

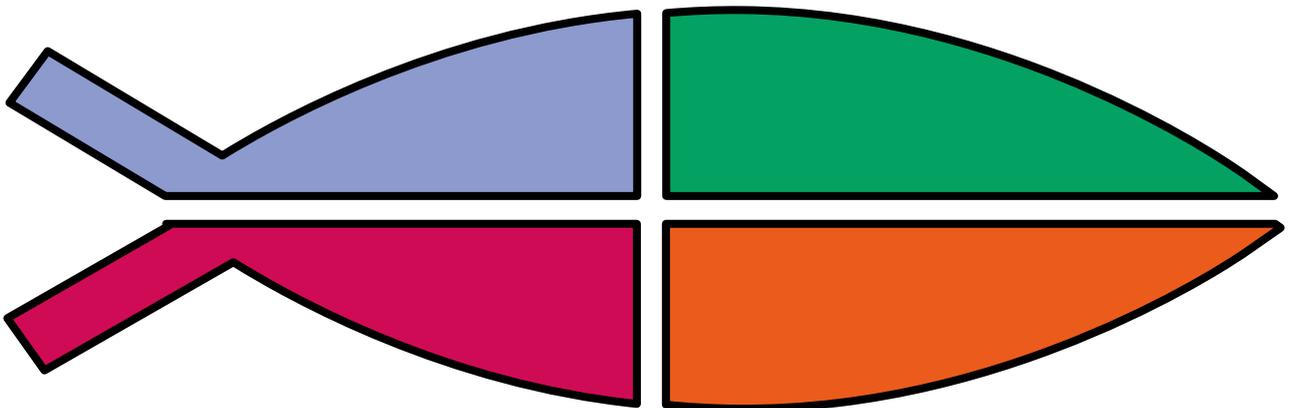


**York
Methodists**

**Bible Month
2021**

Mark's Gospel

**Small Group and Personal Study
Resources**



Welcome to Bible Month 2021!

This year we are looking at Mark's Gospel. This is the shortest of the Gospels, but is still rather a lot to cover in four weeks!

For these resources we are focusing on four stories that tell us about Jesus and his disciples, suggesting questions to reflect on or discuss with others.

The studies, designed to be used weekly, use different approaches to studying the Bible. Some encourage you to place yourself into the scene, imagining you are one of the characters in the story. Others encourage you to look for the big picture, the meaning behind the passage, or to retell the story in your own words.

If you have more time, you might want to use one or more of these approaches to read through more of Mark's gospel. You might even want to commit to reading a section every day - with 16 chapters in Mark and 30 days in June, that's only around half a chapter a day! Or you might want to set aside time to read through the whole book in one go, to grasp the flow of events and big picture of Mark's story.

These questions are suggestions, jumping-off points for discussion or your own thoughts, and for considering what the passages mean for us today, in our strange world of 2021.

Don't be constrained by the questions, or feel you have to work through them all. Above all, do make time both at the start and end of the session for prayer, and pray that God will speak to us all as we read Mark together.



Want more?

Bible Month Magazine

You can find out more about Mark's Gospel by visiting

www.preachweb.org/biblemonth

More Resources

More resources, including videos retelling the passages used in these notes, are available on via the Bible Month page on the Circuit website:

www.yorkmethodist.org.uk/what-we-do/bible-month.html

Bible Month Services

Each Sunday of Bible month there will be a service available on our Circuit YouTube channel:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCMZlI3vyksFEonZ-EQbbhuQ

“My Son, your sins are forgiven... Arise, and take up your pallet and walk”

- Mark 2: 1-12 (5)

Week 1

Mark 2: 1-12

Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralysed Man



Starter

When have you found it hard to see what was going on around you?

Prepare

Ask God to give you quietness and peace to consider the reading, and pray that you will encounter God through it.

Read

Read **Mark 2: 1 - 12** two or three times.

It might help to have different people read aloud, or to compare different translations of the Bible.

Try to picture the scene and imagine yourself as part of it, considering:

- Where does the scene take place?
- Who is there?
- What is Jesus doing?
- What is he saying?
- What are the sights, sounds, smells?
- What would the characters be able to touch and feel?
- Which character do you identify with - part of the crowd, a disciple, the paralysed man, one of his friends, a teacher of the law, someone else waiting to be healed?

