

DISC  VER

JESUS



the Bible talks
where the Bible does the talking...

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INTRODUCTION

1. Why study a Gospel?

Many people, even churchgoers, are remarkably ignorant of the basic gospel events.

The Gospels teach us who Jesus is and why he came. Unless people are absolutely clear about these things they will not only be unable to respond to Jesus correctly, but they will be vulnerable to false teaching.

2. Why study Mark's Gospel?

It is the shortest gospel and lends itself well to small group Bible Study situations.

While being remarkably complex, it is at the same time, simple in its basic message. At the risk of over simplicity, Mark seeks to answer 3 basic questions:

- **Who is Jesus?**
- **What did he come to do?**
- **How should we respond to him?**

These are the questions we'll use to discover who Jesus is from the book of Mark. As you can imagine, we won't go in depth as we normally do in our other studies because the point of these studies is to introduce others to who Jesus is without overwhelming them with details.

Going through these questions, patiently and steadily, for each study will also help your group to engage with the text since the questions are simple enough to be answered by anyone by looking at the text.

STUDY 1

JESUS' AUTHORITY – MARK 1V16-34

Intro Question:

- Who do you think Jesus is? How would you describe him?

Read v16-20 and answer the three questions:

^{NIV} Mark 1:16 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. ¹⁷ "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." ¹⁸ At once they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. ²⁰ Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

From v16-20...

- Who do you think Jesus is?
- What has he come to do?
- How should we respond to him?
- Do you have any question?

Read v21-28 and answer the three questions:

^{NIV} Mark 1:221 They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. ²² The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. ²³ Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, ²⁴ "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are-- the Holy One of God!" ²⁵

"Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" ²⁶ The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. ²⁷ The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching-- and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him." ²⁸ News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

From v21-28...

- Who do you think Jesus is?
- What has he come to do?
- How should we respond to him?
- Do you have any questions?

Read v29-34 and answer the three questions:

^{NIV} Mark 1:29 As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. ³⁰ Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her. ³¹ So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them. ³² That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. ³³ The whole town gathered at the door, ³⁴ and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

From v29-34...

- Who do you think Jesus is?
- What has he come to do?
- How should we respond to him?
- Do you have any questions?

- What have you learned about Jesus from v16-34?

STUDY 2

JESUS' AUTHORITY TO FORGIVE SINS – MARK 2V1-17

Recap Study 1

Read v1-12 and answer the three questions:

^{NIV} Mark 2:1 A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. ² So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. ³ Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. ⁴ Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on. ⁵ When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." ⁶ Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, ⁷ "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" ⁸ 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? ⁹ Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? ¹⁰ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...." He said to the paralytic, ¹¹ "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." ¹² 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!"

From v1-12...

- Who do you think Jesus is?
- What has he come to do?
- How should we respond to him?
- Do you have any questions?

Read v13-17 and answer the three questions:

^{NIV} Mark 2:13 Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them. ¹⁴ As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him. ¹⁵ While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. ¹⁶ When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the "sinners" and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" ¹⁷ On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

From v13-17...

- Who do you think Jesus is?
- What has he come to do?
- How should we respond to him?
- Do you have any questions?

- Summarize in a sentence what you learned about Jesus in this passage:

STUDY 3

JESUS EXPOSER OF SIN – MARK 7V1-23

Recap Study 1 and 2

Read v1-23 and answer the three questions:

^{NIV} Mark 7:1 The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and ² saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were "unclean," that is, unwashed. ³ (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. ⁴ 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.) ⁵ 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 'unclean' hands?"

⁶ 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. ⁷ They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.' ⁸ You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men." ⁹ And he said to them: "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! ¹⁰ For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.' ¹¹ But you say that if a man says to his father or mother: 'Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is Corban' (that is, a gift devoted to God), ¹² then you no longer let him do anything for his father or mother. ¹³ Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that."

¹⁴ Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. ¹⁵ Nothing outside a man can make him 'unclean' by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of a man that makes him 'unclean.'" ¹⁶

¹⁷ After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable. ¹⁸ "Are you so dull?" he asked. "Don't you see that nothing that enters a man from the outside can make him 'unclean'? ¹⁹ For it doesn't go

into his heart but into his stomach, and then out of his body." (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods "clean.") ²⁰ He went on: "What comes out of a man is what makes him 'unclean.'" ²¹ For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²² greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. ²³ All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean.'"

From v1-23...

- Who do you think Jesus is?
- What has he come to do?
- How should we respond to him?

Explain Pharisees and Teachers of the Law (Jewish church leaders)

- What is the real issue of the Pharisees and teachers of the law in v1-5?
- What does Jesus say is the real issue with these Jewish religious leaders?
- What does Jesus teach the crowd and his disciples about spiritual uncleanness in v14-23?
- What are some of the traditions that we hold to that we think makes us clean before to God?
- What to needs to change/ be cleaned?

What have you learned about Jesus from this passage?

What have you learned about yourself from this passage?

STUDY 4

JESUS THE CHRIST – MARK 8V22-38

Recap Study 1,2 and 3

Read v22-38 and answer the three questions:

^{NIV} Mark 8:22 They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. ²³ He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?" ²⁴ He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around." ²⁵ Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. ²⁶ Jesus sent him home, saying, "Don't go into the village."

²⁷ Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?" ²⁸ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹ "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Christ. (the anointed one, the Messiah)" ³⁰ Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹ He then began to teach them that the Son of Man (Daniel 7:13-14) must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ 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 things of God, but the things of men."

³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. ³⁶ What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? ³⁷ Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? ³⁸ If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful

generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

From v22-38...

- Who do you think Jesus is?
- What has he come to do?
- How should we respond to him?
- Do you have any questions?

- Summarize in a sentence what you learned about Jesus in this study:

STUDY 5

JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS – MARK 15V16-39

Recap Study 1,2, 3, and 4

Read v16-39 (and Psalm 22) and answer the three questions:

^{NIV} Mark 15:16 The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. ¹⁷ They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. ¹⁸ And they began to call out to him, "Hail, king of the Jews!" ¹⁹ Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. ²⁰ And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

²¹ A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. ²² They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). ²³ Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴ And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get. ²⁵ It was the third hour when they crucified him. ²⁶ The written notice of the charge against him read: THE KING OF THE JEWS. ²⁷ They crucified two robbers with him, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁸ ²⁹ Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰ come down from the cross and save yourself!" ³¹ In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! ³² Let this Christ, this King of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

³³ At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. ³⁴ And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"-- which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

³⁵ When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah." ³⁶ One man ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink. "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said. ³⁷ With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. ³⁸ The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. ³⁹ And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, heard his cry and saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"

From v16-39 with reference to Psalm 22...

- Who do you think Jesus is?
 - What has he come to do?
 - How should we respond to him?
 - Do you have any questions?
-
- Summarize in a sentence what you learned about Jesus in this passage:

STUDY 6

JESUS THE RISEN KING – MARK 16V1-8

Recap Study 1,2, 3, 4 and 5

Read v1-8 and answer the three questions:

^{NIV} Mark 16:1 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. ² Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb ³ and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" ⁴ But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. ⁵ As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. ⁶ "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'" ⁸ Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

From v1-8...

- Who do you think Jesus is?
- What has he come to do?
- How should we respond to him?
- Do you have any questions?

What does the resurrection mean if it is true? *Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-58 (look particularly at v3-5, v12-14, v15-17, v20-23, v24-25, v26, v30-32, v34, v42-44, v49, v53-56, v58)*

- Summarize in a sentence what you learned about Jesus in this passage:

- Summarize in a sentence what you learned about Jesus in this course:

