

Let's look at:

# Mark's Gospel

**28 studies in Mark's Gospel**

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## **Study 1, Mark 1: 1 – 13**

### **Mark's Gospel**

This is the earliest “gospel”. It is what we call an eyewitness account. It was written in about 65AD, after the death of Peter, one of the early followers of Jesus. It was written for Christians in Rome, where there was a crisis in the Christian community. At the time Emperor Nero was ruling by terror, and many Christians were being persecuted. (Peter was most probably killed during Nero’s persecutions.) So the book was written to proclaim, or teach about, the Christian faith to people who were suffering, even dying for their faith. It has several themes:

- Who Jesus is
- What Jesus came to do
- A “training manual” for those who follow Jesus, showing them how He expected them to live.

### **v. 1 – 8**

1. Who does Mark say that Jesus is?
2. What do you think that means? Do you find it a shocking statement? What do you think someone called this would be like? Do you know anyone else who has been called this?
3. Why would Mark start his letter by saying things like this?
4. What is Mark showing when he gives us 2 statements that were made hundreds of years earlier, in v.2, 3? (Malachi 400 years earlier, Isaiah 800 years)
5. What had the statements said the messenger would do? Who would we call “Lord” today? How would we prepare if someone like this were coming to town?
6. Look at v. 4. Have you ever seen a baptism? Who gets baptised in your country? When do they get baptised? How and why? Why do you think John baptised people?
7. What was John’s message? How did the crowds respond? Why did God send John?
8. John had to show the people that he was just the “messenger”. What did he say was different about the one who would follow him? (See the footnote)

### **v. 9 – 13**

9. Look at a map and find Nazareth, Jerusalem and the River Jordan.
10. In v. 9 Jesus was baptised. Also read Matthew 3:13 – 17. Why was He baptised?
11. What 3 things happened while Jesus was being baptised? What would you have thought if you had been there at the time?
12. What happened to Jesus after His baptism? What facts does Mark tell us about that time? How would it have helped the Christians in Rome to know about this?

### **Note:**

- *Christ is a Greek word meaning “anointed or chosen one”. In Hebrew the word is Messiah. The Jewish people had been waiting for hundreds of years for a special person to come, who was chosen by God to rescue His people from their sins.*
- *When John baptised with water it was only a picture of being washed clean, of giving up an old life and starting a new one. The Holy Spirit, Who is actually God, comes to live in followers of Jesus, and actually makes it possible to become a new person, a member of God’s family.*

## **Study 2, Mark 1: 14 – 28**

### **v. 14 – 16**

1. What happened to John in v.14? Does this happen today?
2. Where did Jesus go after His time in the desert? What did He do?
3. What was His message? Was it different from John's? (Compare v.15 with v.4, 7, and 8)

### **v. 16 – 20**

4. From what class of society did Jesus call his first followers? Does it surprise you that He did not call priests or religious leaders? Who do you think would be good leaders of a new religious movement?
5. What were these men doing when Jesus called them? What did Jesus say to them? What do you think He meant by that?
6. What did they do? Immediately? Imagine what they told their wives when they went home! What would you have said if your husband/wife did this?!
7. Do you think Jesus asks His followers to do the same today? Look up Luke 14:26, 27, 33. What do you think it would mean to be a follower of Jesus today?

### **v. 21 – 28**

8. Find Capernaum. What happened here? What was different about Jesus' teaching? Remember what He was teaching.
9. Have you ever heard anyone teaching "with authority"? What did they say? Why did it impress you?
10. How did the evil spirit address Jesus? What pronoun did he use when he referred to himself? What was he afraid about?
11. What two commands did Jesus give the spirit? What happened?
12. Have you ever seen anything like this happen? What would you think of a person who could do this? Where would they get their power or ability from?

## **Study 3, Mark 1: 29 – 45**

### **v. 29 – 34**

1. What do we learn about Simon here?
2. What problem did Jesus' followers find when they got home? What did they do? What happened? How do we know the lady was completely healed?
3. Do you know of anybody who can heal the sick in your country? If you saw a healing, what would you think of the person who did it? Where do they get their ability from?
4. What happened at sundown? Why did the people wait until sundown? (What day was it? v.21)
5. What verbs are used to describe Jesus' treatment of disease and demons?

6. Why do you think Jesus silenced the demons again (as in v. 25)?

### **v. 35 – 39**

7. Think back over the events of that Sabbath day (v. 21 – 34). In v. 35 when, where and why did Jesus pray?
8. What did the disciples want?
9. Look at v.38. What was more important to Jesus, preaching or healing? Do you find that surprising?

### **v. 40 – 45**

*In case Mark's readers thought that Jesus did not care about individuals, he tells this story.*

10. What was wrong with this man? Look at how he approached Jesus. Why do you think he did that?
11. What did he say to Jesus (v.40)? How did Jesus reply (v.41, 42)?
12. What strict orders did Jesus give to the man? Did he obey?
13. What happened as a result in v.45?
14. From these stories, what have we learned about Jesus?

## **Study 4, Mark 2: 1 – 12**

### **v. 1 – 5**

1. Where, and why, did the crowd gather? Remember what Jesus had done the last time He was in Capernaum. What was He doing here now?
2. What does the story tell us about Jesus' popularity?
3. Why, and how, was Jesus' preaching interrupted?
4. Why does v. 5 say the four men had great faith? Had they said anything to Jesus? What does it mean to have faith?
5. What did Jesus say to the man? Why? What do you think the four friends wanted Him to say? So what did Jesus think his main problem was?
6. This was a strange thing to say to somebody. Would you ever say it to someone? Why / why not? What does this tell us about Jesus?

### **v. 6 – 12**

7. What did the religious leaders think of this statement? Look up Leviticus 24: 15, 16. So what would they have wanted to do?
8. Look at v. 8, 9. Which is easier? Why?
9. Why did Jesus heal the man in v. 10, 11?
10. If you could talk to the man today, what do you think he would have said had happened to him?

11. What did the watching people say about all this? What does it mean that they praised God?
12. The fact that someone could both heal and forgive was amazing. Jews had been waiting for hundreds of years for God's new "kingdom", where there would be peace and God would send a special person, the Messiah, to deliver them from their problems. Promises about this were made hundreds of years earlier. Look up Isaiah 35: 5,6 and Jeremiah 31: 34.

## **Study 5, Mark 2: 13 – 28**

### **v. 13 – 17**

1. What was Jesus doing by the lake?
2. Tax collectors were despised as thieves and "agents" of Rome. Would you have chosen Levi to be your follower if you were Christ? What would you have looked for in your followers?
3. What was the first thing Levi did after deciding to follow Jesus?
4. Who complained about this? To whom? Why?
5. How did Jesus reply to them? What did He mean? Why did He say He had not come to invite "good people" to His kingdom? Do you find that surprising?