Discuss or Reflect

- How did this exercise make you feel?
- What stood out for you from the passage?
- Did this way of engaging with the passage add to your spiritual understanding of it?

Pray

Is there anything you feel you need to pray for that has emerged from your reflection on the passage?

Some ideas:

- Thank God for the love and care shown to the man in this story - and to us.
- Pray for people who are ill and those who care for them.
- Pray that we will be aware where God is at work, and pray that we won't miss the point of what God is doing.

Week 2

Mark 6: 45-56

Jesus Walks on the Water

*“Take courage, it is I,
do not be afraid”*

- Mark 6: 45-56 (50)

Starter

Have you ever been in a storm or other natural event that made you afraid?

Prepare

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts and help you to hear what God is saying to you through this passage.

Read

Read **Mark 6: 45-56** two or three times.

It might help to have different people read aloud, or to compare different translations of the Bible.

Use the following questions to help you understand the passage:

- What are the main themes?
- Who are the main characters?
- How do they interact?
- What is their situation?

Discuss or Reflect

What is the passage telling us to believe and do?

- Instruction: what does God want to teach us through this passage?
- Thanksgiving: what in this story makes us grateful to the Lord?
- Confession: what in this story encourages us to repent?
- Supplication: how does this passage encourage us to pray?

Pray

Is there anything you feel you need to pray for that has emerged from your reflection on the passage?

Some ideas:

- Give thanks that God was made known to us in Jesus.
- Pray for a better understanding of who God is.
- Wait in silence to see if God brings anything to mind for you to consider.



*“This is My beloved
Son, listen to Him!”*

- Mark 9: 2-13 (7)

Week 3

Mark 9: 2-13

The Transfiguration

Starter

Have you ever climbed a mountain, or big hill? What did you see?

Prepare

Ask God to open your eyes to the passage and what God wants to teach you from it.

Read

Read **Mark 9: 2-13** two or three times.

It might help to have different people read aloud, or to compare different translations of the Bible.

Use the following questions to help you understand the passage:

- Who are the main characters?
- Where does the event take place?
- Why does Peter talk about ‘shelters’?
- What does God say about Jesus?
- Why does Jesus go on to speak about suffering?

Discuss or Reflect

- Why do Jesus and the disciples go up a high mountain? What does this remind you of- where have you seen something similar in scripture?
- What do Jesus’ dazzling white clothes remind you of?
- Why Elijah and Moses?
- God speaks: “This is my Son.” Are there any other Bible texts that speak like this about a) Israel, b) the king of Israel?
- What suffering is Jesus referring to at the end?
- What is the ‘big picture’ that these details add up to?

Pray

Is there anything you feel you need to pray for that has emerged from your reflection on the passage?

Some ideas:

- Give thanks that God has been revealed to us through the Bible.
- Pray for a better understanding of what Jesus’ life and death means for the world.
- Pray that you will be able to listen, understand, and respond to what God might be saying to you.

Week 4

Mark 14: 12-26

The Last Supper

*“Truly I say to you
that one of you will
betray Me”*

- Mark 14: 12-26 (18)

Starter

What is your favourite celebratory meal?

Prepare

Ask God to make the passage clear to you, to open your eyes and life to the Holy Spirit through this story.

Read

Read **Mark 14: 12-26** two or three times.

It might help to have different people read aloud, or to compare different translations of the Bible.

Try to retell the story in your own words. That might be out loud to another person, or in writing.

Try to pick out the important details.

- Which bits does the Bible emphasise- plot, characters, narrative shape, teaching?
- What has been left out?
- What are the most significant points?

Discuss or Reflect

If you can, compare your retelling with someone else's.

- How is it different - and why?
- Has the other person left out things you think are important, or included things you thought weren't important?
- What does this tell you about your experiences of the story?

What has the retelling made you realise about the passage:

- Has anything stood out for you personally - characters, words, ideas?
- Does the passage remind you of other Bible texts?

Pray

Is there anything you feel you need to pray for that has emerged from your reflection on the passage?

Some ideas:

- Give thanks for the Bible and all we can learn from it, and from each other's understanding of it.
- Pray for each other, and for all in your church.
- Wait in silence to see if God brings anything to mind for you to consider.