is Jesus being self-obsessed and dismissing the act of helping the poor as unimportant? (cf. Deut 15:11, 4-5)

7. How do verses 8 and 9 point to the Good News?

8. Compare and contrast the unnamed woman and Judas in the table below.

Person	Unnamed Woman	Judas
Who is this?		
What did s/he do?		
Result		

9. What is the significance of Judas betraying Jesus? (cf. Mark 9:31 and 10:33)

Application

10. What does it mean to give Jesus total devotion? (cf. Mark 12:29-30)

11. How much devotion should we be giving to Jesus? How much devotion are we actually giving to Jesus?

12. What would it mean for us if we do not give Jesus our total devotion?

13. How can we be devoting our lives to Jesus completely? What needs to change?

Prayer

Pray for each other to be committed to making those changes so that we can all live lives that are completely devoted to Jesus and that others will see it and give glory to God.

Study 23: “God’s Sovereignty and Human Responsibility” (Mark 14:12-52)

Getting started

1. What is the Holy Communion and why do we do it at church?

Context

Last week, we learned that responding to Jesus’ death has eternal implications. In the book of Mark, we’re made to consider who Jesus is. We’ve seen what He is capable of, and He is constantly challenging His disciples to see that He is the promised Messiah. As we ponder the identity of Jesus, we are driven to recognise who Jesus is for ourselves and ask if we have responded rightly to Him in faith.

Digging in

Read Mark 14:12-52.

2. Identify the main sections and give them a short title

Verses	Title

Read Mark 14:12-25

3. Jesus’ control over the events leading to his death is a major theme in Mark 14. How does Jesus demonstrate his control and God’s authority in this passage?

4. What is the significance of the disciples’ reactions to Jesus’ announcement that he will be betrayed?

5. Why is the timing (v12) so important? What was Passover?

6. How does Jesus re-interpret the Passover meal?

7. What is the point of Jesus' very graphic visual aids in verses 22-24 (cf. Genesis 15:7-10; Exodus 24:3-8)?

Read Mark 14:26-31

8. In v.27 who is the 'I' who will strike and who is 'the shepherd' (read Zechariah 13:7)? What amazing insight does this give us into the Cross?

9. What is wrong with the disciples' response in verses 29-31?

Read Mark 14:32-42

10. What is the 'cup' in verse 36 and what is its significance (cf. Isaiah 51:17; Jeremiah 25:15-29, 49:12)?

11. Re-read Mark 13:37. What does the disciples' behaviour at Gethsemane suggest?

Read Mark 14:43-52

12. Why didn't they arrest Jesus in the daytime as he taught in the temple?

13. What is the irony in the disciples scattering and in verse 51?

Application

14. Do we make similar commitments and resolutions to Jesus like the disciples?

15. What is the good news for sinners (including the disciples) from this passage?

16. Is salvation me committing myself to Jesus or Jesus committing himself to drink the cup instead of me? How does this affect our message in evangelism and our personal assurance?

Prayer

Pray for one another over what you have learned from this passage.

Study 24: “Jesus Rejected and Mistreated By All” (Mark 14:53-72)

Getting started

1. What do you think is the worst form of rejection that anyone could ever face?

Context

Last week, we read about Jesus’ new interpretation of the Passover meal – to invite many to appropriate his death for themselves and share in the benefits. We also read about Jesus’ painful prayer in Gethsemane – which ended in His arrest, while the rest of his disciples, as predicted, fled and abandoned him.

Digging in

Read Mark 14:53-72

2. Identify the main sections and give them a short title

Verses	Title

Read Mark 14:53-59 – Jesus brought before the Council

3. Observe the different ‘characters’ mentioned in this portion of the passage. How have their interactions with Jesus been prior to this, and how is it now?
4. What does the fact that the chief priests and the whole Council were ‘seeking testimony’ against Jesus imply?
5. Read John 2:19, and compare it with their accusation in v58. What was wrong with their “accusation”?

Read Mark 14:60-65 – High Priest probes Jesus, Jesus condemned

6. Was the High Priest genuinely trying to get Jesus to defend himself that he might be vindicated? Why or why not?
7. What is the significance of Jesus' response (or the lack of it) in v61? (cf. Isaiah 53:7)
8. What was the role of the high priest prescribed in Lev. 16:15? How has the high priest in this passage performed that role?
9. Compare the high priest's question with Mark's introduction in Mark 1:1. How does Jesus respond, and what's the significance of these descriptions? (cf. Daniel 7, Psalm 110:1)
10. What were the responses to Jesus' answer? What do these responses show? (v63-65)

Read Mark 14:66-72 – Peter denies Jesus

11. Read again what Peter had claimed in Mark 8:29 and Mark 14:29, 31. Now compare it with what's happening in v66-71 and Jesus' prediction in Mark 14:27,30. What does this show?
12. What sign of hope do we see in Peter from this passage and from Mark 14:28?

Application

13. We've seen how the different groups of the people have rejected Jesus – be it through their outward condemnation of Him, or through their denial of Him. In our lives, how have we who claim to be Jesus' disciples, rejected him?