### **v. 18 – 22**

6. In v. 18 there is a reference to "giving up food" or fasting. This was a time where people would give up eating for a special time of prayer and worship to God. It was also done to show sadness. Do you know of other religions that follow this practice?
7. The Pharisees fasted every Monday and Thursday. Look up the Jewish rule about fasting in Leviticus 16: 29, 30. How often were they to fast? For what reason?
8. John's followers were careful to keep the law. They were also very sad. Look up Luke 3: 7 – 20.
9. Why were Jesus' followers being criticised? What was Jesus' point when He talked about the bridegroom?
10. What are the two pictures Jesus used in v.21, 22? What did these pictures about old and new mean?

### **v. 23 – 28**

11. Look up Exodus 20: 8 – 11. Why were Jesus' followers being criticised this time?
12. How did Jesus answer this criticism? (*David was one of the most famous, highly respected kings of Israel.*) Why did Jesus remind people about this story? What was He saying to them?
13. The Pharisees had made "keeping the Sabbath" a terrible burden for people, with over 1,000 rules on how to use the day. Why had the Sabbath been made in the first place?
14. What did Jesus mean when He said He was "Lord, even of the Sabbath"?

## **Study 6, Mark 3**

### **v. 1 – 6**

1. Remember what had happened in the previous chapter (v. 28). Why were the people watching Jesus closely?
2. What did Jesus do to the man? What does this teach us about Him?
3. Why do you think Jesus healed on the Sabbath, and did not wait for 24 hours before helping the man? How did He explain His actions? Why was He angry?
4. Look at how the religious leaders were changing in their attitude to Jesus (2: 6,7, 2: 16, 2: 18, 2: 24 and now in 3: 6). Normally the Herodians and the Pharisees would have nothing to do with each other. Why were they so against Jesus?

### **v. 7 – 12**

5. While the religious leaders were making plans to kill Jesus, how were ordinary people responding to Him?
6. Look at a map to see where the crowds were coming from. (Idumea was over 100 miles away!) Why were they coming to see Him? Would you have wanted to travel to see Him?
7. Why didn't Jesus want the evil spirits to say who He was?

### **v. 13 – 19**

8. Look up the meaning of the word "apostle". How many did Jesus choose? It was significant that He chose that number. Look up Genesis 49: 1, 28. What was He putting in place now?
9. What three things did Jesus want His apostles to do (v.14, 15)?

### **v. 20 – 30**

10. Notice how busy Jesus was, in v.20. Notice, too, the different ideas people had about Him (v.21, 22).
11. Where had the teachers of the law, who accused Jesus, come from? Find this place on the map. Where was Jesus now?
12. Look at what the teachers had said. Why did they make this accusation? What things had Jesus done which required supernatural power? What did the scribes say this power had come from? How did Jesus cast out spirits?
13. What three things did Jesus say to show that their accusation was illogical (v.24 – 26)?
14. Jesus used picture language to make another claim in v.27. What was it?
15. There is a lovely promise in v.28. What is it?
16. What is the warning in v.29, 30? What did Jesus mean by that?

### **v. 31 – 35**

17. Why did Jesus' mother and brothers want to see Him? See also v.20, 21.

18. Who did Jesus say were His real family in v.34, 35?

**Summary:**

- In this chapter we learn more about Jesus bringing something new from the old – the “new Israel” and a “new family”.
- Look at the different groups of people who were against, or who misunderstood, Jesus – Pharisees, Herodians, the teachers of the law, the crowds, and even His own family. How do you think it made Him feel?
- Jesus’ work was causing more and more reaction. The crowd that had squeezed into a house (2:2) had become a great multitude (3:7). What had begun as quiet questioning in the heart (2:6) had now become a public accusation that this was the work of Satan.
- “Who is this?” must have been a question being asked by all these groups of people. Was He mad, or bad (for example when He broke the Sabbath), or was He God?

**Study 7, Mark 4: 1 – 34**

**v. 1 – 9**

1. In your culture do people enjoy telling stories? Do you know any stories with a hidden meaning? Why do you think Jesus used stories when He was teaching?
2. Where did Jesus tell this story? With what word did He begin and end the story? Why? Remember that many people were slightly interested, or curious, about His teaching, but did not want to try to understand the message.
3. Tell the story in your own words to the person sitting next to you. Have you ever tried to grow seeds? Were you successful? What problems did you have?
4. What do you think the seed is a picture of? Where exactly was it sown? How did it grow? What were the 4 kinds of soil where the seed landed? What prevented the seed from becoming a good crop? In your experience, what is necessary for a good harvest?

**v. 10 – 12**

5. To whom was Jesus now speaking? What was their question? (Look at Matthew 13: 10).
6. How did Jesus reply? What did He mean by that? (Matthew 13: 13 – 15)
7. Why do you think He talked about the “secret truth about the kingdom of God”?

**v. 13 – 20**

8. In Jesus’ explanation, what was the seed a picture of? What about the soils?
9. What experience was the same for each of the 4 types of people (v.15, 16, 18, 20)?
10. Describe each kind of person mentioned.

- Seed on the road v.15.
- Seed on the rocky ground v.16, 17. What pressure spoils the faith of the listeners here?

- Seed among thorny weeds v.18, 19. What 3 things prevent growth here? Can you think of present-day examples?
- Seed on good soil v.20. Why were there different levels of growth here?

Quietly ask yourself what “seed” would Jesus say was you?

### **v. 21 – 25**

11. Another story... Why do we use a lamp in the darkness? So what is a lamp a picture of? Look at v.11 to remind yourself what is the “secret thing” Jesus was talking about.
12. From what we’ve looked at so far in this book, how would you describe the “kingdom of God”?
13. Look at the command in v.24. Why is it so important to listen to, and respond to, God’s word? What happens if we stop giving it our attention?

### **v. 26 – 34**

14. Look at the description of the kingdom of God in v.26 – 29. What does this picture tell us about the kingdom’s growth?
15. What is this a picture of? Think about the number of people who have become followers of Jesus since His death 2,000 years ago.
16. Remember what Jesus’ message was in chapter 1:15. By now, what else had Jesus taught

## **Study 8, Mark 4:35 – 41**

*Jesus had spent the day teaching. A great crowd had been listening to Him.*

1. Jesus and His followers had had a busy day. What suggestion did Jesus make? Did the disciples make preparations or did they go immediately?
2. What happened while they were in the boat? What was Jesus doing while the boat was in such danger? Do you think He knew they were in danger? Why do you think He was asleep? Can you imagine how the disciples felt?
3. What did the disciples (experienced fishermen) do? What do fishermen usually do in a storm?
4. What did they ask Jesus? Why do you think they said this? Were they showing any faith here?
5. How did Jesus control the storm? What does this teach us about Him? (Some people would argue that it is far more difficult to control nature than to heal the sick or to cast out evil spirits. Have you ever heard of anyone else who could do this? Or who had tried to do this?)
6. Jesus asked His disciples two questions. What were they? Was He being reasonable? Is it wrong to be afraid? What had Jesus been teaching His followers through this experience?
7. Look at v. 41. Why were the disciples afraid now?
8. The story ends with one of the most important questions the disciples ever asked. What was it? How would you have answered it?



