



DAILY BIBLE READING

# REMARKABLE MARK (MARK 1-8)

*Tim Blagg*

Read. Ask. Live. Love

# Daily Bible Reading

## What?

Sometimes we find it hard to read the Bible, don't we? At church we hear it all the time: "*read the Bible more.*" But how? Some of the devotionals on offer seem to have less Bible than story. Some of the Bible reading plans seem too big to take on all at once; what should I think about? How can I possibly know what questions to ask as I read through God's word?

It's in light of these questions that these daily bible readings have come into existence! The aim is to help you read God's word for yourself and ask some of the questions to comprehend what God is saying to you today through his living and active word, with the hope asking these sorts of questions for yourself as you read through the Bible in bigger doses that this has to offer. It's a tool, and hence it's only as valuable as our use of it.

My prayer for you as you use these - whether by yourself or with your family around the dinner table - is that God will work through his word to grow you into the fullness of Christ and bring you joy as you come to know him through his word.

## How?

The way to approach it every day (as recommended) is:

- 1) Pray to God; it is his word we're reading, so ask him to help you understand it.
- 2) Read the passage once or twice.
- 3) Go through each question, looking back at the bible to think through them.
- 4) Pray about what you have learned, and live out the applications for today.

## Want more?

If you want more studies like these ones, check out our online database at [www.trinitycity.church/youth](http://www.trinitycity.church/youth) - just follow the links. Alternatively, if you're looking for more in depth bible reading plans, many can be found in study bibles or online. Chat to your bible study group leader or pastor for more information.

In Christ,

Tim

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## **Week 1 (Mark 1:1-20)**

### **Monday**

- Read Mark 1:1-20

- Think through the following questions:

1. What are the things that “jump out” at you from this text - the things that are surprising or stick in your mind?
2. What questions do you have from reading these 20 verses? Write them down, pray over them and think through them over the next week.
3. Who is this passage about?

- Remarkable for Today:

- Who is Jesus to you? Write this down today - record who Jesus is as far as you're concerned. Come back and look at it again later - I promise I'll remind you!

*I think Jesus is* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **Tuesday**

- Read Mark 1:1

- Think through the following questions:

1. Who is the gospel (which means good news) about?
2. Christ isn't just a surname; it means he is God's chosen King. Why is it good news that Jesus is God's King?
3. Who is Jesus (aside from God's chosen King)?

- Remarkable for Today:

- Look at how Mark introduces us to Jesus. How would you introduce Jesus to someone who has never heard of Him? Write down your answer (but take some time to do it!)

### **Wednesday**

- Read Mark 1:2-8

- Think through the following questions:

1. Who is the Isaiah (and Exodus + Malachi) passage referring to in v.2-3? (hint: look at v.4)!
2. What did John preach?
3. How did John describe the one who was coming after him, and what this one would do?

- Remarkable for Today:

- Mark thinks that the Old Testament is important for Christians to read and understand, as it does point forward to Jesus. Do you think this way about it? Take

some time to talk to an older Christian this week and ask them to help guide you to read through the Old Testament; it will be worth it! It's all about Jesus.

### **Thursday**

- Read Mark 1:9-13

- Think through the following questions:

1. What did Jesus see when He came up out of the water?
2. What did God say about Jesus?
3. Where did Jesus go after he was baptised?

- Remarkable for Today:

- In this part of Mark's Gospel, we see that Jesus is 100% both God and human. He's God - God himself proclaims it! And yet, Jesus was baptised. Jesus was tempted. If Jesus wasn't God, then he couldn't forgive us or die for us. And if Jesus wasn't human, then among other things, he wouldn't understand what we struggle with and are tempted by. But Hebrews 4:15-16 tells us plainly: because Jesus is fully human as well as fully God, he can sympathise when we are tempted. *"Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."* (Hebrews 4:16) How does Jesus humanity comfort you?

### **Friday**

- Read Mark 1:14-15

- Think through the following questions:

1. When did Jesus go into Galilee to proclaim the gospel/good news?
2. What does Jesus say is near?
3. What does Jesus say is the right response to this good news?

- Remarkable for Today:

- Repent and believe. Repent means to turn away from something, and believe tells us what to turn towards. In this case, we are to turn away from our own wills - our own self-rulership - and turn to the Kingdom of God - to be under God's King! There is no other response to the great news of the Kingship of Jesus. When it comes to repentance, it's both a life-long process and a one-off. We repent and believe the good news and are saved. And we spend the rest of our lives repenting as we continually turn away from self-ruling and sit under Jesus' rulership. Can you think of any areas in life where you don't want Jesus to rule over you just as yet?

**Saturday**

- Read Mark 1:16-20

- Think through the following questions:

1. Where was Jesus walking when he called his first disciples?
2. What did he tell Simon and Andrew they would do instead of fishing?
3. Do you think it was hard for Jesus' first disciples to follow him? Why, or why not?

- Remarkable for Today:

- The call to follow Jesus demands *everything*. We don't just decide to follow Jesus one day; we follow him with all of our lives. Just like these first disciples, when we accept Jesus as our king, we promise to follow him with all of our lives. We hand over everything. For some Christians, that means quitting their jobs to spend time working for Church or going overseas as a missionary. For some Christians, it means choosing never to get married for the sake of serving Jesus. For some Christians, it means not playing sport on a Sunday so they can serve at Church. What does following Jesus look like for you?

**Sunday**

- Church - Passage covered: \_\_\_\_\_

- What was the sermon about?: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

- What do I need to change? \_\_\_\_\_  
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## **Week 2 (Mark 1:21-45)**

### **Monday**

- Read Mark 1:21-45

- Think through the following questions:

1. What are the things that “jump out” at you from this text - the things that are surprising or stick in your mind?
2. What questions do you have from reading these 25 verses? Write them down, pray over them and think through them over the next week.
3. Of all the things Jesus does or says, which one is the most surprising to you? Why?

- Remarkable for Today:

- Step inside the sandals of the people who were meeting Jesus and seeing all these things Jesus did. Who do you think they thought Jesus was? What about today? Who do people tend to think Jesus is? Why do they think that way? The truth is, we only get to know Jesus properly if we listen to what he has to say. Take some time to thank Jesus that we can know him because we can read his words and because his Spirit works in us.

### **Tuesday**

- Read Mark 1:21-28

- Think through the following questions:

1. Where did Jesus go on the Sabbath day? Why did he go there?
2. How does the man who was possessed by an impure spirit/demon react when he sees Jesus?
3. How do the people react to Jesus? What impresses them the most?

- Remarkable for Today:

- One of the things that comes up in the Gospels a lot is Jesus confronting demons. A truth which we don't see as much in Western culture today is that there are spiritual forces both good and evil. But unlike Star Wars where the light and dark sides of the force are balanced, in reality God trumps any evil force. That means while we need to be real about demons (and many cultures around the world are), we don't need to be afraid of them. How does Mark 1:21-28 comfort us when it comes to demons today?

