

rockypc SERIES COMPANION 2024



ONE STEP CLOSER

Mark's Gospel

WEEKS 19-23

*growing
disciples*
sacrifice. serve. speak



ONE STEP CLOSER

AN INTRODUCTION TO MARK'S GOSPEL¹

Jesus is the man of action, moving quickly and decisively from one event to the next. From the opening sentence, Mark's Gospel is packed full of action. It begins with God's interruption of history (1v1) and ends with a declaration that changes lives (15v39). But this book is not ancient history that belongs in a museum, Mark places all his readers in the story, recording for us the fast-paced movement of Jesus' ministry. In town after town, and story after story Mark shows us Jesus, the Son of God who's come to change the world.

The narrative moves quickly—the word 'immediately' appears 41 times in this the shortest and earliest gospel account, moving the action forwards with conflict arising quickly.² The people Jesus interacts with can't understand how He will bring all God's promises to bear as one who came to suffer, die and rise again.³

Mark shows us Jesus doing, more than Jesus teaching (in comparison with the other Gospel stories which include longer teaching sections), but the teaching is always there. What Jesus says is the climax to the story. Time and again, through his actions and his words, Jesus draws us towards himself because of his deep compassion for people in great need. Jesus shows what love is and the story moves unerringly towards the moment on calvary where Jesus dies on a cross, bearing God's wrath, so that God might pour out his love on all who would draw near to Jesus in faith.

Mark's Gospel story about Jesus focuses on the action. Our response to Jesus therefore, can't be passive, but, like his ministry, must be deliberate and decisive. He invites us, in each episode, to step closer to him — to know him, to see what he is like, to experience his compassion in our own lives, to be confident in his strength.

This year, we're taking a slow walk through Mark's Gospel. Taking one step at a time towards the cross. It's our hope that you'll find Jesus worthy of your greatest attention: unpredictable but reliable, gentle but powerful, authoritative but humble, human and divine. We urge you to consider the significance of his life for your own life, day-to-day, and invite you to take ONE STEP CLOSER each day.

A SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT READING THE GOSPELS — MARK IN COMPARISON WITH MATTHEW, LUKE & JOHN

We want to recognise that each of the Gospels tell the same overall story, and include very similar, smaller episodes in that story. It can be tempting then to read MARK in constant comparison with the other Gospels. However, it's important to realise that each Gospel writer is telling the story from their own perspective, with their own specific purpose behind what they include (or choose to leave out). Often this relates to the specific audience they're addressing. That's why we have four Gospels, and not one!

During this series, try to resist the temptation to look at the other Gospels to compare narratives (certainly not as the first thing you do). Instead, try to read Mark's Gospel on its own terms. Try to see how the details included by Mark fit together to form a compelling picture about who Jesus is, and how Jesus' identity is tied to his life-giving death on a cross.

¹ 'Gospel' means at its simplest 'good news'. It is a proclamation that things have changed for the better. Typically in the ancient world it was a word used to announce victory in battle. In the Bible, it proclaims the good news of the arrival of God's Promised King, heralded by the coming of His Promised King, Messiah Jesus. When used of the first four books in the New Testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke & John), we are referring to the good news story about Jesus according to that author.

² The Greek word translated 'immediately' is εὐθύς. In the New International Version, it is also translated with words like 'at once' or 'without delay'.

³ Mark's Gospel is presented in two acts. Act One identifies Jesus as God's promised Messianic King (ch1-8), whose purpose in coming, revealed in Act Two, was to give his life by dying on a cross as a ransom for many (ch9-16).

SO, WHO WAS MARK?

The earliest and most reliable information about Mark comes from Papias, the Bishop of Hierapolis until 139AD. Papias said that John Mark was a secretary and writer for the apostle Peter. Interestingly, Mark mentions Peter more than any of the other gospel writers. As you read through Mark, you'll see almost nothing happens where Peter is not present. The entire account then, is almost certainly the eyewitness testimony of Peter.

The book itself turns on Peter's confession:

Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi.

On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?"

They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Peter answered, "You are the Messiah."

Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him. He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.

Mark 8v27-31

The events of Mark's gospel take place around Palestine, an area from Caesarea Philippi in the North to Beersheba in the South. During Jesus' ministry this region was ruled by the Roman Empire during the reign of Pontius Pilate and the tetrarchs, Antipas and Philip.