## **Study 9, Mark 5: 1 – 20**

The word, or message, which Jesus' followers had been taught was powerful (4:1 – 34). It was seen to be powerful in 4:35 – 41. There, Jesus had power to control a situation that seemed hopeless or impossible (a storm).

### **v. 1 – 10**

1. Remember the question the followers asked each other in v.41. Where did they go after the storm? Find it on the map – this was not a Jewish area.
2. What six things do we learn about the man's condition?
3. What did he do when he saw Jesus? Why do you think he did that?
4. Look at v.7 and 8. Who do you think was speaking to Jesus? Remember Mark 1:24, 34 and 3:11, 12. What "insight" do these spirits have?
5. What else does the passage tell us about these evil spirits in v.8 – 10?
6. Have you ever had any experience where someone you know is, or has been, "possessed" by evil spirits? What can be done to help these people?

### **v. 11 – 20**

7. What did Jesus do then? Do you find this strange? If we see what happened to the pigs, what do you think the evil spirits were trying to do to the man?
8. What three changes took place in the man? Look at Colossians 1: 13 and Romans 6: 20 – 23. What do these verses tell us that Jesus does for people today?
9. How did the people react? What did they ask Jesus to do? Why? Would people be the same today?
10. What did the man ask Jesus to allow him to do? What task did Jesus give him? Did he obey?
11. How would you define the word "beg"? Look at the times it is used in this story – v.8, v.12, v.17 and v.18.
12. This was another situation that had seemed hopeless or impossible. What would this incident have taught the followers of Jesus who had been asking the question "Who is this man?"

## **Study 10, Mark 5: 21 – 43**

### **v. 25 – 34**

1. There was a woman in the crowd around Jesus. What are we told about her in v.25, 26?
2. How must it feel to be beyond help? Can you think of medical problems today where doctors cannot help?
3. This woman had a religious problem too. Her illness made her "unclean". She would not be allowed into the Temple to worship God. If anybody touched her they would also become "unclean". How would this make her feel?

4. Did the woman have faith?
5. How was she healed? In the crowd many people would have touched Jesus. Why were they not healed as well?
6. Why did Jesus ask her to come forward and explain what had happened? Look at how kindly He talked to her.

**v. 21 – 24**

7. What do we learn about Jairus? Both he and the woman were desperate, but how did he approach Jesus? Did he have faith?

**v. 35 – 43**

8. Perhaps Jairus was frustrated when Jesus was interrupted by the woman, especially when he heard the news in v. 35. Why might God have allowed this interruption?
9. What did Jesus say to him in v. 36? How would you feel if someone said that to you just after your child had died? The verb tense actually means, “keep on believing”.
10. Who did Jesus allow into the room? Why do you think He kept other people away?
11. What do we learn about Jesus from the way He helped the little girl? And her parents?
12. Jesus had told the man in v. 19 to tell people what had happened to him. He made the woman in the crowd also speak publicly about her situation. Why did He tell the parents not to say anything?
13. How do these stories help answer the question “Who is Jesus?”

**Study 11, Mark 6: 1 – 29****v. 1 – 6**

1. Where was Jesus? What did He do there on the Sabbath day? What was His main message when He was preaching? (1: 14, 15) Remember what had happened to Him last time He was in Nazareth. (3: 20 – 22). Who did not accept His teaching then?
2. How did the ordinary people respond to His teaching here? Where do you think they thought His power and authority came from?
3. What did Jesus say about this? What happened because of their unbelief? Why do you think Jesus was “amazed”?
4. Do you think this kind of reaction happens today?
5. What do these verses teach us about Mary?

**v. 7 – 15**

6. What instructions did Jesus give the 12 followers? Why should they do His work in this way?
7. Why do you think Jesus told these men to leave a town that rejected their message?

8. Compare the message the disciples preached with John's message (1: 4) and Jesus' message (1: 15). What did the disciples do in addition to preaching? Where did they get their power from?
9. How did people respond to the news about Jesus? Did they recognise who He really was?

### **v. 16 – 29**

10. King Herod Antipas was the son of Herod I ("the Great"). He ruled from the year 4 BC to about AD 39. What do v.17 – 20 tell us about him?
11. If Herod had protected John and enjoyed listening to him preach, why did he put him to death?
12. Why did Herod fail to accept John's message? Does this happen today? What could he have done? If we think about the story of the seed and the different kinds of soils (4: 1 – 20), what kind of soil do you think Herod was?

## **Study 12, Mark 6:30 – 56**

### ***Remember the Big Question "Who is this man, Jesus?"***

*The people in Jesus' hometown did not understand who he really was, because they did not want to accept that He was special, and different from themselves. King Herod did not understand who Jesus really was, because he didn't want to obey what God had told him to do through John the Baptist.*

### **v. 30 – 34**

1. Look back at v. 12 and 13. What had Jesus' followers just finished doing? Were they successful?
2. How do you think they felt?
3. What did Jesus plan to do with them now?
4. Why did Jesus change the plan? How does this show us what was the most important thing for Jesus?

### **v. 35 – 37**

5. What was the problem? Who realised the problem, and how do you think they felt?
6. Who had caused the problem? Why do you think this was allowed to happen? What was surprising about Jesus' answer to His followers' concern?
7. How did the followers feel about this answer?
8. When Jesus said, "You give them something to eat", what could He have wanted to teach them after their successful mission?

### **v. 38 – 44**

9. What was the disciples' part in the feeding miracle? What was Jesus' part in the miracle? What does this teach us?

**Note:**

This story reminds us of another feeding miracle in the history of Israel. You can read about it in Exodus chapter 16. After Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt, they were living in the desert where there was no food. God Himself provided food in a miraculous way. Every day the Israelites came out of their tents and found a kind of bread on the ground, called "manna", which they could use for food. This happened all the time they were living in the desert – over 40 years. They were also told to keep some manna in a special jar so that future generations would know what God had done for His people. After Moses, the people of Israel looked forward to another greater rescuer, who would be like Moses.

10. What do you think Jesus wanted to teach His followers from this miracle?

**v. 45 – 52**

11. Why did Jesus send the crowd away? We can find extra information in John 6: 15.

12. Why did Jesus go away from His followers? Why did He need to do this? What do you think He prayed about?

13. What sort of day had the followers had? Was it getting any better?

14. Why were they in trouble? Was it because they had done something wrong?

15. Why do you think they were so afraid? How can v.52 help us to answer this question?

16. Look back at Mark 4: 35 – 41. How is this story similar?

17. What should the followers have learned about Jesus by now?

**v. 53 – 56**

18. This was the same area where the bleeding woman had been healed in Mark 5. Why was Jesus (and His followers) so popular here?

19. Did these people really understand who Jesus was?

**Summary:**

Remember the Big Question – "Who is this man, Jesus?"

