

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

We hope that you enjoy reading through parts of Mark's gospel together as a family. Each short devotion is centred around who Jesus is. It is our prayer that you and your family come to know him better as you read God's word. May this resource supplement your own reading and facilitate time spent as a family in the Bible.



ACTIVITY – Do this as a family. Have fun with it whilst starting to think about themes that will come up in the passage.



SONG – One or two suggestions to listen to or sing along with that tie in with the passage or theme. If viewing online, click on the title to be linked directly to the song.



READ – Reading God's word is the most important part. If viewing online, click on the passage to be taken directly to that reading in the NIV. You might like to use a more child friendly translation if you have one.



THINK – You might like to add your own thoughts to the discussion. Better still, ask others in your family what they think!



QUESTION – These are separated into suggested age groups. Feel free to mix and match questions for your family or even add your own.



PRAYER – This prayer may start as the basis for your own family prayer time. Make sure to spend time talking to God each time.

Jesus trusts his father



ACTIVITY

Take turns as a family drawing the person (or people) that you trust and couldn't live without. Don't tell each other beforehand who it is. See who can guess the right answer first!

If you want to get really creative you could try using playdough to make the people.



SONG

For Kids

*You can tell the Lord that you love him -
Colin Buchanan*

I can talk to Jesus - Emu Music



READ

Mark 1:35-39

QUESTIONS

For Preschoolers

If Jesus trusted his heavenly Father, can we trust him too? Why?

For Primary School Aged

How did Jesus rely on God the Father in today's passage?

How can we rely on God?

For Teenagers

When the pressure is on, who do you rely on? Is your first choice God?

What does it look like to trust God?



THINK

When we are put under pressure we always go back to the people and things we think are most important. Jesus was really busy, and everyone wanted to see him! But Jesus knew he had to go to the one person he trusted and knew he could rely on, his heavenly Father. Doing so helped him to stay focused on telling others the good news about the Kingdom of God!



PRAY

Dear Heavenly Father,
Thank you that you are trustworthy and reliable in all things. Father, you never change and you don't rely on anything or anyone. Please may we turn to you in all situations for our strength and purpose. In Jesus' name,
Amen.



Jesus is the friend of sinners



ACTIVITY

As a family, make a list of all the qualities you think the perfect friend would have. Once finished ask each other, 'do you think that you have all of these qualities'?

Having good friends is a wonderful thing! But sometimes we can think that there are some people we could never be friends with. Today's passage shows us that Jesus had some surprising friends!



SONG

For Kids
Family of God - Quizworx

For Adults
Jesus, What a friend for sinners



READ

Mark 2:13-17

QUESTIONS

For Preschoolers
Should we only spend time with some people e.g. only people we like or only people who are nice to us?

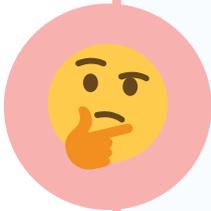
For Primary School Aged
Do you need to be good enough to follow Jesus? What reason do you have for your answer?

For Teenagers
Are you one of the righteous (healthy) or one of the sinners (sick)? How do you know?



THINK

You might have heard it said that you can know a man by the company he keeps. So, if Jesus is so good then surely he must have only spent time with the best behaved people right? Not at all! In fact, in this passage Jesus says that he came to call the sinners. This is exactly what he did for Levi. But Jesus didn't just ask him to follow at a distance, Jesus came and shared a meal with Levi. The company that Jesus kept does say something about who he is. Jesus is the friend of sinners.



PRAY

Dear Heavenly Father,
Thank you that you loved the world so much you gave us Jesus. Thank you that he chose to become the friend of sinners like us. We trust in Jesus who alone is able to save us from our problem of sin so that we can become your children. Please help us to come to Jesus in repentance. And please help us to follow Jesus' example and be good friends of people who are sinners just like us.
In Jesus' name,
Amen.



Jesus is more powerful than nature

ACTIVITY

Who would you call when...?

- The house is on fire?
- You break a bone?
- The toilet won't flush?

These people are really helpful but there are some things that even they can't do. There are some situations where only one person can help us – Jesus.



