

## **AN INTRODUCTION TO MARK'S GOSPEL**

### **INTRODUCTION: WHY AND HOW SHOULD WE STUDY MARK'S GOSPEL?**

#### **1. UNDERSTAND MARK'S PURPOSE (1:1)**

- a) Mark is writing Gospel
- b) Mark is not writing a biography
- c) Mark is historical, but he's not writing history

#### **2. GRASP HIS METHOD**

- a) Mark is not like Romans
  - b) Mark is not like John (cp. John 20:30-31)
  - c) Mark is not like Matthew or Luke (e.g. Luke 18:1)
- The key questions to ask: Why? Why here?

**Group work:**

Mark 15:33-39. What is surprising about v38? Why is it there?

Mark 8:22-26. Why are these verses here?

### 3. PURSUE MARKS' BIG THEMES (INTRODUCED IN 1:1-15)

a) **Theme 1: Jesus' identity (1:1)**

*"the Christ"* (1:1, 8:29)

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*"the Son of God"* (1:1, 11, 9:7, 12:6, 13:32, (14:36), 15:39)  
(3:11, 5:7, cf. 1:24 – demons)

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b) **Theme 2: Jesus' mission (1:2-3)**

Malachi 3:1-3

Isaiah 40:1-5

*Jesus mission*

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c) **Theme 3: Your response to the good news about Jesus (1:14-15)**

*Being a disciple*

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• **Summary: WHO? WHY? WHAT?**

**Group work:**

From your reading of Mark jot down (some of) what we learn of each big theme and where in the Gospel it comes:

WHO?

WHY?

WHAT?

#### **4. RECOGNISE MARK'S STRUCTURES**

**a) Two halves?**

(i) 1:1-8:30. WHO is Jesus?

(ii) 8:31-16:8. WHY did Jesus come? WHAT does it mean to follow him?

Yes... but...

**b) Sets of three**

What? For example:

1:40-2:17

2:18-3:6

4:35-5:47

Why?

**Group work:**

Look at the three incidents in 1:40-2:17. What does each have in common?

What is the different focus of each?

How might we read 1:40-45 differently if it weren't in this context?

**c) Repeated words or phrases**

7:14-23, What makes a man unclean?

8:31, 9:31, 10:32-34, What must happen?

1:38, 2:17, 10:45, What's the reason Jesus "came"?

d) **“Sandwiches”**

What?

E.g. 5:21-43

E.g. 11:12-21

E.g. 14:1-11

**Group work:**

Look at 14:1-11. What are the elements of the sandwich?  
What point do they *together* make?

**5. INVESTIGATE HIS USE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT**

**Group work:**

Look at Mark 11:17. Why the quote from Jeremiah 7:8-11? What's the point?

**6. AN OUTLINE OF MARK'S GOSPEL**

**Group work:**

See separate sheet. Try to match up each summary statement to the section in Mark's gospel that it describes.