Think of all the people who had met or heard of Jesus in Mark chapter 6 (the people in His home town, Herod, the hungry crowd, the followers). Did they understand who He really was? Why? Why not? What does this teach us about human being in general?

**Study 13, Mark 7: 1 – 23**

**v. 1 – 5**

1. Read chapter 6: 53 – 56 to see where Jesus and His disciples were. Where had the Pharisees and the teachers of the law come? Why do you think they had come?

2. Why did they criticise Jesus' followers? Why was this rule so important?

3. Look up Exodus 30: 19 – 21, where God first gave that rule. What was it?

### **v. 6 – 13**

4. Why did Jesus say these people were hypocrites? What is a hypocrite? Do we use that word nowadays?

5. Look at what the Pharisees and teachers of the law were doing to God's commands...

God's command	men's teaching
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v.8

v.9

v.13

6. What was the difference between what Moses had said (v.10) and what the Pharisees said (v.12)? What did Moses mean by the word "honour"?

7. So how did the Pharisees judge whether a person was "clean" or "unclean"? Look at v. 1 – 5 again. Is it important to be "clean"? Why? Why not?

### **v. 14 – 23**

8. When Jesus said in v.15 "There is nothing a person puts into his body that makes him unclean" what did He mean? Look at v. 17 – 19 also. Was He saying it was all right to eat any food? Was he changing God's original laws?

9. What things did Jesus say make a person unclean? (v.20 – 23)

10. So what did Jesus suggest needs to happen if a person is to become clean in God's sight?

11. We have looked at three different interpretations of man's real need – the crowds (6: 36), the Pharisees (7: 1 – 5), and Jesus (7: 20 – 23). What were they?

12. Look at what God had promised several years earlier in Jeremiah 31: 31 – 34.

13. Do you know how other religions teach their followers to become "clean"? How do you think a person can become clean in this way?

## **Study 14, Mark 7: 24 – 37 and 8: 1 – 10**

### **v. 24 – 30**

1. Where was Jesus in this story? Look it up on the map – this was not a Jewish area. Why do you think He went there?

2. What do we learn about the woman in v. 25, 26? Why did she go to Jesus? What do you notice about the way she approached Him?

3. How can we explain Jesus' reply to her request? (*Note: "children" here refers to Israel, which was to receive the first invitation to join the kingdom of God. The word for dogs suggests the household pet. It was an affectionate, not insulting or racist term.*)

4. Notice the way the lady responded. Why did Jesus say it was a good answer?

5. Where was the woman's daughter? What happened to her?

6. Compare the woman with the Pharisees earlier in the chapter. Look at what Jesus said to the Pharisees (v.6) and the woman (v.29): whom did Jesus accept? Why?

**v. 31 – 37**

7. Where was Jesus in this story? Look up chapter 5: 19, 20. Why was the deaf man brought to Him?
8. What did Jesus do when He met the man? Why do you think Jesus did this in private?
9. What three things did the deaf man experience?
10. If Jesus always performed a miracle in order to teach a lesson, what was he teaching here? Remember what Jesus said in chapter 4 about hearing.
11. Compare the way the people in this area responded to Jesus with some Jewish people (ch.3: 21) and the teachers of the law (ch.3: 30). Was He doing anything different in this area?

**Chapter 8: 1 – 10**

12. This story seems very similar to the one in Mark 6: 30 44. Can you think of any differences?
14. Why do you think Jesus' followers replied in the way they did in v.4?

**Study 15, Mark 8: 11 – 29**

**v. 11 – 13**

1. Why did the Pharisees talk to Jesus here? Look up Deut. 13: 1 – 6.
2. What sort of miracle may the Pharisees have had in mind? Why did Jesus sigh? (When do you sigh? Deeply?)
3. What do we show about ourselves if we ask for a miracle as “proof”? Why did Jesus refuse to perform a miracle for them?

**v. 14 – 21**

4. What does yeast do? Do you use it in your cooking? Or for anything else?
5. What was Jesus warning in v. 15? (*Remember why Jesus had criticised the Pharisees in chapter 7 v.6, 7, 13, 17 – 25. What had Herod failed to do in chapter 6 v.18 – 20, 23, and 27? Both the Pharisees and Herod were leaders of Israel. The Bible sometimes talks about leaders as those who “feed” their people. Bread was one of their main foods.*)

6. What were the disciples worried about? (v.14, 16) What was Jesus concerned about? (v.17, 21)
7. What was the lesson Jesus had wanted to teach when He had fed the two large crowds?
8. How were the Pharisees and the followers similar? How were they different?

**v. 22 – 26**

9. What was wrong with the man in this story? How did Jesus help him? Why did He do this outside of the village?
10. Why do you think this miracle was recorded here? (Remember v.18) Can you think why Jesus healed the man in two stages?

**v. 27 – 29**

11. What two questions did Jesus ask His followers?
12. How did they answer the first question? Had anything changed since chapter 6:14, 15?
13. How did Peter answer the second question? What did he mean by that?
14. Notice that something had changed between v.21 and v.29. How did this happen? What was the point of the previous story? Finally the Big Question in Mark has been answered!

**Study 16, Mark 8: 30 – 9:1****8: 30 – 33**

1. Read v. 27 – 29 again. What 4 new things did Jesus start to teach His followers after Peter's answer in v. 29?
2. What did Peter think of this new teaching? Why? What hopes must he and the others have had?

3. What did Jesus call Peter now? Why? What are the things that men think are important?

What are the things that God thinks are important?

4. Why do you think Jesus ordered His followers in v.30 not to tell anyone who He was? How do verses 31 – 33 show us that Jesus was right to say this?

### 8: 34 – 9: 1

Find information in these verses to fill in the table.

	Now	In the future
Jesus' way		
Not Jesus' way		

5. Look at v. 34. What sort of people died on a cross? Did your country have a similar kind of punishment in the past? For what kind of person? So what did Jesus mean when He said His followers must be ready to die on a cross?

6. Do you know of anyone in your country that has actually died for following Jesus? Many people would think they were foolish to go this far. Would you agree?

7. Look at v. 35. What do you understand by the phrase "true life"? What do you think Jesus meant?

8. Look at v. 36. What could it mean, "to lose your soul"?

9. Why must we follow Jesus to get true life? Can't we do it on our own?

10. Look at v. 38. What future time is Jesus talking about here?

11. Look at 9: 1. What future time is Jesus talking about here?



## **Study 17, Mark 9: 2 – 13**

### **v. 2 – 8**

1. Describe what happened here. When and where did it take place? Who was there? Who were Moses and Elijah\*? Why were these two men with Jesus on the mountain? Look up Matthew 5: 17.
2. What did this event teach about Jesus? How did this experience link up with chapter 8: 29 and 9: 1?
3. How did the three followers feel about what they saw?
4. Remember what Jesus had been teaching in ch.8: 31 – 38. So what was the voice from the cloud telling the followers to do? Whose voice was it? Why did they need to hear this message?
5. The three followers had been given this glimpse to reassure them that 8: 38 was true. 8: 31, 32 was also true. Look at the word “must” in those verses. What does the use of that word show?
6. Do you think the followers understood these things?