The Gospel stories are certainly intended to speak to everyone, but as mentioned above, each Gospel author has a specific purpose for what they included, often targeted towards a specific audience of people with specific needs.

Mark's Gospel seems to be especially focused on Roman Gentiles, making sure he explains things from the Jewish/Hebrew culture that wouldn't otherwise make sense. So, it's significant that from the turning point of Peter's confession about Jesus' identity as the Messiah, the story moves rapidly to its conclusion where a Roman centurion looks up at Jesus on the cross:

And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"

Mark 15v39

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THIS SERIES COMPANION

ON YOUR OWN—Take your time reading through each of the passages and consider where you are up to in Mark's Story. Ask where Jesus is currently located, find it on the map, and consider whether this is significant. If you have time, work through the questions before your GROWTH GROUP so that you've started thinking about the topic before you arrive.

WITH YOUR GROWTH GROUP—Don't be afraid to stop and talk about things that grab your attention or raise questions for you. Above all, spend your time considering what we learn about the man, Jesus, and consider what it will mean for you to take ONE STEP CLOSER to him in faith.

ON SUNDAY—Make sure you bring your SERIES COMPANION along with you, so that you can keep track of any questions you have and record the way that God's Spirit is helping you to understand His Word and grow in your love for Jesus.





FAITHFULNESS

MARK 10v1-12

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

GETTING STARTED

Do you like going to weddings? What makes them special? What makes them awkward/painful?

At the end of last term we saw Jesus predict his suffering, death and resurrection; the disciples misunderstand; and, an explanation that following a crucified Messiah will mean picking up a cross ourselves (8v31-28). Following the same pattern, Jesus predicted his death and resurrection a second time in 9v30-31, the disciples misunderstood again, and thought God's kingdom was about greatness in 9v31-34. Then we looked at Jesus' response, as he used a child to say that his kingdom is about welcoming the least in, and not causing them to stumble (9v35-48). God's kingdom is about living in purity and peace (9v49-50).

In 10v1-12, we are picking up the story in the middle of Jesus explanation of discipleship in his kingdom. We can tell that we're still in the middle of the same issue because next week, Jesus will take up a child again to talk about who will enter his kingdom and then a rich man will ask about entering the kingdom (9v13-31). The pattern will repeat as Jesus predicts his death and resurrection again in 9v32-52.

Because we are in the middle of a section about discipleship in God's kingdom, we need to read what Jesus says about divorce in this light, along with the Old Testament background. We can learn much here about God's purposes in gender, sexuality and marriage. But we will also see how it is an issue of how we relate to him and his kingdom.

You might find this a hard part of God's word to read if you have had personal experience with divorce, as a child, for yourself or if your marriage is currently strained. It may be hard to read as a single person also. So as we read and discuss, let's do so with compassion and gentleness, and with a determination to see how God is good to us in this area of life, as he is in all areas of life.

READ MARK 10v1-4

1. The Pharisees have tested Jesus a number of times before in Mark's gospel. What is their question now?

The Pharisees clearly know that Moses permitted divorce. So it seems that their question is not about whether it is permitted, but which reasons are allowable. This was a live debate among the traditions of various rabbis at the time. Could they divorce for adultery only or if a wife displeased her husband in any way? They may have also been raising a political debate about the divorce of King Herod and his subsequent remarriage (Mark 6v17-20).

READ DEUTERONOMY 24v1-4

2. What does the LORD detest?

READ MARK 10v5-9

3. Why did Moses write this law permitting divorce?

4. How does Jesus expose the Pharisees' hearts with his answer in v6-9?

5. What do we learn about gender, sexuality and marriage here? (see also Genesis 1v26-28; 2v20-25)

6. What do we learn about God here?

READ MARK 10v10-12

7. How does Jesus' concern here reflect Moses' concern in Deuteronomy 24? (see also Exodus 20v14)

Jesus' teaching about divorce has lots of implications for us that we will think about soon. But we need to see it in the context of Israel's story of a marriage relationship with the LORD God.

READ EXODUS 19v3-8

8. What does the LORD promise the people of Israel? How do they respond?

Note that this happens directly before God gives Moses the 10 commandments and other laws.

