

## Mark 1:1-13

1. What is the biggest news story you have heard?
2. What are some of the signs that this world is in a mess?
3. Why is this the case? What solutions do we have?
4. What solution does God have? (v11)
5. Gospel means big news. It is a stop everything you are doing and listen to this, sort of news. What is the big news that Mark is relaying? (v1; 7; 10-11)
6. Why do you think this is such big news?
7. Why was it important for people to prepare themselves for the arrival Jesus? (v3; 7)
8. How do you think we might do this? (v15 might help)
9. What does it mean to repent? What does believe mean?
10. How have you prepared for the Kingdom of God (in other words for Jesus return) to come?

## Mark 1:14-45

1. What is the best slogan you have heard? What is the aim of a slogan or mission statement?
2. It seems from the beginning of Jesus ministry "the time has come" would be a good slogan or mission statement for Jesus and His ministry.  
What would it mean for the Jews of the time to hear the words, "The Time has Come?"
3. What does it mean for the people that the time has come? What are they asked to do?
4. What are some of the things that you have been conned or talked into? What are some of the things our world cons us into in regard to Jesus?
5. What do verses 16-20 show us about the people Jesus new kingdom is going to be made up of?
6. Read verse 21-28. Why are the people amazed? How does Jesus show that what they see in His teaching is true in his actions?
7. What are they comparing his teaching to? Why do you think people can see the authority in Jesus teaching?
8. What do verses 35-39 teach us about what Jesus was looking for in His ministry?
9. What does Jesus do in vv. 40-45 that the law was powerless to do? What does he do later that the law is also powerless to do?
10. What is it that people you know are looking for most in this world?
11. Where are they looking for the answers? When are you tempted to start looking in the wrong place?
12. Where is the only answer to be found?

## Mark 2:1-3:6

1. What are some of the big myths that float around? (Inside and outside the church.)
2. What are some of the myths that Jesus dismisses here?
3. What myth do people have about their greatest need? What do Mark 2:1-12 show us our greatest need truly is?
4. What was the thought of the Pharisees? How did they have it partly right?
5. What specifically upset the religious leaders about Jesus' actions in vv. 13-17? How do people today have a similar sort of exclusive thinking about who is acceptable to God?
6. What do these verses tell us about who Jesus came to save? Who are they?
7. What is Jesus trying to say in vv. 18-21? What are the Pharisees thinking?
8. The Pharisees are so caught up in keeping the law it seems that they have actually missed the whole point of it. How might we be at risk of a similar sort of attitude?

In this passage Mark is trying to show us that the gospel is all about Jesus. Salvation is all about Jesus. But there are many in the passage who seem to think it is about other things.

9. What are some of the other things that get in the way of the people in the passage?
10. What are some of the other things that get in the way for us? How can we be sure to not let this be the case?

## Mark 3:7-35

1. People are often confused about who Jesus is and what He has come to do. In this passage Mark starts to reveal more and more about who Jesus is. What were some of the areas that people may have been unclear about this coming Messiah?
2. Read Mark 2:7-12. Jesus does two powerful and provocative things here. What are they and why do you think He has done them? (Hint: See the actions that provoke the scribes' reaction in v. 7 and the actions of the demons in vv. 11-12.)
3. What are some ways that people might choose to follow Jesus for the wrong reasons?
4. Why is the demons confessing who Jesus is a problem? How does this give us an insight to who Jesus is and why he has come?
5. Read vv.13-15. What is the role of the apostles? What is the significance of having 12 disciples? (12 tribes of Israel?) What was Israel's role? How does the role of the disciples compare to this?
6. How is this consistent with the way people come to Jesus today?
7. Read vv. 20-27. What do these verses say about why Jesus came? How does this oppose the thoughts of Jesus' family, the scribes and the crowds who came to him earlier?
8. What does it mean to blaspheme against the Holy Spirit? (V30 gives us a context)
9. How does Jesus bind the strongman? How is his house plundered?
10. We are constantly warned that Satan is the father of lies. What are some of the lies he tries to convince us and our world of?
11. What strategies have we or can we put in place so as not to fall into the trap of the evil one?

## Mark 4:1-34

1. Jesus used many stories to communicate with the people and his disciples. In this passage, he uses various parables to describe people's response to the word of God and then what it means to live that way and what this Kingdom that he wants us to be a part of will look like. Where do the best crops in our area grow? Why?
2. Why do you think the crowd around Jesus was so big? What were they looking for? What did they get?
3. What problems did the sower encounter as he scattered the seed? (Mark 4:3-7)
4. Who or what does each of the following represent?  
  