### **v. 9 – 13**

7. Why couldn't they tell anyone yet? When could they talk about this experience? Why did they have to wait until then?
8. What two questions did the disciples have? With reference to Elijah, look up Malachi 4: 5. What did Jesus say Elijah does?
9. The disciples were asking how could Jesus be the promised one if Elijah had not yet come. Jesus said he had come – who was he? See Matthew 17: 11–13.
10. Why did Jesus talk about his suffering in v.12b? Think about the link between that and “Elijah”. The prophet could only bring a message about God's kingdom, and then he was killed. Read 8: 31 again. How would Jesus be different from the prophet?

### **\*Note:**

*These were two of the most important Jewish leaders in the past. Both men had visions of God on a high mountain (Exodus 24, 1 Kings 19). Moses' vision came six days after it was promised. Moses and Elijah represent the Law of God and His prophets. A prophet is someone who brings God's word, or message. The fact that these two men appeared confirmed that Jesus was the one the Old Testament had promised would come.*

## **Study 18, Mark 9: 14 – 29**

### **v. 14 – 27**

1. What was going on?
2. The people were surprised / amazed when they saw Jesus and ran to welcome Him. Why? Imagine how you would have felt if you had seen Him then.
3. What did the man call Jesus? Why?

4. Imagine how the father felt. What was the problem? Have you ever seen cases like this in your country?
5. Have you ever felt desperate like this man? (Utterly helpless) What did you do? Why do you think Jesus' followers had not been able to help?
6. Why did Jesus ask the father to describe his son's condition?
7. What happened then? Why do you think this happened when the spirit saw Jesus?
8. What did the father ask? When he said "If you can do anything for him, please have pity on us and help us" do you think he believed Jesus could help?
9. How did Jesus reply? What does that mean? All things?
10. "I do believe! Help me to believe more!" Why did the father reply like this? Did he believe? Why was he struggling?
11. He was very honest. What can we learn from this about faith/ belief? Do we need to have absolute faith before God can act?
12. Describe what happened next. How did Jesus talk to the spirit? Was it possible for Him to drive it out?

**v. 28, 29**

13. Why couldn't the disciples drive out the evil spirit? Look at them earlier in the story – v.14,
- 16.

14. What do you think Jesus meant by "prayer"?
15. Are there times when Jesus finds problems of faith in us?
16. Can He help in every situation? Even if we are struggling?

**Study 19, Mark 9: 30 – 50**

**v. 30 – 32**

1. Why did Jesus want to keep His travels a secret? What was He teaching? Remember 8: 31. "Must" and "will be" are important words.
2. How could it be part of God's plan to have Jesus killed? Does this seem strange? How did the followers of Jesus react to this teaching?

**v. 33 – 37**

3. What do you think makes a person great?
4. Can you think of situations where someone is greater than others in the same group? Is that a good thing? Was it good that the disciples were having this discussion?
5. Compare the subject of concern in Jesus' mind (v.31) with that in the disciples' minds (v.33, 34). How did the disciples feel when Jesus asked about their discussion? Remember what He had taught them in 8:34.

6. Jesus corrected His followers by teaching them two things in v. 35 – 37. What were they?
7. What do you think He meant by these? Can you think why He used a child?

**v. 38 – 41**

8. John told Jesus about a man they had met. What was the problem?
9. Jesus gave a surprising answer. Why did He support the man? Remember the previous story (9: 18, 27). Also look at Matthew 12: 30.
10. How was Jesus' attitude different from the disciples?
11. Notice the emphasis on Jesus' name in v.37 – 39. What does it mean to do something in Jesus' name?

**v. 42 – 48**

12. In these verses there are four pictures. In each one what is better than what? Who are the "little children"?
13. How can your hand, foot or eye cause you to sin? Should you really cut it off? What is the result of sin in each case?
14. What spiritual truth was Jesus teaching by using this strong language?

**v. 49 – 50**

15. What are the two uses of salt described here? What things about the Christian life do they describe?
16. What was Jesus' final statement to the disciples here?

**Study 20, Mark 10: 1 – 31**

Jesus was now moving south, towards Jerusalem, where eventually He would be put on trial and killed. In this chapter the events that happened immediately before what we call "Holy Week" are told. Five different groups of individuals came to Jesus with requests.

**v. 1 – 12**

1. Notice where Jesus was. Look up 1: 4, 5 and 6: 17, 18. What question did the teachers of the law ask Jesus? Why was this a trick question? Remember King Herod in 6: 18.
2. In your culture, what do people feel about divorce?
3. Look at how Jesus replied: He asked these teachers of the law what the law actually taught in Deuteronomy 24: 1 – 4. Why had Moses written this instruction? Was it a command? Or a description of what happens?
4. What is God's plan for marriage (v.6 – 9)?
5. Looking at Jesus' reply to the question in v.2... Had the teachers been successful in tricking Jesus?

6. In Jewish law a man was not considered to have committed adultery against his wife if he divorced her, nor could a woman ask for a divorce. So what was significant about what Jesus taught in v.11, 12?

### **v. 13 – 16**

7. What group of people came to Jesus here? Why do you think they did it? Do you have the idea of giving a “blessing” in your culture? What does it mean?
8. What did the disciples do about this? Why is that surprising? Remember 9: 36, 37.
9. What did Jesus teach about the kingdom of God from this incident? How is this different from 9: 36, 37? So how do I receive, or accept, the kingdom? How do I not receive it?

### **v. 17 – 22**

10. Who came to Jesus next? What was his question? Why do you think he asked it? What verb did he use in the question? What kind of answer do you think he expected?
11. Look at what Jesus thought of the man. So how did the man fail in regard to the commandments in v.19? Look up Deuteronomy 6: 4, 5.
12. What did Jesus ask him to do? Why? Do we have to do this if we want to follow Jesus?
13. How had the Pharisees and the rich man failed to receive the kingdom like a child?

### **v. 23 – 31**

14. How did Jesus surprise his disciples in v.23 – 25? Does this teaching surprise you? In many cultures, wealth is a sign of God’s blessing.
15. Why is it so hard for the rich to enter the kingdom of God? Does Jesus hate wealth?
16. What did the disciples mean by the word “saved” in v.26? What was Jesus’ reply?
17. What did Peter say about himself and the others? Do you think that was a good thing to say to Jesus?
18. In His reply Jesus promised three things: what were they? He also gave a warning in v.31 – what was that?

## **Study 21, Mark 10: 32 – 52**

### **v. 32 – 34**

1. Where were the group going? Why do you think the followers were amazed and afraid?
2. What was going to happen? Look at the new details (compare with 8:31 and 9:31), which show that this would be shameful and humiliating. How would you feel if you knew this was going to describe your death?
3. It is very interesting to read what a Jewish prophet had written about 700 years before.