14. As those who have at some point denied Jesus, how do we find comfort from this passage?

Prayer

Please pray for one another, as you reflect upon the passage.

Study 25: “The Crucifixion” (Mark 15:1-32)

Getting started

1. Imagine you have committed a serious crime that leads to a death sentence and someone else, stronger than you, is willing to take the punishment on your behalf. How would you feel and why?

Context

After the betrayal of Judas, Jesus was delivered before the Council where many testify and bore false witnesses to put Jesus to death. Jesus remained silent in the face of his accusers, demonstrating his fulfilment of the prophecies of the suffering servant. We also read about how Peter denies Jesus, exposing the weakness of his faithfulness to Jesus. Lastly, we see hope when Peter came to realize his rejection of his Lord but knowing that the abandonment of Jesus would not be forever.

Digging in

Read Mark 15:1-32

2. Identify the main sections and give them a short title

Verses	Title

Read Mark 15:1-5 – Jesus delivered to Pilate

3. In Mark 14: 64, Jesus was accused of blasphemy by the Jews. Why is Jesus then delivered to Pilate?

4. Jesus was interrogated by Pilate but he remained silent. What is the significance of Jesus’ response (or lack of it) and why do you think Pilate was amazed by that?

10. Observe the different characters who witnessed Jesus' crucifixion. What was their interaction with Jesus and their significance? Read also Psalm 22.

Characters	Interaction with Jesus	Significance

Application

11. In this passage, we see Jesus mocked by both Jews and Gentiles for claiming to be God's chosen King. How might we too be tempted to be ashamed of Jesus before our family and friends?

12. Have you found yourself being rejected by people because of your faith in Christ? How do we find comfort from this passage?

Prayer

O God, who is the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom stood our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom. Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies, such that we, trusting surely in your defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries, through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (adapted from the Book of Common Prayer)

Study 26: “The Most Crucial Death for Humanity” (Mark 15:33-47)

Getting started

1. Have you heard of any historical figure whose death has benefitted/affected a large group of people? What do you feel about their death?

Context

Last week we looked at three things, namely the innocent Jesus was condemned to death while the sinful Barabbas was released. Jesus, the true king was mocked and rejected by everyone, and the sufferings that are mentioned in Psalm 22 were accordingly fulfilled.

Digging in

Read Mark 15:33-47

2. Identify the main sections and give them a short title

Verses	Title

Read Mark 15:33-39

3. There was darkness over the whole land from the sixth to the ninth hour of the day. What is this darkness signifying? (cf. Ex 10:21; Amos 8:9)
4. What does it mean when Jesus said, ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’ on the cross? What do we learn from it?
5. Some of the bystanders fed Jesus with sour wine after hearing what Jesus had said. Notice this is the second time that somebody offers Jesus wine (first time in v23), why did Jesus reject the first offer but accepted the second?

6. How did Mark describe Jesus' last moment before his death? What does it show about Jesus?

7. The curtain of the temple is one that separates the Holy Place from the Most Holy in the temple in Jerusalem. (Ex 26:33) What is Mark's intention of adding this incident that happens at another place in the story of Jesus' death?

8. How did Jesus' death manage to reverse the fall in Genesis 3?

Read Mark 15:40-47

9. What were the reactions of each of these people towards Jesus' death? How does it assure us that Jesus' death is the fact?

The Centurion	
The 2 Marys	
Joseph of Arimathea	
Pilate	

Application

10. Our sins are the reason that Jesus needed to suffer and die for us. Reflect on your daily life, is there anything you do that you know it's a sin, but you still struggle to fight it? What are the ways that we might deal with it?

11. Is it possible for us to repay this grace that is freely given to us by God? What are the things that we should do after receiving this grace?

12. How can we be supporting and helping each other to live rightly in response to the cross?

Prayer

- *Thank God for giving up His Son to die for our sin, so that the broken relationship between us and God can be rebuilt again.*
- *Pray that we will always be reminded of Jesus' death for us and respond to this grace by putting our trust in it and sharing the gospel with everyone around us.*

Study 27: “The Resurrection Demands a Right Response”

(Mark 16:1-8)

Getting started

1. “We can all serve Jesus in our own ways. There is no right or wrong way to serve Jesus, it all depends on the heart”. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why?

Context

In the previous study, we saw how Jesus was crucified, met His death, and was after that buried in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea.

Digging in

Read Mark 16:1-8

2. Identify the main sections and give them a short title

Verses	Title

3. What is so significant about the women going to anoint Jesus’ body? (cf. Mark 14:3-9)

4. How does this mysterious young man compare to John the Baptist? (cf. Mark 1). What does it show us?

Person	John the Baptist	Unnamed young man
What he looked like		
What he did		

11. Do we mean all that we just said? Are we doing what we just said?

12. Who should we be preaching this Good News to?

Prayer

Give thanks to God, that you have successfully completed the study and gained a better understanding of the gospel via Mark's perspective. Pray that God will help you to understand more, as you contemplate on your response in light of this gospel.