God often describes this covenant as a marriage relationship, and Israel's idolatry as adultery (eg Isaiah 54v5-8). In the final study last term, we read Malachi 2v7-9, as the priests were cursed by God for causing others to stumble. Which is the same concern Jesus had for his disciples in Mark 9v42. Malachi goes on to talk about the problem of divorce, just as Jesus does.

READ MALACHI 2v10-16

9. How is divorce bad for both husband and wife?

10. How is divorce a spiritual problem?

The Pharisees wanted Jesus to say that divorce was permissible for any reason. They thought it was no big deal to get divorced in order to marry someone else. But Jesus shows they've misunderstood God's good creation purposes of a lifelong, faithful union of a man and woman.

'Deuteronomy 24... is, in other words, a text of concession, not a text of intention. You do not learn to fly an airplane by following the instructions for making a crash landing; you will not be successful in war if you train by the rules for beating a retreat. The same is true of marriage and divorce... Jesus endeavors to recover God's will for marriage, not to argue about possible exceptions to it. His opponents ask what is permissible; he points to what is commanded.' p301, Edwards, *The Gospel According to Mark Pillar Commentary*

They're causing others to stumble by teaching them to disregard God's purposes and to ultimately commit adultery. But this just highlights their spiritual problem — hard hearts that are unfaithful to the God who is always a faithful husband to his people.

READ JEREMIAH 31v31-34

Jeremiah spoke of the day when Jesus would come.

11. What hope is there for unfaithful, sexually-broken people like us?

growing disciples

At **rockypc** we have 5 core values — we want to be growing disciples who are DEEP IN THE WORD, SEEKING GOD, on MISSION, as we SERVE in COMMUNITY together.

What have you found hard in listening to Jesus in Mark 10?

Spend a couple of minutes reflecting on whether there is something you need to repent of? Share with the group if you are comfortable. Or speak to someone later, if you need to talk it through privately.



SEEKING GOD

How has your view of marriage been challenged today? About God's purposes for gender, sexuality and marriage? Whether God cares what happens in our bedrooms? Something else?



SEEKING GOD

What have you learned about God today that encourages and strengthens you?

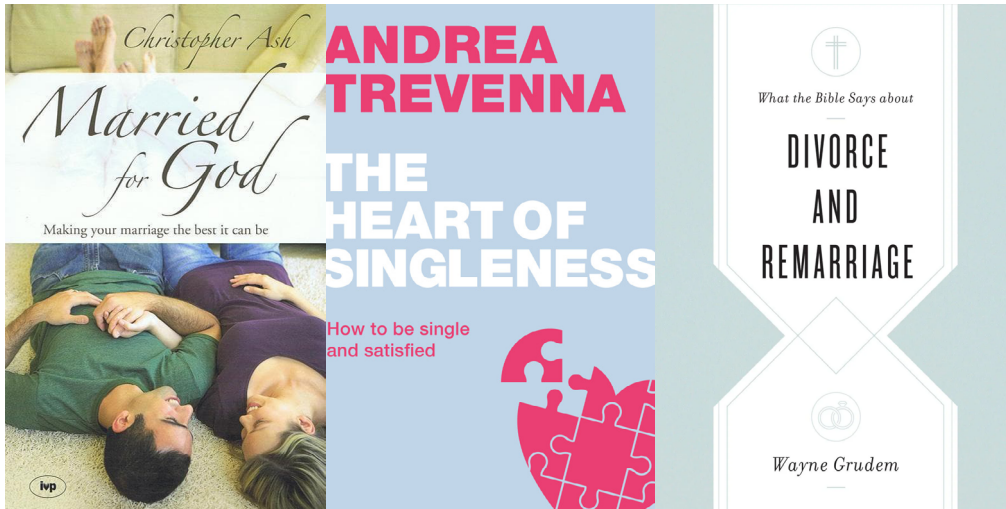


SEEKING GOD



How can **rockypc** be a COMMUNITY that honours marriage, encourages faithfulness and helps one another compassionately when marriage and singleness are hard?

There is a lot to say that we haven't covered in this study. For example, about abuse, abandonment or adultery within marriage. If you would like to look into these issues further, take a look at these resources:



Another helpful resource for thinking about caring for single people at **rockypc** (whether divorced or not) is the ministry of SINGLE-MINDED. They run a number of seminars throughout the year for everyone to consider how to care well for everyone in the family of God.