Look up Isaiah 53: 3 – 10.

**v. 35 – 45**

4. What was the question James and John asked Jesus? What did they really want?
5. Why did Jesus say in v.38 that James and John did not know what they were asking?
6. How did their reply in v.39 show that they did not understand? Look at what happened to James (Acts 12: 2) and to John (Revelation.1: 9) some time later.
7. Remember James and John's question. How did Jesus answer it in v.40?
8. The other disciples were angry with James and John. Were they any better than them? Compare 10: 41 and 9: 34.
9. What did Jesus teach them in v.42 – 44? What is man's way? God's way?
10. Look at Philippians 2:6 – 8, to show Jesus' own example.
11. Verse 45 is considered one of the most important verses in Mark's Gospel. What does it say was the purpose of Jesus' coming to the world? How could He save many people by giving His life? What is another word for save? (In some translations it says "to give His life as a ransom for many")

**v. 46 – 52**

12. Jesus and His followers were on the final stages of their journey. Who did they meet? What kind of man was he?
13. Why did he address Jesus as "Son of David"? Why do you think the people told him to be quiet? What did he ask from Jesus?
14. Look at what Jesus said to him. It was the same thing He had said in v.36. Why was this man healed? What did he do afterwards? It is interesting to note that James and John were still acting as if they were blind. They did not understand. Bartimaeus understood more clearly.

Note: v. 39 In the Old Testament, the "cup" represents God's anger at man's sin. Look at Psalm 75: 8 and Ezekiel 23: 32, 33, for example. Being overwhelmed with water is also a picture of God's anger, or of the judgement from which He saves us. Genesis chapter 7, and Isaiah 54: 9, or Jonah 2: 3 – 6 show this.

**Summary:**

In this chapter five groups of individuals had come to Jesus with requests. The only people whose requests had been accepted by Him were the children and the blind beggar. Why was this? How were the Pharisees (v.2 – 9), the rich man (v.17 – 22) and James and John (v.35 – 40) different from them?

**Study 22, Mark chapter 11****v. 1 – 11**

1. Look at the map to see where Jesus was. He had met Bartimaeus in Jericho.

2. What instructions did Jesus give two of His followers in v.2, 3? What does this tell us about Jesus? The disciples?
3. *Note: riding on the colt was the sign of a royal person coming in peace, rather than war. Look at Zechariah 9: 9: what happened in this story was prophesied hundreds of years earlier.*
4. What did the people do when Jesus entered Jerusalem? What did they say? Why? What were they looking forward to? (v.10) *Note: King David was the greatest king Israel had ever had. The Saviour Jews were waiting for was to come from the family of King David.*
5. What was the first thing Jesus did when He entered Jerusalem?

### **v. 12 – 14**

6. What do we see about Jesus in v.12? Do you find it surprising that Jesus had these human needs?
7. What happened on the way back to Jerusalem the following morning? (v. 13, 14 are difficult to understand. *Jesus was teaching a “parable”/ story with a deeper meaning. Though it was not yet the season for full fruit, if the tree was going to bear figs later, some small fruits would have appeared before the leaves came. The lack of fruit at this point meant there would be no figs later, and the leaves were a “deception”.*) Can you think what the fig tree was a picture of?

### **v. 15 – 19**

8. Describe what happened in the Temple. If you had been there, what would you have seen and heard? Why was Jesus so angry about what was taking place? *Note: Notice especially v.17. For us this is very significant. Are you Jewish? Or do you come from another nation? Jesus was particularly angry that the area set aside for non-Jews to pray had been turned into a market.*
9. Remember chapter 7: 6 – 8. How was Israel like the fig tree – leafy and fruitless? From these verses, what kind of fruit would God be looking for?
10. How did the leading priests and teachers of the law respond to this situation? Why?

### **v. 20 – 25**

11. What had happened to the fig tree? As this was a picture of something deeper, what was going to happen to the Temple? (And what it represented).
12. Peter “remembered” and understood what Jesus had been teaching. He must have been shocked. Why did Jesus then say to him, “Have faith in God”?
13. Look at v.22 – 25. Jesus talked about  
*Faith in God* – instead of faith in the Temple  
*Prayer* – instead of empty sacrifices  
*Forgiveness* – not refusing to welcome people from other nations.

Do you find anything surprising about the kind of faith and prayer He was talking about?

### **v. 27 – 33**

14. Where did Jesus and His followers go when they returned to Jerusalem? Who challenged Him? Why? What "things" were they referring to? (See v.15 – 17) Was their question a good one?
15. Jesus answered with another question. Why couldn't they answer His question about John?
16. Look at what John had said about Jesus in John 1: 29 – 34.

## **Study 23, Mark 12**

### **v. 1 – 12**

1. Describe what happened in this story. To help understand the meaning, read Isaiah 5: 7 and Jeremiah 7: 25, 26. Who was the man? The vineyard? The farmers? The servants? The son? From Isaiah 5: 7, what fruit is God looking for?
2. How did the tenants treat the servants? How was the owner's son described? Did the farmers respect the son? What did the tenants want most?
3. What warning did Jesus make in this story?
4. Look at v.10, 11. This is a similar parable, using a different picture. Who were the builders, the cornerstone? What was Jesus saying about Himself here?
5. How did the Jewish leaders react to this story? Why?

### **v. 13 – 17**

6. Who came to Jesus? Why? Remember when the two groups – usually enemies – had worked together before (Mark 3: 6). What was their question?
7. What would happen if Jesus had answered, "yes, pay"? Or "no, don't pay"?
8. What did Jesus recognise about these questioners? Compare with Mark 7:6. What is a hypocrite? Can you think of examples of people who are hypocrites today?
9. In the first century, if the Caesar's image was on a coin, it actually belonged to him. What do you think Jesus meant by His comments on things that belonged to Caesar? Genesis 1: 27 teaches that people are made in God's "image". As taxes were due to Caesar, what is due to God?

### **v. 18 – 27**

10. Who came to Jesus here? What strong belief did they have? What was their question? Why do you think they asked it?
11. Look at how strongly Jesus told the Sadducees they were mistaken in v.24, 27.
12. What did Jesus teach about marriage in v.25? (Do you find this surprising?)

13. What did He teach about the resurrection? How do v.26, 27 explain this? Notice He used a story from the second book in the Old Testament (the Sadducees only accepted the first five books).

#### **v. 28 – 34**

14. What question did this man ask? Do you think he was also trying to trap Jesus?
15. What was Jesus' answer? Why are they the most important commands? What do you think it means to love God in the way Jesus described? And your neighbour?
16. What do you notice about the scribe's answer at the end of v.33? What does this tell us about him? Why did Jesus say he was close to the kingdom?
17. Why do you think the questioning stopped now?