SONG

For Kids

Who's the King of the Jungle - Colin Buchanan

He must be God - Emu Music



READ

Mark 4:35-41



QUESTIONS

For Preschoolers

Can anyone else control nature like Jesus?
What other things could you trust Jesus to control?

For Primary School Aged

The disciples weren't sure who Jesus was after seeing his amazing power.
Who do you think Jesus is?

For Teenagers

When things got really bad, the disciples didn't have faith that Jesus could save them.
Who or what do you put your faith in when times get tough?



THINK

Have you ever felt completely overwhelmed? When we're scared or anxious, we can think that no one cares or that no one is able to help us. That's exactly what the disciples were thinking as their lives were in danger in the midst of a storm. But Jesus showed that he not only cared about the disciples but that he has the power to save them. With just his words the mighty waves and the powerful wind Jesus stopped the mighty waves and the powerful wind. The disciples were left asking 'who is Jesus'?

Jesus is more powerful than nature.



PRAY

Dear Heavenly Father,
Thank you that you are the creator of the world and you continue to sustain it.
Thank you most of all for sending your son Jesus, who is more powerful than nature. He alone can save us and give us eternal life. Please help us to look to him in times of trouble and when we are scared.
May we always put our hope for true salvation in him.
In Jesus' name,
Amen.



Jesus is more powerful than sickness and death

ACTIVITY

Over afternoon tea create your own first aid kit together as a family. Provide a box to decorate and first aid items such as bandaids, q-tips, cotton balls etc. Put the box somewhere easily seen as a reminder.

In today's story we meet two people who were sick. In fact they were so sick they needed more than a first aid kit. They were sick and desperate, but they knew there was one person who had the power to fix their problem.



SONG

For Kids
Boss of the Cross - Colin Buchanan

For Adults
In Christ Alone



READ

Mark 5:21-43



THINK

There was no one who could do anything about this woman's sickness but Jesus. There was no one who could do anything to bring the girl back from the dead except Jesus. While these people may not have known everything about who Jesus was and why he came, they knew he had the power to heal. Jesus has complete power over everything - even sickness and death. One day he will get rid of them forever when he comes back.



QUESTIONS

For Preschoolers
Is ANYTHING too big for Jesus or is there anything he doesn't have power over?

For Primary School Aged
Why did the sick woman and the religious leader come to Jesus for healing?
What does Jesus heal us from?
How do we accept Jesus' healing from our problem of sin?

For Teenagers
What does this story tell us about God's timing?
Does he always do what we want, when we want?
How do we trust God when his timing isn't the same as ours?



PRAY

Dear Heavenly Father,
Thank you that you are in control of everything. Thank you that Jesus has defeated death and that we can be joined with him in both his death and resurrection. Please help us to keep trusting Jesus and following him while we wait for him to return. We look forward to the day when we will be will live with Jesus forever.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.



Jesus is our comforter



ACTIVITY

Take turns acting out different situations that might make someone scared e.g. getting lost at the shops, a big storm, breaking a bone etc.

Ask who are the people who comfort us when we are scared? Why could they comfort you?

You might even like to share about a time that you were comforted when scared.



SONG

For Kids

You can tell the Lord that you love him - Colin Buchanan

For Adults

It is well with my soul



READ

Mark 6:45-52

THINK

Even though the disciples didn't understand everything about Jesus (even the things they really should have known), Jesus was still willing and able to be their source of comfort and courage when they were afraid. Jesus is not someone we need to be afraid of. No - He is God's powerful son who can comfort us because he is trustworthy.



QUESTIONS

For Preschoolers

Why were the disciples afraid?

Why didn't the disciples have to be afraid?

For Primary School Aged

Name some situations where you get scared?

How can Jesus give us comfort and courage in these situations?

For Teenagers

What does Mark say the disciples didn't understand? Why is this important?

Why can we understand who Jesus is?



PRAY

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you that you have provided a great comforter to us in Jesus.

We thank you that he is powerful enough to save us from all situations including death. Thank you that we don't have to be afraid but can have courage. Please help us to turn to Jesus first for our comfort and strength in times of difficulty.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.