### **Wednesday**

- Read Mark 1:29-34

- Think through the following questions:

1. Where did Jesus and his disciples go after he was finished preaching in the Synagogue?
2. Having a fever used to be a far more terrifying ordeal than it is today; it could be a death sentence in Jesus' day. How does Jesus react when he finds out Simon's mother-in-law has a fever?
3. How did Jesus react to the people who were sick?

- Remarkable for Today:

- One of the weird things that happens in Mark's Gospel is that we see Jesus telling demons not to speak about him (v34). This seems strange; doesn't Jesus want people to know who he is? What reason do you think Jesus could have for not wanting demons to confess that he is God's Son and is the Christ?

### **Thursday**

- Read Mark 1:35-39

- Think through the following questions:

1. What did Jesus do early in the morning?
2. Why do you think everyone was looking for Jesus (v37)?
3. Why does Jesus say he has come?

- Remarkable for Today:

- Jesus prayed. He was practical about his prayer - he went to a solitary place early in the morning. We probably don't have crowds chasing us, but chances are we still need to find a good time and place to pray regularly. What's your prayer routine? Is there anything you need to change in order to pray more consistently? Put it into practice today!

### **Friday**

- Read Mark 1:40-42

- Think through the following questions:

1. What does it mean if someone has leprosy as far as being a part of God's people goes? (see Leviticus 13:45-46)
2. How does Jesus react when he sees the man with leprosy?
3. Normally if someone touched someone or something unclean, they would become unclean as well. What is different about Jesus touching this man?

- Remarkable for Today:

- When we look at Jesus, we can see very clearly God's love and God's goodness. The question the man with leprosy had for Jesus was not about whether Jesus was powerful to heal; it was if Jesus wanted to heal this man. And Jesus healed him. Jesus is good and Jesus is loving. Sometimes God doesn't heal us when we

ask him to. And that can be very difficult. But we know that God is good and that God is powerful, which means that he has a good reason not to heal us yet. That's a hard truth for us to realise. Do you trust that God is good?

### **Saturday**

- Read Mark 1:43-45

- Think through the following questions:

1. What does Jesus say to the man he has just healed?
2. Why does Jesus tell the man to see the priest? (Check out Leviticus 14:1-32)
3. Why can't Jesus enter towns openly anymore?

- Remarkable for Today:

- Over this week we've seen a lot of incredible miracles and healings that Jesus did. And very frequently, we've also seen that Jesus has forbidden people from speaking about the healing. This is a weird reaction, isn't it? We get a clue in v38: Jesus could have been very popular from healing people. But that wasn't his aim. Jesus wanted to proclaim the gospel to people; to proclaim his kingdom. And as good as healing people was, it was not why Jesus came. How do you feel thinking about this? It's important for us to understand: Jesus came first and foremost to bring about forgiveness for sins and to bring people into his Kingdom. Even the best healing was not his primary goal. And the same goes for us today. If we're healed. Or if our lives become better because we follow Jesus. These are great benefits. But we follow Jesus to be right with God forever. To be forgiven. To be part of his kingdom. Thank God for this today, and ask him to help you see things from his perspective.

### **Sunday**

- Church - Passage covered: \_\_\_\_\_

- What was the sermon about?: \_\_\_\_\_

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- What do I need to change? \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Week 3 (Mark 2:1-17)**

#### **Monday**

- Read Mark 2:1-17

- Think through the following questions:

1. What are the things that “jump out” at you from this text - the things that are surprising or stick in your mind?
2. What questions do you have from reading these 17 verses? Write them down, pray over them and think through them over the next week.
3. What expectations did people have of Jesus that He didn't meet/that He acted contrarily to?

- Remarkable for Today:

- Jesus doesn't necessarily act the way people would expect Him to! Think back through your own life - are there expectations that others have of Christians or Jesus that people have which aren't true/right? Write up a list of things that people might expect Christians or Jesus to do, and see how you can tell people what Jesus is actually about instead.

#### **Tuesday**

- Read Mark 2:1-4

- Think through the following questions:

1. Where is Jesus now?
2. What did Jesus do when the crowd had gathered?
3. How important was it for the friends of the paralytic man to carry this man to Jesus? *Why do you think they acted the way they did?*

- Remarkable for Today:

- There is a big difference between being a part of this crowd and being a *real* disciple of Jesus. The crowds were just “getting in the way,” but the people who really wanted Jesus would do *anything* to reach Him! Four companions to the paralysed man dug a hole in the roof to reach Jesus - that's faith in action! Is there anything in your life which is “getting in the way” of your relationship and love for Jesus? What are you going to do about it?

#### **Wednesday**

- Read Mark 2:5-7

- Think through the following questions:

1. What does Jesus say to the paralysed man?
2. Who did this upset?
3. Why did it upset them?

- Remarkable for Today:

- When you look at others, what do you think their deepest and most urgent need is? Jesus looked at this paralysed man - a man who had next to no hope of ever moving, let alone living a normal life! - and He didn't think this man's biggest need was for healing. What this man needed as far as Jesus was concerned was forgiveness. Do you look at your non-Christian friends this way? Do you pray whenever you think of them, that they might be forgiven by Jesus and enjoy a relationship with God? Today's a great day to start! Pray for them - pray that you will have an opportunity to share with them the wonderful news that Jesus can forgive them!

### **Thursday**

- Read Mark 2:8-12

- Think through the following questions:

1. Which one do you think is easier to say - your sins are forgiven, or get up, pick up your mat and walk? (Hint: regarding how you can measure the success of the statement!)
2. What happened to the man?
3. How does the crowd respond? *Compare this to how Levi responds in v.14.*

- Remarkable for Today:

- Kristy tells you that she really likes going to church and hearing about Jesus. She thinks He seems like a nice guy who loved people, and who did lots of amazing things. She even thinks He must have been cute! But you also notice that she doesn't really care what He thinks of how she lives her life - she says to you "*I can live how I want to anyway. Jesus was all about people being free to live their lives however they wanted to!*" What would you say to her?

### **Friday**

- Read Mark 2:13-15

- Think through the following questions:

1. Where is Jesus now?
2. What is Levi's (also known as "Matthew" - see Matthew 9:9-13 if you want to check!) response when Jesus calls him?
3. What does Jesus do this time that's so shocking?

- Remarkable for Today:

- When did Jesus love and accept the "sinners" and the tax collectors - before, or after they repented for what they had done? It's before they've repented! Jesus' love and acceptance to us means that our repentance is in response to this. We

respond - we love because Jesus first loved us! Now how about how you treat others - do you show them the love that Christ showed us, loving us before we were right with Him? Don't hold grudges. Don't wait for someone to apologise before showing them care and love. Not because they haven't done something wrong, but because Jesus didn't treat us that way. And be incredibly thankful that He didn't! If you have been holding a grudge or ignoring someone, forgive them!