#### **v. 35 – 37**

In chapter 11: 27 – 33, the religious teachers had questioned Jesus about His authority. Now Jesus asked a question, about the Jewish belief that the Christ or Messiah would be a descendant of King David, Israel's greatest king. (Jeremiah 33: 14 – 16) To a Jew, a descendant was inferior to his ancestor. Jesus showed from another book in the Bible that when King David had talked about the Messiah, he had called him "Lord". The Messiah would be a descendant of David, but his LORD, too. Jesus suggested therefore that these "teachers" had not understood the Old Testament.

#### **v. 38 – 44**

18. Describe the teachers of the law. What did they love? Remember v.30.
19. Who will judge them? How? Why?
20. What did the widow do? Why? (Is it necessary to give all our money in order to become a member of the kingdom of God?)
21. Compare the widow with the scribes and the many rich people. What do you think she loved? Remember v.30. Was Jesus criticising or praising her?

#### **Summary:**

- How would you describe the different people who questioned Jesus in this chapter? How many times did Jesus use quote the Old Testament in His answers? Why?
- What is the main theme of this chapter?
- If you had been one of Jesus' followers, what would you especially remember from these situations?

### **Study 24, Mark 13**

This chapter talks about two events: the fall of Jerusalem and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Many Bible students think that



- v. 5 – 13               referred to AD 30–AD 70,
- v. 14 – 23             around AD 70,
- v. 24 – 27             the Second Coming of Jesus,
- v. 28 – 29             the relationship of AD 70 to the Second Coming,
- v. 30 – 31             AD 70, and
- v. 32 – 37             the Second Coming.

### **v. 1 – 8**

1. The temple was one of the wonders of the world of that day. It was built of huge stones, some 40 feet long, 12 feet high, and 18 feet wide. Their size and splendour would have impressed these men from Galilee. What did Jesus say would happen to the temple?
2. The disciples must have believed Jesus' reply in v.2. What was their question in v.4? What do you think the destruction of the temple would have meant to the Jews?
3. Instead of answering their question immediately, what warnings did Jesus give? What types of things did He say would happen? What tense did He use?
4. To the people affected by these, it will seem as if the world is ending. Will it be? What advice did Jesus give?

### **v. 9 – 13**

5. In addition to the above, what troubles did Jesus say would happen to His followers? From what groups would pressure come? Why will this happen? Remember Mark 8: 34 – 38 and 10: 39.
6. It is interesting to see that another reason why persecution would continue is to give Jesus' followers the opportunity to speak about him (v.9b, 10) and unbelievers the opportunity to hear the Good News.
7. Are there any words of comfort or hope here?

### **v. 14 – 23**

Note: In v. 14 Jesus referred to a prophecy in Daniel, which His hearers would have understood. They would also have remembered a terrible event in their history when in 168BC the king of Syria, Antiochus Epiphanes captured Jerusalem, set up an altar to Zeus in the temple, sacrificed pigs ("unclean" animals) on that altar and turned the courts of the temple into brothels. This horrible event prevented temple worship for a time. Jesus was warning that such things would happen again. The destruction of the temple in AD 70 would have been as terrible an event.

8. How did Jesus show the situation in v.14 – 20 was urgent? (*Note: The Christians of Jerusalem did take note of the words of Jesus and left the city before its siege and fall in AD70. They escaped a situation where 97,000 were taken captive and 1,100,000 died from hunger and the sword.*)
9. Was there any comfort in these verses, alongside the warnings?
10. Against what danger, other than physical danger, did Jesus warn? What commands did He give?

**v. 24 – 27**

11. How did Jesus say His return ("the coming of the Son of Man") would be clearly different from that of all false Christs and prophets? (Look also at Matthew 24: 26, 27)
12. What will happen when Jesus Christ comes again? What will He do?

**v. 28 – 31**

13. What is the lesson in v. 28, 29? (v.30 is generally thought to refer to the events of AD70, which took place in the lifetime of Jesus' hearers.)

**v. 32 – 37**

14. When will Jesus return?
15. What commands did Jesus give? What does His picture in v.33 – 37 emphasise? What do we watch for? What should we be doing as we wait?

**Study 25, Mark 14: 1 – 42****v. 1 – 11**

1. What were the religious leaders trying to do? Why? Why could they not do this during the "feast"?
2. What was this feast? Look at Exodus 12: 1 – 20 to understand its background and meaning.
3. What do we learn about the woman in v. 3 – 11? Why did she do this special thing? Why did Jesus praise her? What did it cost the woman? What was her reward?
4. Look at v. 8, 9. Do you find it surprising that Jesus should say this woman's act was done in preparation for his death? He also said that this death was "good news" for people in all the world. Do you know of anyone else who has said his or her death would be that important?
5. What do we learn about the onlookers? Can you understand their complaint in v.4, 5? How did Jesus reply to them? Remember what is most important (12: 29 – 31). Had the people in the house understood this?
6. What do we learn about Judas and the authorities here? Look also at John 12:6. Compare their actions with the woman's.

**v. 12 – 21**

7. Where did Jesus and his followers eat this meal?
8. What did Jesus tell his disciples while they were eating? What was their reaction? What warning did Jesus give?
9. Look at v.16 and then v. 21a. Imagine how Jesus must have felt, knowing these details. Why is the word "must" used?

**v. 22 – 26**

10. Remember what the special feast was. What did Jesus do during the meal? Look at Luke's account in Luke 22: 14 – 20. What was the bread a picture of? And the wine?
11. What was the "new agreement" that Jesus was talking about? (Jeremiah 31: 31 – 34)

**v. 27 – 31**

12. What three predictions did Jesus give?
13. How did Peter reply? Was it good that he spoke like this? Remember that in chapter 8 Jesus had said his followers must be prepared to die for him.

**v. 32 – 42**

14. What do v. 32 – 36 show us about the heart and mind of Jesus? Why was he troubled? Look at Luke 22:44.
15. Look at how Jesus prayed. How did he address God? What did he say about God? What was his request? How did he finish the prayer?
16. What made this time so lonely for Jesus? What were the disciples doing? What did Jesus tell those men to pray for?

**Study 26, Mark 14: 43 – 72****v. 43 – 52**

- Who came to Jesus here? Who came with him? What did they come with? Why?
- How do you greet your teachers in your country? What greeting was used here? Do you find this strange? What happened next?
- Did Jesus protest about this? What did He say in v.49? What did He mean? Look at Isaiah 53: 7 – 12.
- What did Jesus' followers do at this time? Why do you think they did this? Remember v.27. (v. 47 – look up John 18:10 – who did this?)