Jesus is the Messiah

ACTIVITY

Share who is the most powerful, famous or impressive person you have ever seen (in person or on the television)? What makes them so special?

Jesus is so special because he is the Messiah (God's chosen king). Jesus is God's ruler over the whole world, and he is the most powerful and important person to have ever lived.



SONG

For Kids

He is the king - Quizworx

King of Kings and Lord of Lords - Quizworx



READ

Mark 8:27-32



THINK

What makes Jesus different to other kings? Jesus is not just a king of a country or region, He's the king of the whole world. Jesus is also different because he doesn't act like other kings. He didn't live in a palace or have a big army - Jesus was humble and served people by dying on the cross for their sins. Also, Jesus isn't like other kings who when they die are never seen again. No - when Jesus died, he rose again and beat death for us (Mark 8:31).



QUESTIONS

For Preschoolers

Peter thinks Jesus is God's king, who do you think Jesus is?

How should we treat Jesus the king?

For Primary School Aged

Why does Jesus have to die if he is God's chosen king?

Why is it good news that Jesus died and rose again?

For Teenagers

Why would Peter rebuke Jesus for saying that he has to die?

Why did Jesus have to die? (Hint: check out the following passages Isaiah 53:5-6; 2 Cor 5:21; Colossians 2:14; 1 Peter 3:18)



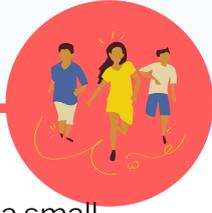
PRAY

Dear Heavenly Father,
Thank you that you sent your only son Jesus Christ into this world. Thank you that even though he is the king of the world, he served others and even died for them. Thank you that you raised Jesus back to life and he is ruling as the king of the world still. Please help us to trust in him and to follow his example of love.

In Jesus name,
Amen.



Jesus is the only way to heaven



ACTIVITY

Find an object with an opening (e.g. a small container, toilet paper role) and a ball that is either too big or the wrong shape to fit in the opening of the first object. As a family take turns at trying to throw the ball into the hole. Encourage the kids to try really hard!

Ask, 'could we get the ball in the hole? What about when we tried really hard'? No, it is impossible.



SONG

For Kids

Jesus is the only way to God - Colin Buchanan

For adults

Nothing but the blood

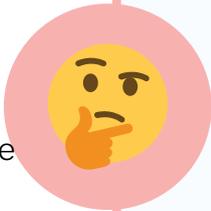


READ

Mark 10:17-31

THINK

Is there more than one way to get to heaven? What about if you are really good, would that get you in? Or what if you are really important and have lots of money, could you buy a ticket!? Jesus shows us in this story that the answer is NO! The young man asking the question was clearly trying extra hard but nothing he could do would get him to heaven. It was impossible for him. But Jesus says that the very thing that is impossible for us is possible with God! God has freely given us Jesus and all we need to do is follow.



QUESTIONS

For Preschoolers

Can you be good enough to get to heaven?
Who do we need to trust in to get to heaven?

For Primary School Aged

What did the man need to do to have eternal life? How could he do it?
How do we need to do to have eternal life?

For Teenagers

Do all religions lead to heaven?
If you just believe in a different God will you still be saved?



PRAY

Dear Heavenly Father,
Thank you that we don't need to try really hard to get to heaven. Thank you that we don't need to be really successful to get to heaven. Thank you that we don't need to be really good to get to heaven. Most of all we thank you that all we need to do is believe in Jesus Christ, your Son. Please help us to do exactly that.
In Jesus' name,
Amen.



Jesus is more valuable than anything else

ACTIVITY

What is your most prized possession?
The thing that, if you had to leave your house with only one item, you would take it?
Have each member of your family find it, bring it to family devotion time and briefly share why it is so special.



SONG

For Kids

Jesus is the greatest - Josh Goscombe

The greatest treasure - Colin Buchanan

For adults

The old rugged cross



READ

Mark 14:1-11



THINK

The perfume that was poured on Jesus was very valuable. It cost A LOT of money! This woman who was willing to part with it must have known that Jesus was very important and even more valuable than the expensive perfume! Just like this woman, we need to value Jesus more than anything we own. We may even need to give up valuable things in our lives to serve Jesus. Even though people will think we are silly, it is worth it for Jesus. He is the most valuable thing ever!