[Check out this year's seminars — past and upcoming at www.singleminded.community/seminarseries](http://www.singleminded.community/seminarseries)

PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God that he is a faithful husband to us, his church. Praise him that he always loves, protects and cherishes us.
- Praise God for his good design for gender, sexuality and marriage.
- Confess that we are not always faithful in our marriages. We fail to always love with honesty, gentleness and perseverance.
- Pray that we would keep turning to Jesus for forgiveness, and a renewed heart that wants to obey him.
- Pray that we would show one another kindness and compassion when our marriages are at breaking point or we have experienced the pain of divorce.
- Pray that **rockypc** would be a COMMUNITY that cares for one another through the grief of divorce, honours marriage and restoration, protects the vulnerable and welcomes those who are single.



RECEIVING THE KINGDOM

MARK 10v13-31

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

GETTING STARTED

Are you a saver or a spender? What is your “money personality”?

As we’ve seen over the last couple of chapters, Mark has been showing what following Jesus looks like in this pattern:

- Jesus predicts his death and resurrection
 - The disciples misunderstand
- Jesus explains that discipleship means denying yourself and following him into suffering, in order to share in his glory.

Today, we are spending a third week in the final step of the second repetition of the pattern, that stretches from 9v35-10v31. We’ve seen Jesus tell the disciples to welcome a little child in his name and not cause them to stumble and miss out on entering life. And last week, we heard God’s desire for faithfulness in marriage, because he desires faithfulness to him in every way.

READ MARK 10v13-16

1. What makes Jesus indignant? (see also 9v36-37, 42)

Jesus uses these children as a visual parable of those who can enter his kingdom.

2. Brainstorm some options for what it means to receive the kingdom ‘like a little child’.

The very next story is going to explain what being ‘like a little child’ means.

READ MARK 10v17-22

3. What does this man do well, as he meets Jesus in v 17?

4. What do you make of Jesus’ enigmatic response in v18? See also Deuteronomy 6v4-5; Mark 2v5-7

Jesus points the man to a number of the 10 commandments. The man may not be arrogant in declaring his obedience, because Jesus doesn’t condemn his hypocrisy here.

5. How does Jesus look at the man?

6. How does Jesus show what is lacking in the man who has everything? (see also Mark 4v18-19; 8v34-38)

READ MARK 10v23-27

7. What does Jesus' parable about camels and needles demonstrate?

The disciples are amazed that rich people find it hard to enter God's kingdom.

READ PSALM 128

8. What did Jewish people expect riches to mean?

9. If obedient, God-fearing, rich people can't enter God's kingdom, what hope does Jesus offer in Mark 10v27?

READ MARK 10v28-31

10. How are the disciples' actions a contrast to the rich man? (see also 1v16-20, 8v34-38)

11. How have they received the kingdom like children? (10v13-16, 24)

12. Do Jesus' followers lose out by leaving everything to follow him? (see also 3v31-35, 4v20, 6v5-11)

13. How could persecutions be a blessing in this present age?

growing disciples

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How have possessions and wealth captured your heart and mind?
What will you change so that you can treasure Jesus instead?



Which of your good works/obedience are you hoping will gain you entry into God's kingdom?
How can you *receive* the kingdom like a child? (v15, 27)



Is God a miser or a kill-joy as he demands that we give up everything to follow Jesus?
Do you really believe following Jesus is worth it?



How have you seen God's blessings (and persecutions) in this present age?
What blessing are you most looking forward to in the age to come?

PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God that he makes it possible to receive his kingdom. Praise him for this gift that we can't buy or earn. Pray that we'd receive his kingdom like little children — those who know we have nothing to offer.
- Ask forgiveness for when we've treasured wealth and possessions instead of Jesus. Pray that we'd delight to give up everything in order to follow him — that nothing would prevent us from inheriting eternal life.
- Confess when we've doubted that following Jesus is worth it. For when we've called God a miser and a kill-joy.
- Thank God for the many, many blessings we've received from him — a place in his family, a home with him and even persecutions. Praise him for the hope we have of eternal life with him.



A RANSOM FOR MANY

MARK 10v32-45

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

GETTING STARTED

Have you ever had your 15 min (or more) of fame? Tell us about it.

We're in the third and final repetition of the pattern where Jesus predicts his death, the disciples misunderstand and Jesus explains that his disciples will follow in his footsteps through suffering. They are steadily travelling to Jerusalem together, with Jesus leading the way.