## Saturday

- Read Mark 2:16-17

- Think through the following questions:

1. What has Jesus heard?
2. What does Jesus say in response?
3. The Pharisees/Teachers of the Law need Jesus. Do you think they realise they do?

- Remarkable for Today:

- Jesus diagnoses us all as being sinners - all of us are very sick before God. In fact, before God we aren't even sick/paralysed. We are actually spiritually dead. And it's in this state that God sends Jesus to save us! When we could do *nothing* for our own healing/salvation, Jesus saved us! That's what it means when Jesus says "sinners". No one is righteous before God *except Jesus*. Now when the day of judgement comes, do you want to be standing on your own, or standing behind Jesus and relying on Him? Many of the Pharisees would have confidently said "standing on our own!" But Jesus has very different thoughts about them. And what about you? Do you realise that you desperately need Jesus *every day* when it comes to you standing right before God?

## Sunday

- Church - Passage covered: \_\_\_\_\_

- What was the sermon about?: \_\_\_\_\_

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- What do I need to change? \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Week 4 (Mark 2:18-3:35)**

### **Monday**

- Read Mark 2:18-3:35

- Think through the following questions:

1. What are the things that “jump out” at you from this text - the things that are surprising or stick in your mind?
2. What questions do you have from reading these 46 verses? Write them down, pray over them and think through them over the next week.
3. Do you think Jesus would have been good friends with the teachers of the law? How about how they felt about him?

- Remarkable for Today:

- Jesus wasn't thought very highly of by the teachers of the law/Pharisees. Jesus is showing that he is more important to listen to than the teachers of the law - that He has authority to teach. Do you look at Jesus as a King who has authority in discussing with us how we should live? Practically today - is there anything that you are doing which Jesus says not to do? This might be the time to talk with God about it - repent of living in a way that doesn't match up with Jesus' standards. And then ask God to change your heart and to help you to live in a way that does seek God's glory.

### **Tuesday**

- Read Mark 2:18-22

- Think through the following questions:

1. What were John's disciples and the Pharisees doing that Jesus and his disciples weren't?
2. What do you think Jesus is saying that the point of fasting is in relation to Jesus and worship?
3. In v.21-22, Jesus talks about how people think about the idea of fasting. They expect people to fast as they think about God's coming Kingdom (like John's disciples) or to fast as an old ritual to please God. However, Jesus is God's Kingdom that has come, and Jesus has removed the need for us to please God in and of ourselves, because He does! Therefore, the reasons for fasting are no longer necessary there. Why should we fast today - after Jesus has left?

- Remarkable for Today:

- Fasting isn't something we do very often in the western Christian world today. Part of this might be caught up in people not understanding why to fast. We fast to remind ourselves of God's grace, and that we are *really* dependent on God for every breath we take and for our “daily bread”. Are you lining yourself up behind

God in fasting? Look in your diary and choose one day in the next month in which you will fast to specifically spend some time in prayer with God and reading the Bible. (Be careful how you plan it - don't be doing heaps of exercise on the day! And drink water as well - fast from food until evening if you don't think you can pull off a full day).

### **Wednesday**

- Read Mark 2:23-28

- Think through the following questions:

1. What were Jesus' disciples doing that was unlawful?
2. What did David and his companions do when they were hungry and in need that was "unlawful"?
3. What does Jesus mean when He says that the Sabbath was made for man?

- Remarkable for Today:

- Some Christians still live today as slaves to the Sabbath. They treat it as a sacred day which cannot be harmed or maimed. Although there is value in setting aside a whole day a week to rest, the point is never about keeping the day sacred. It is all about honouring God and following Him. When you look at your Sundays or Friday nights (or whatever night you have a Bible Study), are you treating it as sacred time - time when you have to be doing this specific thing? Or are you looking for opportunities to better follow God and worship Him in how you live?

### **Thursday**

- Read Mark 3:1-6

- Think through the following questions:

1. Where was Jesus on this particular Sabbath day?
2. How did the teachers of the law respond when Jesus asked them if he should heal the man?
3. Why did the Pharisees want to kill Jesus?

- Remarkable for Today:

- When you look at your life, have you allowed Jesus to be Lord of all of it? Or are there some areas that you are holding back and claiming that he doesn't have authority over? Jesus is King - whether you like it or not (and the Pharisees did not!). The question is are you willingly going to bow down before Him in how you spend your spare time, or your money, or how you talk, or what you watch? Or will you claim that he cannot change this in your life - that it's yours alone.

## Friday

- Read Mark 3:7-19

- Think through the following questions:

1. Why did Jesus tell His disciples to have a small boat ready?
2. What two miraculous things was Jesus doing (v10-11)?
3. What three things described the twelve disciples that Jesus chose? (v14-15)

- Remarkable for Today:

- Carmen says "Back then they believed in demons and devils and that weird stuff because they didn't know any better. But modern medicine shows that they were wrong - there's no such thing as demons!". How would you answer her (based off both this passage and other passages)?

## Saturday

- Read Mark 3:20-35

- Think through the following questions:

1. How did Jesus' family and the teachers of the law respond to Jesus?
2. What sins can people be forgiven for? What sin can they not be forgiven for?
3. Who does Jesus describe as His mother/brother/sisters?

- Remarkable for Today:

- Some Christians talk about being afraid of committing the "unforgivable sin". There is a challenge that people are concerned over this - that because they struggle with ongoing sin they will be rejected for eternity by God. However, what Jesus is talking about when it comes to this sin is that they have chosen to reject Jesus ultimately for eternity. If you have accepted Jesus as your saviour then you are saved and forgiven.

The other question is about your non-Christian friends. Have they accepted the gospel of Jesus or rejected it? Because if they reject it, they will not be saved by God. Without the gospel of Jesus in their lives, they cannot be saved. Pray for them to hear the gospel. Pray that you will have a chance to share the gospel with them. And then share bits of the gospel with them as much as you can!

## Sunday

- Church - Passage covered: \_\_\_\_\_

- What was the sermon about?: \_\_\_\_\_

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- What do I need to change? \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Week 5 (Mark 4:1-34)**

### **Monday**

- Read Mark 4:1-34

- Think through the following questions:

1. What are the things that “jump out” at you from this text - the things that are surprising or stick in your mind?
2. What questions do you have from reading these 34 verses? Write them down, pray over them and think through them over the next week.
3. How do you feel when you hear these parables? (write down your feelings/ immediate reactions to them)

- Remarkable for Today:

- The first parable (v3-20) is a big one and one we need God’s help to understand - in fact, Jesus uses the word “hear” or calls people to listen 8 times! Take some time out today to ask God for his help in understanding his word for you as you read it - only God can *really* help you understand his word!