QUESTIONS

For Preschoolers

*Why did the woman pour perfume on Jesus?
What is the most valuable thing we can have?*

For Primary School Aged

Why is Jesus more valuable than anything else?

Does following Jesus mean sometimes giving things up? Give an example.

For Teenagers

If it came to it, could you give up your most valuable possession to serve and worship Jesus? Why/Why not?



PRAY

Dear Heavenly Father,
Thank you that you have given us Jesus who is even more valuable than our most prized possession. Please help us to place Jesus above all the other good things in our lives. And please help us to be faithful servants with what you have given us.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.



Jesus is the Son of God

ACTIVITY

Think of a time when someone gave up something for you or did something very kind for you? (Positive side: Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf)

Think of a time when something really unfair happened? (Negative side: The injustice of Jesus being killed)



SONG

For Kids

He died upon the cross – Colin Buchanan

Jesus Number One – Colin Buchanan



READ

Mark 15:33-41



THINK

Who was the first person to recognise Jesus as the Son of God? It was a Roman soldier who had helped put Jesus to death. Jesus' disciples didn't realise who he was, his friends and family had missed it, and even the people of Israel who were waiting for God's son, rejected him as well. The surprising thing is that the first person to realise Jesus as the Son of God was the centurion.

Why was it surprising? Because he is not part of God's chosen people (the Israelites) but he recognises Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus is not just good news for Israel, or for his family and friends but Jesus is good news for everyone! Anyone can accept Jesus as the Son of God and follow him. What a blessing!



QUESTIONS

For Preschoolers

How does it make you feel that Jesus died for you?

Do you feel loved?

How should we respond to Jesus and what he has done?

For Primary School Aged

How does it make you feel to see Jesus being mocked and crucified even though he was innocent?

Why did Jesus allow this to happen to him?

For Teenagers

Why do you think Christians celebrate such a tragic and unfair event as Jesus' crucifixion?

How can you share the good news of Jesus at home? At school? At weekend sport?



PRAY

Dear Heavenly Father,
Thank you that loved us so much, that you gave your Son to suffer in our place.
Thank you that because he died, we can have eternal life. Thank you that you rose Jesus back from the dead so we can be confident that we can live with you forever. Thank you for your amazing love and kindness to us even though we sin against you.

In Jesus name,
Amen.



Jesus is Risen

ACTIVITY

Discuss the most amazing thing you have ever seen? (This can be something in real life or in the movies, on a TV show etc.) You could even draw it or act it out and get the other members of your family to guess.

.At the end of Mark's gospel we see the most amazing thing ever – God raises Jesus back to life!



SONG

For Kids

Crucified in weakness - Josh Goscombe

Super Saviour – Colin Buchanan

For adults

Jesus is alive



READ

Mark 16:1-8



THINK

Why doesn't Mark finish the story off like the other gospel writers? Matthew, Luke and John show Jesus coming back and seeing his friends, but Mark doesn't. He gives a very open ending finish to his book. This is to hand the story over to us, how will we respond to Jesus' death and resurrection? Will we put our trust in Jesus? Or will we reject him like so many of the people we read in the book of Mark did?



QUESTIONS

For Preschoolers

Do you believe that Jesus is even more powerful than death?
How do you feel knowing that Jesus is the Boss of the Cross?

For Primary School Aged

Do you believe in the resurrection? Why/Why not?
If so, does that make you want to follow Jesus?
Why/Why not?

For Teenagers

Why is the resurrection so important to Christianity?
How does the resurrection change how we live now?



PRAY

Dear Heavenly Father,
Thank you so much that you rose Jesus from the dead. Thank you that because Jesus has defeated death, we can have eternal life with you if we put our trust in him. Thank you that we can know and love Jesus because he is still alive.
Please help us to trust and follow Jesus all the days of our lives.

In Jesus name,
Amen.