Farmer:  
  
Seed:  
  
Soil:
5. In regards to soil type 1 what indicates a hardness of heart?
6. What are some aspects of a shallow response to the gospel?
7. What are some weeds that grow and choke out the possibility of fruit in someone's life?
8. What are the signs of a life that produces a crop?
9. How does this illustration help you to better understand people's reactions to the gospel?
10. Which type of soil do you think most accurately describes you and your response to the gospel so far?

11. What are the dangers of this soil type?

12. How do the following three parables link with the first one?

13. 13. What specific message or warning does *each* of the following parables provide?

- The Lamp under a basket (vv. 21-25)
- The Growing Seed (vv. 26-29)
- The Mustard Seed (vv. 30-32)

## Mark 4:24-5:20

1. Jesus warns us to "pay attention to what you hear." In a world full of competing voices, how do we practically "measure" the truth we receive? According to verse 25, what is the spiritual consequence of neglecting the truth we have already been given?
2. In the Parable of the Growing Seed, the labourer sleeps and rises while the seed grows "he knows not how." How might this parable encourage those in ministry or parents praying for their children?
3. The mustard seed was the smallest known seed to Jesus' audience, yet it became a resting place for birds. How does this parable reflect the Kingdom of Heaven?
4. The disciples were seasoned fishermen, yet they were terrified. Jesus, however, was asleep. What does incident say about Jesus and his claim to be Gods Son?
5. The disciples moved from being "afraid" of the storm to being "filled with great fear" (awe/reverence) of Jesus. Why is it that seeing Jesus' power was more unsettling to them than the storm itself? How does a "fear of the Lord" displace the "fear of circumstances"?
6. In the encounter with the Gerasene demoniac, we see the destructive nature of the demonic and the absolute authority of Christ. Why would a community prefer a violent, demon-possessed man in their midst over the presence of a holy and powerful Saviour?
7. How does our community / world reflect this to be true?
8. Across these chapters, we see Jesus exert authority over the ear (teaching), the earth (growth), the elements (wind/sea), and the enemy (demons). Which of these areas of His authority do you find hardest to trust in your current season of life, and why?

## Mark 6:1-56

1. When have you fallen into the trap of not knowing who you were dealing with? How did it turn out?
  
2. What is the picture of Jesus that we have so far from our studies in Mark? How have your views of Jesus been challenged or brought to light?
  
3. What are the responses to Jesus from the various groups in this chapter...
  - a. Hometown? (vv1-13)
  
  - b. Religious Leaders? (vv. 14-16)
  
4. How has our world/community misunderstood who Jesus is?
  
5. How might we fall into the trap of misunderstanding who Jesus is and why he has come?
  
6. Who does Jesus show us He is in verses 30-56? How does He do this?
  
7. Why is it so important to get who Jesus is right? How can we be sure to get it right?
  
8. How might our correct view of Jesus be offensive to some people? How has the correct view of Jesus changed your life? How does it continue to change you?

## Mark 7:1-23

1. What was the result of His hometown people not recognising Him as the Son of God?
2. What are some signs in our community that people don't really understand who Jesus is? What is the result of this?
3. How does Mark 7:1-5 show us that the Pharisees and others really didn't understand who Jesus was?
4. What do vv.6-7 & 13 say about how they really are?
5. Read 7:15-23. What is it that makes a person corrupt? What was the state of the hearts of the Pharisees?
6. What does Jeremiah 17:9 tell us about the state of our hearts?
7. What are some of the pious, religious attitudes that we often bring along with us?
8. What are some of the thinking and judgments that we make that are contaminated?
9. What is the condition of mans heart before and after coming to know Jesus?
10. How can we guard and have a proper understanding of the condition of our heart?

## Mark 8:22-9:1

1. What things in life are difficult to understand or what has taken you a while to come to an understanding?
2. What is the significance of the blind man seeing in this passage? Consider what follows in the chapter and the confession Peter makes in regards to Jesus in 8:29
3. What do vv.27-30 say to us about what the disciples have learned about who Jesus is? What evidence do they have of this?
4. Why would this have been considered to be such a big statement for the Jews to make?
5. This is a huge turning point in the gospel. Up until now Jesus has been teaching who he is. He now starts to teach the disciples what he must do and what it means for them. They don't have to wait long for their first lesson. Why do you think Jesus teaching in vv.31-33 come as such a shock to the disciples?
6. What is your response to Jesus teaching in 8:34-38? Why is it so important for us to get a grip of not only who Jesus is but what it means to follow Him?
7. What does it mean to deny yourself? Explain and discuss v35.
8. V36-37 ask significant life questions. We know the answer, why is it so hard to live the answer?