### **Tuesday**

- Read Mark 4:1-8

- Think through the following questions:

1. Where is Jesus now?
2. What did Jesus do when the crowd had gathered?
3. What did the “farmer” in the parable do?

- Remarkable for Today:

- We can see who this farmer is as Jesus is speaking - it’s him! Jesus is the one who is sowing the seed (the gospel - as we see in v.14); Jesus is in charge of giving us his word! More importantly, he is in charge of making sure your friends hear his word. This means that it makes sense to pray and ask him to share his word with your friends by any way possible - and that includes you! Pray for opportunities to share Jesus with friends who don’t know him yet. Pray that they will hear and respond!

### **Wednesday**

- Read Mark 4:9-13

- Think through the following questions:

1. What does Jesus tell His followers has been given to them (the twelve and the others around him)?
2. Who would have given this to Jesus’ followers?
3. Why is everything said in parables to those on the outside?



- Remarkable for Today:

- Derek mentions to you how glad he is that he has discovered who Jesus is by sitting alone with a Bible. He says that it was all because of his own hard work that he finally understands who Jesus is. Based on what you've read in Mark 4:19-13, would you agree with him that he understands Jesus because of his hard work? Why or why not?

## **Thursday**

- Read Mark 4:14-20

- Think through the following questions:

1. What is the seed in the parable representing?
2. What causes the gospel to not bear fruit in the "rocky soil" people?
3. What do those who are like seed sown on good soil do when they hear the word?

- Remarkable for Today:

- There are four types of "soil" (i.e. people) described here - three different types of "outsiders" (v11) and one good soil. These are the people who respond to Jesus word ultimately by rejecting it; either because it's in one ear and out the other, or because they don't really understand it, or because they eventually care more about other things. This is a final decision; an ultimate decision against the word of God. Pray for your friends who don't know Jesus yet - pray that they won't make this decision! Pray that they will hear and respond to Jesus' word. Pray that they will have ears to hear, and that they will choose Jesus and respond as good soil!

## **Friday**

- Read Mark 4:21-25

- Think through the following questions:

1. What does Jesus say we are meant to do if we hear God's word? (v21-22)
2. Why does Jesus say we should consider carefully what we hear?
3. Why would God take away from people who "do not have?" (v25)

- Remarkable for Today:

- In these parabolic sayings, Jesus is continuing to teach his disciples about how God's word divides crowds between the people who listen to Jesus and put his words into practice, and those who don't listen to him and don't live out his words. We aren't meant to hear God's word just once a week and then leave it behind; it's meant to shape our lives and shine out like a lamp in a room. As you reflect on God's word in your life, what ways do you think God is shining through your actions? Thank God for how he has worked in your life through his word.

**Saturday**

- Read Mark 4:26-34

- Think through the following questions:

1. In what way is the Kingdom of God like plants growing?
2. In what way is the Kingdom of God like a mustard seed?
3. Reflect on the parables we've looked at over the past week. Why has Jesus spoken in parables to the crowds? Why has he been more clear with his disciples?

- Remarkable for Today:

- The Kingdom of God is a big theme in Mark's Gospel. Because Jesus - God's promised King - is here, the Kingdom of God is near (Mark 1:14-15); it has started! But as Jesus shows in his parables, the Kingdom of God isn't completely here yet. It's like a mustard seed or a harvest; it's still coming and growing. The things promised in the Kingdom of God - freedom from disease and from pain and from suffering and eternally being with God - are also here (as we've seen in the Gospel) but not completely here yet (as we can see today). Think about your own life; in what ways is the Kingdom of God here today? In what ways isn't it here today?

**Sunday**

- Church - Passage covered: \_\_\_\_\_

- What was the sermon about?: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_.

- What do I need to change? \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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## **Week 6 (Mark 4:35-5:20)**

### **Monday**

- Read Mark 4:35-41

- Think through the following questions:

1. What are the things that “jump out” at you from this text - the things that are surprising or stick in your mind?
2. What questions do you have from reading these 7 verses? Write them down, pray over them and think through them over the next week.
3. Take a moment now to write down/record everything that you’ve seen Jesus has power over/power to do/authority over in Mark.

- Remarkable for Today:

- It seems pretty reasonable for the disciples to be feeling pretty scared during the storm, and yet when they look at Jesus they are terrified! He has power over nature! You don’t worship a “puny god”; you worship the creator and master of all creation. Take time now in prayer to reflect and adore God for His awesome power.

### **Tuesday**

- Read Mark 4:35-39

- Think through the following questions:

1. What happened before this (i.e. during the day before the evening described in v35)? (Hint: look back over all of Mark 4).
2. What happened to the boat that Jesus was in during the “squall”?
3. How does Jesus tame the storm?

- Remarkable for Today:

- In Mark 1, we see the logic behind Jesus wanting to move onto other villages and towns. *“Let us go somewhere else - to the nearby villages - so that I can preach there also. That is why I have come.”* (Mark 1:38). Jesus is eager to continue preaching the gospel to the extent that they go for an overnight sail to the other side of the lake! Now if this is what Jesus prioritises - the preaching of the gospel - how about you? Are you prioritising sharing the gospel with others? Today, make it your aim to have 3 people which you will try to share something about your Christian faith with before next Sunday. Who could you be inviting to Fusion/ Church as Easter comes near?

### **Wednesday**

- Read Mark 4:40-41

- Think through the following questions:

1. What does Jesus ask the disciples?
2. Why do you think they were afraid? Where do you think their faith was?
3. What do you think makes the disciples feel so terrified when they look at what Jesus did?

- Remarkable for Today:

- When you face difficulties, or challenges, or even struggles in this life as a Christian, there is an old saying that "God won't give you more than you can handle." **This is a lie.** God almost certainly will give you more than you can take - the disciples were certainly in this position. But God won't give you more than he can handle; he shows this in what Jesus accomplishes! So when you face difficulties, where do you look for strength? The only right answer to that is to Jesus and to God! Pray for God to help you depend on his strength.

### Thursday

- Read Mark 5:1-20

- Think through the following questions:

1. Where did they end up landing the boat?
2. Summarise the events of these verses into one sentence.
3. Why do you think the people plead with Jesus to leave the region? (v17)

- Remarkable for Today:

- Once again we see that Jesus has authority over the forces of evil in this world. There seems to be a popular idea that Satan and his demons are the "rulers of hell". Once again, **this is a lie.** God alone is in charge of hell, and the Devil, his demons and all who reject Jesus will ultimately be sentenced to eternal death - hell. In this story, Jesus shows his absolute authority over the demons and casts them out of the possessed man. Now which one should you be more afraid of; Jesus or demonic forces? And whose side would you rather be on? If we're on Jesus side, there is *no need to fear the demonic powers*. Realise this today; Jesus is sovereign and powerful!