READ MARK 10v32-34

1. How are the various disciples reacting as they near Jesus' destination?
2. Compare v33-34 with the previous 2 predictions in 8v31 and 9v31. What do you notice?
3. Is Jesus right about what will happen to him? (scan Chapters 14-16)
4. What reasons can you think of for why Jesus explained this 3 times to his disciples, before it actually happened?
(See also Psalm 22v7; Isaiah 50v5-7; 53v9-12)

READ MARK 10v35-40

5. What do you think about James' and John's request?
6. What are the cup and baptism that Jesus refers to? (see Psalm 75; Exodus 14v13-31; Psalm 69v1-2; 14-15)
Note: 'Baptism' can mean being drowned or overwhelmed
7. How do you think James and John will drink the same cup and undergo the same baptism as Jesus? (See Romans 6v3-11)

8. Who was on Jesus' right and left when he drank the cup and was baptised? (see also Mark 15v27-32)

READ MARK 10v41-45

9. What do you think makes the other disciples indignant?

10. How does Jesus contrast Gentile leaders with those in his kingdom? How is Jesus the ultimate example of this?

11. How does Jesus give his life as a ransom for many? (See also Psalm 49v7-15; Isaiah 53v4-8)

growing disciples

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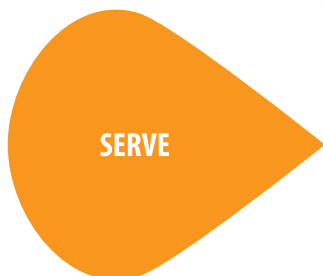
From this passage, what is beautiful about Jesus to you? What is comforting? What gives you hope?



What kind of a leader are you (in whatever sphere of life)? When do you lord it over others or seek to be served?

How can Jesus transform your motivations and actions?

What effect might this have as you serve at home, work, in the community and at **rockypc**?



PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God for Jesus, the Son of Man who didn't come to be served, but to give his life as a ransom for many. Praise God that he was delivered over to his enemies, condemned, mocked, spat on, flogged and killed. And that he did it to drink the cup of judgement we deserved.
- Praise God that he vindicated Jesus as the glorious Son of Man, when he rose back to life on the third day.
- Confess when you have sought your own glory instead of Jesus'. Ask forgiveness for when you've lorded over others, expecting them to serve you.
- Ask for Jesus to transform us to be like him servants and slaves of all.



THE MERCIFUL KING

MARK 10v46-11v11

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

GETTING STARTED

Tell the group about a time someone has shown you mercy (someone besides Jesus!).

Mark told us about Jesus travelling around the Sea of Galilee in Chapters 1-8. From then on (to the start of Chapter 11), Jesus and his disciples have been steadily walking to Jerusalem, and to the cross that awaits there. Today, we will see the last episodes in his journey to the temple, the centre of Israel's worship.

READ MARK 10v46-52

1. How would you describe Bartimaeus and his circumstances in v46-48?
2. What does this blind man see clearly about Jesus? What is important about this title? (See 2 Samuel 7v11b-17; Jeremiah 23v5-6)
3. How does Jesus treat Bartimaeus? (cf 10v35-40)
Note: Bartimaeus means 'son of honour'
4. In what ways does Bartimaeus embody what Jesus has been teaching about discipleship on the way to Jerusalem? (see 8v27-29; 34; 9v22-24; 10v13-16; v21; v42-44)

READ MARK 11v1-11

5. What strikes you about the way Jesus acquires a ride into Jerusalem?

READ GENESIS 49v1, 8-12; ZECHARIAH 9v9-10

6. What is the significance of Jesus riding a colt into the city? Do you think the crowds recognise this?

The songs the people sing here are traditional songs for all pilgrims making their way into Jerusalem. It is not clear that the crowd are celebrating the arrival of a king. But their words may have more significance than they realise.

READ PSALM 118v10-15, 25-29

7. What are the people asking as they sing these words in Mark 11?

Hosanna is a transliteration of the Hebrew 'Save us now'

8. How is Mark 11v11 an anticlimax?

growing disciples

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What has been striking/refreshing/comforting for you as you've seen Jesus today?

How can you respond to him with joyful following?



Do you see Jesus clearly? Where do you need his help to see?



Have you echoed Bartimaeus' desperate cry for mercy to Jesus, the Son of David? How has he answered you?



PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God for Jesus, the son of David, the Messiah, the king who saves God's people. Pray that we would see him clearly.
- Praise Jesus for being the powerful king who rules and reigns. Praise him that he is beautifully humble.
- Cry out to Jesus for mercy. Thank him for generously pouring out his mercy on us.
- Pray that we'd respond to Jesus by following him with joy and delight.



THE FIG TREE AND THE VINEYARD

MARK 11v12-12v12

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

GETTING STARTED

What is your favourite fruit?

Jesus has reached Jerusalem after a long march. He comes in and out of the city several times over the next couple of chapters. It's the scene of a number of conflicts between Jesus and the temple and religious leaders.

Mark tells us about the temple in a sandwich form — fig tree, temple, fig tree. We're meant to see how the fig tree tells us something about the temple.

READ MARK 11v12-14

1. How do you react to what Jesus says here?

Note: 'it was not the season for figs' doesn't mean that there couldn't have been any fruit on the tree. When there were leaves, there should have been unripe, but edible figs called paggim.

READ MARK 11v15-19; ISAIAH 56v4-8; JEREMIAH 7v9-11

2. What is Jesus' motivation for his actions here?

Jesus isn't 'cleansing' or 'clearing' the temple. He is halting all of the sacrificial activity.

3. How do the various groups react in v18?

READ MARK 11v20-21

4. What happened to the fig tree?

5. What does this show us about the temple? (see also Isaiah 34v1-4, 8; Micah 6v13-7v1)

READ MARK 11v22-25

Jesus has already encouraged the disciples to have faith in him, in place of fear (4v40; 5v36; 6v50).

6. How is Jesus the man of faith? (see Mark 2v5-10; 5v11-13)

7. How does Jesus grant this to disciples who follow him by faith? (see Mark 6v11-13)

READ MARK 11v27-33

The Chief Priests, the teachers of the law (or scribes) and the elders (wealthy lay people), formed the ruling council called the Sanhedrin. 'These things' that they want to hear Jesus' credentials for in v28, include his actions in the temple in v15-17. But perhaps the whole of Mark's story is on view — 'Jesus' presumption to forgive sins (2v5), accept sinners (2v15), call tax collectors into fellowship (2v13), redefine the Sabbath (2v28), and lay an ax to the root of the oral tradition (7v1-13)... The clearing of the temple, in other words, was not a momentary aberration of Jesus, but a characteristic expression of his authority' p351, *Edwards, The Gospel According to Mark Pillar Commentary*

8. How are Jesus' and John's authority linked? (Mark 1v4, 9-11)

9. How does Jesus expose the religious leaders' hearts?

READ MARK 12v1-12 & THEN READ ISAIAH 5v1-7

10. Identify who and what Jesus is talking about in this parable. The vineyard? The tenants? The desired fruit? The servants? The Son? (see also Jeremiah 7v25-29)

Isaiah's parable focuses on the care of God and his surprise that Israel don't produce good grapes. Jesus is clearly referring to this earlier parable of judgement, but he has a different emphasis.

11. Who does Jesus focus on? What do they do to deserve judgement?

In Mark 11v9-10, the crowds were singing Psalm 118 as a joyful salvation song for pilgrims entering Jerusalem. But now, Jesus is quoting another part of the Psalm (118v22-23)

12. What was God's plan all along, as his Son was rejected?

growing disciples

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How has your view of Jesus expanded today? His authority? His judgement? His forgiveness? His openness to all nations? That he's the new temple? Something else?



SEEKING GOD

Can you come to Jesus? What would keep you away?

What will honouring Jesus as God's beloved Son, and having faith in him look like for you? What is the fruit he is after in you?



SEEKING GOD

Which of your friends think they can sit on the fence about Jesus — neither honouring nor rejecting? Which deny his authority to forgive or judge? Which don't believe he's God's beloved Son? Pray for them together now.



MISSION

PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God for his beloved Son, Jesus — the heir who came to his people, to be rejected and killed. Praise him for his marvelous salvation. Praise him for being a new temple where we can come to God, as people from all nations.
- Pray that we would honour Jesus as he deserves. Ask that we would pray to him in faith, not doubting him. Pray that we'd display the fruit of repentance and righteousness.
- Praise God that his judgement is always good and right, and he has given this authority to Jesus. Pray for friends and family who are facing his judgement. Ask that they would come to him in faith.