**v. 53 – 65**

**Note:** *The High Priest at this time was called Caiaphas – he was the High Priest from AD 18–36. The supreme Jewish court of law, the Sanhedrin, had 70 members, including religious leaders, rich landlords, and middle class lawyers.*

- What happened here? What was the Sanhedrin trying to do in v.55? In a Jewish court there had to be two witnesses who agreed, before a criminal could be found guilty. Do you think this was a fair trial? (E.g. look at v.55b, v.56b, v.59)

6. What did the men accuse Jesus of doing? Look at what Jesus had said, and what He had meant, in John 2: 19 – 22 (3 years earlier).
7. What questions did the High Priest ask Jesus? Which question did Jesus not answer? Which one did He answer? What do you think He meant by the phrases in v.62?
8. What made the High Priest so angry? What did he and the others do? What did they say Jesus was guilty of? (*In the Old Testament law, this was an offence that should be punished by death.*)

**v. 66 – 72**

*Look at v.54. This was happening at the same time as v.53 – 65.*

9. What three things were said to Peter? By whom? How did Peter react? Why? What would you have done?
10. What did Peter do when he remembered Jesus' warning from v.30, and the strong words he had used in reply to Jesus? Look also at Matthew 26: 75 and Luke 22: 62.
11. Why do you think Mark included this story?

## **Study 27, Mark chapter 15: 1 – 39**

*The Jewish leaders had found Jesus guilty of blasphemy because he had admitted that he was the Christ, the Son of God, and the one who would judge the whole world (as prophesied by Daniel, hundreds of years before). They found him guilty even though there was no evidence to disprove what he had said; instead there was all the evidence of his miracles to prove it. To find someone guilty in Jewish law, there had to be two witnesses against a person who agreed with each other. However, none of the people who gave false evidence against Jesus could agree. The Jewish leaders were still determined to have Jesus killed.*

*The Jews had no power under Roman law to sentence someone to death. The Romans were not interested in Jewish religious matters, so the charge of blasphemy was no good. They had to find Jesus guilty of breaking a Roman law.*

**v. 1 – 5**

1. In the Roman court, the Jewish leaders accused Jesus of many things. Which thing did Jesus choose to admit (say it was true)?
2. What did Pilate mean by King of the Jews? Why would this be a serious charge? What did Jesus mean by King of the Jews? Compare with Mark 1: 15 and Mark 9: 1.
3. Why did Jesus stay silent? Look at Isaiah 53: 7.

**v. 6 – 15**

4. What did Pilate think of Jesus? What influenced him most? Are you surprised that this could happen?
5. Barabbas was guilty of being a rebel; the crime for which the Jewish leaders were hoping the Romans would kill Jesus. This incident, and 1 Peter 3: 18 helps us to understand the great purpose of Jesus' death.

**v. 16 – 20**

6. In this section, look at the different ways Jesus suffered.
7. These Gentile soldiers treated Jesus in the same way that the Jewish guards did in Mark 14: 65. The whole world – Jew and Gentile, religious and non-religious, leaders and ordinary people – is guilty of killing Jesus.

**v. 21 – 32**

Notice all the details in this account of Jesus' crucifixion. Complete the following table.

<b>Verse</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Compare</b>
23		Mark 14: 25
24		Psalms 22: 18
27		Isaiah 53: 12
29 – 32		Psalms 22: 6, 7

8. Why did Mark include so many details?
9. How do you think Jesus' followers felt watching all this happen?
10. In what way was the mocking sign in v. 26 actually speaking the truth?
11. Look at John 2: 19 – 22 to understand what Jesus had meant when he talked about the Temple.
12. In what ways were the mocking words of the Jewish leaders in v.31 actually speaking the truth?
13. What did the people think Jesus had to do to show that he was the Christ? What did he actually have to do? Remember Mark 8: 29 – 31.
14. Luke gives more details about the robbers. Look at Luke 23: 39 – 43.

### **v. 30 – 39**

15. From 12:00 until 3:00 there was an eclipse of the sun. What did Jesus cry out? In fact, those words came from Psalm 22: 1. Why had God left Jesus alone?

17. Why did Jesus go through this? V. 38 helps us to understand. (*The curtain in the Temple divided the Most Holy Place from the other parts of the Temple. The Most Holy Place was where the High Priest met with God. He could only go in once a year. Before he went in, he had to make the right sacrifices. No-one else was ever allowed beyond the curtain, so it was like a barrier between God and his people.*)

- When exactly did the curtain tear?
- What was strange about the way the curtain was torn?
- What did this mean?

18. When Christians remember this day, they call it Good Friday. Why is it called Good and not Sad?

19. What is the next thing that we are told after the curtain was torn?

20. The army officer was the first person in this account to recognise who Jesus really was.

- What did this man see that convinced him that Jesus was the Son of God?
- Why is it especially surprising that this particular man now suddenly understood who Jesus was? What sort of man was he?
- How does this incident help us to understand the great purpose of Jesus' death?

*Note: Both Isaiah 53 and Psalm 22, written hundreds of years beforehand, describe details of Jesus' crucifixion. They also help us to understand why Jesus died.*

## **Study 28, Mark 15: 40 – 16: 8**

### **15: 40 – 47**

1. How can we be really sure that Jesus was dead? Who were the witnesses?
2. The Bible claims that Jesus died and later rose back to life, but people who do not believe this have sometimes put forward other explanations of what happened. How does Mark show that these ideas are not true?

- “It wasn’t Jesus who died on the cross, but someone in his place.” (Judas is often suggested as an alternative.) Look at v. 40, 41.
- “Jesus wasn’t actually dead. He was deeply unconscious”. Look at v.44, 45.
- “Jesus’ body wasn’t put in the tomb. Instead it was stolen by his followers, who then made up the story about the resurrection”. Look at v. 46, 47.

### **16: 1 – 8**

3. Who were the women who approached the tomb? Why were they going there? What problem did they think they would have? Did they expect to find Jesus alive again? Why not? Would you?
4. What did they see in the tomb? What did they learn?
5. Do you think they may have gone to the wrong tomb?
6. Why were the women so afraid? How would you have felt?
7. Notice that there was a message for Peter in v.7. Can you see why this was significant?

*To help us understand this story, it might be helpful to look at an account of what happened later that day.*

### **Luke 24: 1 – 35**

8. What details are added in this story? Why didn't the 11 apostles accept the women's story? Would you have felt the same? Do you have any true stories in your culture of someone rising from the dead?
9. Describe the two people who were on their way to Emmaus. What were they thinking and talking about? How did they feel?
10. When Jesus joined them what did they tell him? How did they describe him?
11. Why did Jesus call them foolish and slow?



12. What did he explain to them? Why did he talk about the Old Testament stories?

13. When did they recognise Jesus? How did they feel about this? What did they do immediately?

14. What did they learn when they arrived back at Jerusalem?

**v. 36 – 49**

15. How did the followers react when Jesus suddenly appeared? Why? How did Jesus show that it was really him?

16. Compare v.41 with v.17.

17. What did Jesus want the followers to understand about the Old Testament Scriptures?

18. When they finally understood, what instructions did Jesus give his followers?

19. What was their message to be? Remember Mark 1: 15. What do you think it means?

20. What difference do you think Jesus' resurrection made to his disciples? That was over 2,000 years ago. Do you think it makes any difference today?

21. Was Jesus the Christ, the Son of God? (Mark 1: 1)