### Friday

- Read Mark 5:1-13

- Think through the following questions:

1. Who came out to meet Jesus when he arrived in the region of the Gerasenes?
2. What did this man shout at Jesus at the top of his voice? Why?
3. Who was in charge - the man, the evil spirits, or Jesus?

- Remarkable for Today:

- Angela, a friend from school, talks to you one afternoon about “spirituality”. She is freaking out because she has heard all about the power that demonic forces have when she went to a friend’s youth group. She feels really scared and finds it hard to sleep at night. Could you talk to her about it from this passage? What would you say?

**Saturday**

- Read Mark 5:14-20

- Think through the following questions:

1. What did those who were caring for the pigs do when the pigs drowned?
2. What made the townspeople afraid?
3. What instructions does Jesus give to the man who he healed?

- Remarkable for Today:

- This man - who has only known Jesus for a grand total of less than a day - tells all his family, friends and neighbours within 10 different towns all that Jesus has done for him - and Jesus had just cast demons out from him and healed him for this life! Now look at your own life. You have known Jesus for longer than this man, and Jesus has forgiven you for eternity. You will be in heaven with God for eternity if you have responded to Jesus with faith. Now how important do you find it to tell other people that Jesus has saved you? How pressing is it for you to talk about all Jesus has done? Pray for opportunities to share what Jesus has done for you with friends, family and peers!

**Sunday**

- Church - Passage covered: \_\_\_\_\_

- What was the sermon about?: \_\_\_\_\_

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- What do I need to change? \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Week 7 (Mark 4:35-5:20)**

### **Monday**

- Read Mark 4:35-41

- Think through the following questions:

1. What are the things that “jump out” at you from this text - the things that are surprising or stick in your mind?
2. What questions do you have from reading these 7 verses? Write them down, pray over them and think through them over the next week.
3. Take a moment now to write down/record everything that you’ve seen Jesus has power over/power to do/authority over in Mark.

- Remarkable for Today:

- It seems pretty reasonable for the disciples to be feeling pretty scared during the storm, and yet when they look at Jesus they are terrified! He has power over nature! You don’t worship a “puny god”; you worship the creator and master of all creation. Take time now in prayer to reflect and adore God for His awesome power.

### **Tuesday**

- Read Mark 4:35-39

- Think through the following questions:

1. What happened before this (i.e. during the day before the evening described in v35)? (Hint: look back over all of Mark 4).
2. What happened to the boat that Jesus was in during the “squall”?
3. How does Jesus tame the storm?

- Remarkable for Today:

- In Mark 1, we see the logic behind Jesus wanting to move onto other villages and towns. *“Let us go somewhere else - to the nearby villages - so that I can preach there also. That is why I have come.”* (Mark 1:38). Jesus is eager to continue preaching the gospel to the extent that they go for an overnight sail to the other side of the lake! Now if this is what Jesus prioritises - the preaching of the gospel - how about you? Are you prioritising sharing the gospel with others? Today, make it your aim to have 3 people which you will try to share something about your Christian faith with before next Sunday. Who could you be inviting to Fusion/ Church as Easter comes near?

### **Wednesday**

- Read Mark 4:40-41

- Think through the following questions:

1. What does Jesus ask the disciples?
2. Why do you think they were afraid? Where do you think their faith was?
3. What do you think makes the disciples feel so terrified when they look at what Jesus did?

- Remarkable for Today:

- When you face difficulties, or challenges, or even struggles in this life as a Christian, there is an old saying that "God won't give you more than you can handle." **This is a lie.** God almost certainly will give you more than you can take - the disciples were certainly in this position. But God won't give you more than he can handle; he shows this in what Jesus accomplishes! So when you face difficulties, where do you look for strength? The only right answer to that is to Jesus and to God! Pray for God to help you depend on his strength.

### **Thursday**

- Read Mark 5:1-20

- Think through the following questions:

1. Where did they end up landing the boat?
2. Summarise the events of these verses into one sentence.
3. Why do you think the people plead with Jesus to leave the region? (v17)

- Remarkable for Today:

- Once again we see that Jesus has authority over the forces of evil in this world. There seems to be a popular idea that Satan and his demons are the "rulers of hell". Once again, **this is a lie.** God alone is in charge of hell, and the Devil, his demons and all who reject Jesus will ultimately be sentenced to eternal death - hell. In this story, Jesus shows his absolute authority over the demons and casts them out of the possessed man. Now which one should you be more afraid of; Jesus or demonic forces? And whose side would you rather be on? If we're on Jesus side, there is *no need to fear the demonic powers*. Realise this today; Jesus is sovereign and powerful!

### **Friday**

- Read Mark 5:1-13

- Think through the following questions:

1. Who came out to meet Jesus when he arrived in the region of the Gerasenes?
2. What did this man shout at Jesus at the top of his voice? Why?
3. Who was in charge - the man, the evil spirits, or Jesus?

- Remarkable for Today:

- Angela, a friend from school, talks to you one afternoon about “spirituality”. She is freaking out because she has heard all about the power that demonic forces have when she went to a friend’s youth group. She feels really scared and finds it hard to sleep at night. Could you talk to her about it from this passage? What would you say?

**Saturday**

- Read Mark 5:14-20

- Think through the following questions:

1. What did those who were caring for the pigs do when the pigs drowned?
2. What made the townspeople afraid?
3. What instructions does Jesus give to the man who he healed?

- Remarkable for Today:

- This man - who has only known Jesus for a grand total of less than a day - tells all his family, friends and neighbours within 10 different towns all that Jesus has done for him - and Jesus had just cast demons out from him and healed him for this life! Now look at your own life. You have known Jesus for longer than this man, and Jesus has forgiven you for eternity. You will be in heaven with God for eternity if you have responded to Jesus with faith. Now how important do you find it to tell other people that Jesus has saved you? How pressing is it for you to talk about all Jesus has done? Pray for opportunities to share what Jesus has done for you with friends, family and peers!

**Sunday**

- Church - Passage covered: \_\_\_\_\_

- What was the sermon about?: \_\_\_\_\_

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- What do I need to change? \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Week 8 (Mark 5:21-6:56)**

### **Monday**

- Read Mark 5:21-43

- Think through the following questions:

1. Who are the people who come to Jesus for help in Mark 5?
2. What is surprising to the disciples about Jesus' question in v30?
3. What do we see about Jesus' power and knowledge in Mark 5?

- Remarkable for Today:

- One of the big themes in Mark is a question of fear vs. faith, or fear vs. belief. Back in Mark 4:40, during the storm, Jesus asked his disciples, "*Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?*" Similarly, here Jesus tells Jairus to not be afraid, but instead to believe (5:36). But perhaps it's the woman who was suffering with bleeding for so long who is the best case for us to see this. She is healed by Jesus' power because Jesus is powerful and good and willing to heal. And when she comes up to Jesus and tells the truth, we see that she trembled with fear. But the key with her was that her faith in Jesus trumped her fear. What about us? Are we afraid that people will reject us for following Jesus? Are we afraid that Jesus doesn't really care or isn't really good? What wins in your life; fear, or faith? Ask God to help you overcome fear through faith in Jesus.

### **Tuesday**

- Read Mark 6:1-6

- Think through the following questions:

1. Where was Jesus' hometown? How do you know? (check out Mark 1 again in case you're not sure)
2. Why did the people of his hometown take offence at Jesus?
3. Why couldn't Jesus do more miracles in his hometown?

- Remarkable for Today:

- Jesus ability to do miracles is not proportional to the faith of Christians. This is really important for Christians to know; if we aren't healed from disease, it's not because of a lack of faith. That's a different case to what is happening in Mark 6:1-6. Here, Jesus is not able to do miracles because of the unbelief of the people in his hometown. These are people who reject him wholeheartedly and claim he is unable to heal; they don't believe that he is the Christ. Whether Jesus is unable because of their unbelief, or because of his reluctance to heal those who reject him, is a different question. But it's a truth that will last into eternity: those who reject Jesus will miss out on the blessings that he brings. How do you feel to hear that? Jesus can't force anyone into heaven if they don't accept him.

## **Wednesday**

- Read Mark 6:7-13

- Think through the following questions:

1. Who does Jesus send out? What are their names?
2. What did Jesus send them out to do?
3. What did they do as they went out?

- Remarkable for Today:

- Jesus sends out his followers to the towns he's about to visit in order to preach the good news which Jesus himself has been preaching. More than that, Jesus instructs them to rely on the people they are going to for food and for hospitality. This is really about them trusting God to sustain them as they serve him. And there is the stern warning too; for the people who reject the messengers and the message, they are to shake off the dust from their feet as they leave the town, saying "not even the dirt of your town will be received by God." It's a pretty strong message to send, isn't it? What does it look like for us today to be going out to share the gospel? In what ways do you think we need to trust God?

## **Thursday**

- Read Mark 6:14-29

- Think through the following questions:

1. What did people say to Herod about Jesus? Who did they think Jesus was?
2. How did Herod treat John the Baptist?
3. What do you think about Herod (Antipas - the same Herod that was involved in Jesus' trial in Luke 22)? Was he the good guy who was just trapped by a promise? Was he a villain?

- Remarkable for Today:

- Serving God doesn't always mean people will have long, comfortable lives. In fact, the Bible promises the opposite. True service to God will involve suffering, persecution and sometimes, death. Being a follower of Jesus, like John the Baptist, means that we may well suffer here and now. How do you feel about that? Do you feel prepared to suffer as a follower of Jesus? Read through Hebrews 11:1-12:2 to remind yourself of why following Jesus is worth it through suffering.

## **Friday**

- Read Mark 6:30-44

- Think through the following questions:

1. Why did Jesus want to sail away with his disciples by boat to a solitary place?

2. Why did Jesus want to care for the people who came to him?
3. What does Jesus do when his disciples cry that it would be impossible to feed the people?

- Remarkable for Today:

- Jesus didn't provide a small amount of food; he provided a feast! Jesus shows us that God can do amazing things from unimpressive looking supplies (like the fish and bread, and like his disciples - like us!). Jesus also points us forward to the great feast to come in the new creation (Isaiah 55:1-2) - the feast where God invites us to come and be truly satisfied. A day when hunger will be done forever. And this little meal in Mark 6 is just an entree; an appetiser! It's the bread served before the meal begins. What are you looking forward to about the new creation, when we will be with God forever?

### **Saturday**

- Read Mark 6:45-56

- Think through the following questions:

1. Why did Jesus not go with the disciples immediately to Bethsaida?
2. How did the disciples react when they saw Jesus walking on the water? What governed their response; faith, or fear?
3. How did the people react when they saw Jesus arriving at Gennesaret?

- Remarkable for Today:

- Ghost stories and ghost hunters can be mystical and strange worlds to hear about, can't they? We see it here - the disciples thought Jesus was a ghost. What we need to see here is that Jesus *doesn't* say "Silly disciples. There's no such thing as ghosts!" Chances are, we have friends who are from other cultures where ghosts are taken very seriously. Once again, we don't need to be afraid of ghosts or spirits or demons; Jesus is powerful over *everything*; nature, water, our hearts. Take some time to consider today: how big and powerful is the Jesus you worship?

### **Sunday**

- Church - Passage covered: \_\_\_\_\_

- What was the sermon about?: \_\_\_\_\_

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- What do I need to change? \_\_\_\_\_  
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## **Week 9 (Mark 7:1-30)**

### **Monday**

- Read Mark 7:1-30

- Think through the following questions:

1. What are the things that “jump out” at you from this text - the things that are surprising or stick in your mind?
2. What questions do you have from reading these 30 verses? Write them down, pray over them and think through them over the next week.
3. Think back over our time going through Mark. What have we seen that Jesus has authority over when it comes to the laws and religious teachings?

- Remarkable for Today:

- Throughout these verses, Jesus particularly critiques the idea that the Pharisees and teachers of the law (and many Jews of the day) held; that you became “unclean” or sinful before God through external things - things like food, or contact with non-Jewish people, etc. However, Jesus points out that sin is not external, but within our lives. The people believed that by following strict principles/laws, they would be saved from sin. Do you look at your life and think that by following certain laws or rules, you are more acceptable to God? Do you think that if you are sorry enough when you sin, God forgives you more? Or do you think that by doing something good, you cancel out the wrong? We can never be any more right with God than we have been made by Jesus. Therefore, we need to apologise to God for living by traditions to make ourselves “clean”, and depend on Jesus’ sacrifice entirely!

### **Tuesday**

- Read Mark 7:1-8

- Think through the following questions:

1. What upset the Pharisees and the scribes who came from Jerusalem the most? Why did this upset them?
2. Who does Jesus quote when he critiques the Pharisees?
3. Is Jesus against tradition? Why, or why not?

- Remarkable for Today:

- The Pharisees and teachers of the law (scribes) were obsessed with the traditions that had been handed down to them throughout the years. The idea of clean vs. unclean was extended into the public life of Jews when they came into more contact with non-Jews (i.e. gentiles). They were incredibly concerned that because they had come into contact with non-Jews, they were unclean. It’s almost the idea of “cooties” or “girl germs/boy germs”! And yet, what about us? Do we ever fall in

love with traditions? Take some time to think through how much the Bible says about:

- Being baptised as a baby/being immersed when being baptised?
- Having to have church on a Sunday vs. other days of the week?
- Us needing to sing hymns in church vs. contemporary songs?

### **Wednesday**

- Read Mark 7:9-15

- Think through the following questions:

1. Who does Jesus quote when he critiques the Pharisees and teachers of the law (this time)?
2. What did the Pharisees and teachers of the law teach (the word that Mark explains for us)?
3. What can make someone unclean according to Jesus?

- Remarkable for Today:

- One of the things that the Pharisees can't do that Jesus does do in these verses is use the Bible to defend themselves. They have decided what they think is right and not wrong based off of their own thoughts rather than the truth of God's word. And this is true for all of us: if we want to live lives that are pleasing to God, then we will do it by the Bible. Do we live lives that honour God how he wants, or how we want? Do you say "I'll be a doctor for God" or "I'll be a professional video game tester - for God" or "I'll be a supermodel - for God"? God wants us to honour him with our entire lives as he has told us in the Bible. And number 1 on that list: read Mark 8:34. Reflect on it.

### **Thursday**

- Read Mark 7:17-19

- Think through the following questions:

1. Who asks Jesus about the parable?
2. How does Jesus explain what is outside the body? Can it make you unclean?
3. What note does Mark add to the end of v19? Why do you think he added it?

- Remarkable for Today:

- Jake - a Seventh-Day Adventist Christian - walks up to you and asks why you are eating a cheese and bacon roll. He tells you "The Bible said that we shouldn't eat bacon because it's unclean!" How would you respond to Jake? (Read Romans 14 to think through how you would respond, not just what the facts are).

## **Friday**

- Read Mark 7:20-23

- Think through the following questions:

1. Where does what makes us unclean come from?
2. What list does Jesus give us of evils that make us unclean?
3. If what is inside our hearts is what makes us “unclean”, will rules/laws help us to become clean? What does the Bible say deals with our hearts?

- Remarkable for Today:

- This section of Mark leaves us in a desperate situation. If it isn't what's outside us that makes us unclean, then no amount of laws or rules will ever help us. If it's what's inside us that makes us unclean, then we need someone who can change what's inside of us. And this is what God promises will be done with the New Covenant - in Jeremiah 31:31-34 and in Ezekiel 36:24-29a. Read through these passages today. When does God fulfil these promises? (Hint: Check out Mark 14:24). Thank God for giving us new hearts through his King, Jesus.

## **Saturday**

- Read Mark 7:24-30

- Think through the following questions:

1. Who came to Jesus when he was in Tyre?
2. Where was this woman from?
3. Why does Jesus drive the demon out from the woman's daughter?

- Remarkable for Today:

- As we remembered above, the Pharisees taught that you could become unclean by dealing with Gentiles, like the woman who approaches Jesus. Not only that, but when Jesus talks about “bread” he's using a metaphor to talk about the blessings promised to God's people, the Jews. Although the Old Testament showed promises of all the nations being included in God's plan of salvation, not many Jews paid attention to those. They thought that these promises meant that the nations would become Jewish followers of God, not that God would include them in his blessing without becoming Jews. So when Jesus talks with this woman, he's doing something amazing and radical. Even though the language sounds a bit harsh, Jesus is actually acting as the wise teacher who challenges his student's understanding by speaking with a parable. And unlike the disciples before her, this woman understands the parable and takes it further. The Gentiles may have to wait for the blessing God has promised, but they will receive it! And that includes you and me. Thank God today that us “dogs” are given his blessing.

**Sunday**

- Church - Passage covered: \_\_\_\_\_

- What was the sermon about?: \_\_\_\_\_

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- What do I need to change? \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Week 10 (Mark 7:31-8:21)**

### **Monday**

- Read Mark 7:31-8:21

- Think through the following questions:

1. What are the things that “jump out” at you from this text - the things that are surprising or stick in your mind?
2. What questions do you have from reading these 28 verses? Write them down, pray over them and think through them over the next week.
3. Where does Jesus do these things? When was the last time in Mark’s Gospel we heard about this place?

- Remarkable for Today:

- In Mark 7:24-30, we saw Jesus bring healing to a Gentile woman and her daughter, talking about how the blessing for Israel is not for the Gentiles first and foremost. But now, as we get into this week’s section of Mark’s Gospel, Jesus’ ministry in Gentile lands is going gangbusters! Jesus brings healing to Gentiles, he feeds a predominantly Gentile crowd and brings them the *same* blessings as he did to the Jewish people. Sure, the Gentiles get this after the Jews by a little bit. But Jesus is the Christ for all people; he is the Lord of all people. Isn’t that awesome? So take a moment now. Is there anyone you look at and think, “*They could never become a Christian. They are just too messed up/life is just too good for them to think they need God.*”? That was us! That was the Gentiles! Ask God to help you see people the way he sees us.

### **Tuesday**

- Read Mark 5:14-20 (recap!)

- Think through the following questions:

1. Back when Jesus healed the man possessed by demons, how did the people of the city react to him?
2. How did the man who had been possessed by demons react?
3. Where did he proclaim what Jesus had done for him?

- Remarkable for Today:

- The man who Jesus healed has been busy! We don’t actually hear about him again, but given he was the *only* person who followed Jesus the last time Jesus came to the Decapolis area, we can see just how busy he has been telling everyone about what Jesus has done for him. If Jesus was to come to your school, or workplace, or next family reunion, how many people do you reckon would come out to meet him because of everything you told them about him? (This isn’t something to beat ourselves up about if we haven’t done a very good

job yet!) Talk to God today, and think through how you can best share the good news about Jesus with your friends and family in the coming weeks.

### **Wednesday**

- Read Mark 7:31-37

- Think through the following questions:

1. What region does Jesus come to next?
2. How does Jesus heal the man who is deaf and mute?
3. What does Jesus tell the man to do? Does the man do it?

- Remarkable for Today:

- Read Isaiah 35, one of the Old Testament passages where God promises that he will save his people. Is there anything in Mark 7:31-37 that shows how Jesus is the fulfilment of Isaiah 35's promises? What does this mean about who Jesus is?

### **Thursday**

- Read Mark 8:1-10

- Think through the following questions:

1. When was the last time Jesus fed a big crowd? Where was this crowd?
2. What is different about this time when Jesus feeds a crowd?
3. Where does Jesus go after he has finished feeding this crowd?

- Remarkable for Today:

- Jesus' miraculous feeding of the crowd is just as significant here as it was for the Jewish crowd in Mark 6. Although there are some differences between crowd size and amount of leftovers, everyone in both crowds was full and satisfied! Everyone took part in this feast. Both Jews and Gentiles received Jesus' blessing as the King of the Kingdom of God. There is a real deep unity in the church family, whether Jewish or Gentile, whether blue collar or white collar, whether you went to a public or a private school, whether Uni or TAFE. So much of the New Testament is dedicated to reminding us about God's unifying work through Jesus. So here's a challenge: talk to someone this week at Church who you *don't* know. You have a lot more in common with them than you don't!

### **Friday**

- Read Mark 8:11-15

- Think through the following questions:

1. What did the Pharisees do when they saw Jesus?
2. How does Jesus react to them?
3. What does Jesus tell his disciples to beware of? What do you think this means?

- Remarkable for Today:

- Have you ever had a friend say “I’d believe in God, only if he gave me a sign - something to prove he was there”? In this case, the Pharisees not only ask Jesus for a sign, but they want to test him and are questioning him. Their attitude is “I don’t really want to follow Jesus, and I’m asking these questions waiting to see him slip up so I can prove that I shouldn’t follow him.” And sometimes, that’s what people really mean. In our hearts, if God didn’t help us, we’d reject Jesus and even the most obvious sign or miracle would leave us unimpressed. The same crowds that watched as Jesus healed people called for Jesus to be crucified. Thank God for softening our hearts to accept Jesus. Pray that he will soften our friends hearts to know Jesus too.

**Saturday**

- Read Mark 8:16-21

- Think through the following questions:

1. How do the disciples react when Jesus tells them to beware the yeast of the Pharisees and Herod?
2. What do you think Jesus’ parable saying about yeast means?
3. What does Jesus remind his disciples about when it comes to literal bread?

- Remarkable for Today:

- The disciples very quickly forgot about Jesus’ real ability to provide food; they definitely forgot that he had fed well over ten thousand people over the past couple of months with a grand total of twelve loaves of bread. We can look at them quite easily and think “Silly disciples.” But we do the same thing. Jesus death for our sin was able to cover *all* our sins, past, present and future. When we sin as followers of Jesus, yes we need to repent. Yes, we need to deal with sin and work to put it to death. But we must never think, “I’ve done it this time. God can never forgive me now. I’m just too evil and too rotten.” How does this leave you feeling? Talk to God about it.

**Sunday**

- Church - Passage covered: \_\_\_\_\_

- What was the sermon about?: \_\_\_\_\_

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- What do I need to change? \_\_\_\_\_  
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## **Week 11 (Mark 8:22-9:1)**

### **Monday**

- Read Mark 8:22-9:1

- Think through the following questions:

1. What are the things that “jump out” at you from this text - the things that are surprising or stick in your mind?
2. What questions do you have from reading these 18 verses? Write them down, pray over them and think through them over the next week.
3. How would you introduce someone else to Jesus?

- Remarkable for Today:

- This story recorded for us in Mark serves to remind us of one very important fact: we can only know Jesus on *his* terms, not on your own terms. It isn't enough to say what others say about him, or to choose what you want to believe about him. Either you believe in him on his terms or not at all. And so what is remarkable for us today is the challenge for us to get to know Jesus on his terms - pray, read your Bibles, meet with other Christians. And then from there, go and help others get to know Jesus on his terms - pray for those who don't know Christ yet, that they will worship him. Invite them to read the Bible with you. Who could you be introducing to Jesus this week?

### **Tuesday**

- Read Mark 8:22-26

- Think through the following questions:

1. Where does Jesus heal a blind man? Check out the map. Are we in Gentile country or in Jewish country?
2. The first time Jesus puts his hands on the blind man to heal him, how much is the man able to see?
3. The second time Jesus puts his hands on the blind man to heal him, how much is the man able to see?

- Remarkable for Today:

- Jesus' healing of this man is amazing in and of itself. But Mark's Gospel wants us to see the important significance of this story to what comes next. The man who was blind (like the disciples were blind to who Jesus is!) is given sight in two stages. The first stage, he's able to see blurry. He has some sight, but isn't able to see clearly (just like the disciples when they say that Jesus is the Christ). The second stage, though, he is able to see very clearly (just like the disciples when they finally understand what it means for Jesus to be the Christ - something which doesn't come up in Mark's Gospel). Chances are, our friends who don't know

Jesus yet will also need some help and some time before they really understand who Jesus is. Pray that God will give you patience as you introduce friends to Jesus. Pray that they will come to know him for who he is.

### **Wednesday**

- Read Mark 8:27-30

- Think through the following questions:

1. What questions does Jesus ask his disciples?
2. What is Peter's answer?
3. Why do you think Jesus warns them not to tell anyone about the truth of who he is?

- Remarkable for Today:

- William tells you that he knows all about Jesus being the Christ. He says that Jesus being the Christ means that Jesus is God's servant who will just love everyone and be soft and cuddly - he wouldn't be mean or judge people! Do you agree with William? Why or why not? How would you talk to him about who Jesus is as revealed in the Bible?

### **Thursday**

- Read Mark 8:31-33

- Think through the following questions:

1. What does Jesus teach the disciples that he must do as the Christ?
2. Who would reject Jesus?
3. Why does Jesus respond so harshly to Peter's rebukes?

- Remarkable for Today:

- Why did Jesus come to die? Why did he say he *must* suffer many things? Reflect on this! Read Isaiah 53. And be thankful.

### **Friday**

- Read Mark 8:34-38

- Think through the following questions:

1. Who is Jesus talking to in these verses? Who does it apply to today?
2. What does Jesus say people must do if they want to follow him?
3. What two "lives" are presented in v35-38?

- Remarkable for Today:

- Are you living a life in response to the fact that Jesus is the Christ - God's chosen King - the Lord of all the Universe? Jesus explains what it means to follow him - to deny yourself, to take up your cross daily and to follow him. Are you following

Jesus with all your life - willingly aligning yourself to Him above aligning yourself to this world and all that it could ever offer? Jesus' words are chilling. "What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?" Are you seeking to gain the whole world? Or are you seeking Jesus as King of your entire life?

### **Saturday**

- Read Mark 9:1

- Think through the following questions:

1. What does Jesus say to the disciples and crowds standing there?
2. What will the people see before some of them die?
3. What does the kingdom of God mean? (think through what Jesus has been announcing and doing throughout the gospel of Mark)

- Remarkable for Today:

- This section is a challenging one. Has God's Kingdom come now? Is it still coming? Where do we stand with it? The answer is found in Jesus' promise - the Kingdom of God will come with power prior to many people in that time passing away. The Kingdom of God has come! This is great and glorious news. Jesus is God's King - his death and resurrection have achieved salvation for his followers. The time of Jesus being declared King by God and being set at the throne has come. The time in which Jesus will return to judge all is coming. The Kingdom of God came in power when Jesus died on the cross. And you - as a follower of Christ - have been invited to enter into this Kingdom. Will you live it out - your citizenship of this Kingdom?

### **Sunday**

- Church - Passage covered: \_\_\_\_\_

- What was the sermon about?: \_\_\_\_\_

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- What do I need to change? \_\_\_\_\_

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- Today, at the end of the Remarkable Mark part 1, go back to day 1's Remarkable section. Is there anything you'd change or write differently about who Jesus is?

