



elev8

life on another level

Student Workbook

YEAR 1

**The Gospel
of Mark
Kingdom of God**

Bible Readings
Mark 1 to 4



Learning Outcomes

At the end of this week you will be able to:

- Locate the first four chapters of Mark's biography on Jesus
- Express the main theme of Jesus' message in your own way
- Apply your learning to your own life and community

Notes from Bible Reading

Scripture A word or phrase that stood out to me:

Observation What is happening in this Bible reading?

Application Something that I learned about who I am or how I should live:

Prayer What I would like to say to God, ask of God, or what I think God is saying to me:

Key Question What is the main theme Jesus is trying to get across to people?

Engage

Go around the group and share one thing for each heading that has happened since you last met :

- Plus – What has been good or enjoyable ?
- Minus – What has been difficult or painful ?
- Interesting – What has been unusual or thought provoking ?

What do you get excited about? What really fires you up and you look forward to?

Explore – Locate

- *What stood out to you in the Bible readings this week?*
- *What did you find meaningful or significant?*
- *Is there anything that you didn't understand or found confusing?*
- *Any questions or comments you may have?*

Read together: Mark 1:1-20

The previous two weeks has been about the beginning of time as we understand it. This week we start looking at the most significant human being in all history.

This guy is so significant, we measure time before and after his life (B.C: Before Christ & AD: Latin for 'year from his entry into our world'). Jesus literally splits human history!

But there is more to Jesus than expected and Mark is excited to share with anyone he can not only who Jesus is, but what it means for the whole destiny of the human race.

Five concepts to get excited about

1. Jesus wasn't God's 'Plan B' (a secondary plan just in case the first plan fails), he was part of God's original grand design.

The Jews already knew a saviour was on the way that would dramatically change the world as it was, already excitedly waiting hundreds of years for him.

By the way, Christ is Jesus' nickname or title, which just means the 'chosen saviour king'.

2. Jesus has great news for the whole of creation, and all the good changes are starting soon! He wasn't about creating a new religion or spiritual movement, but a new way of life for everyone and everything (in fact the early 'believers' just called what they were on about The Way).

Jesus used the term "Kingdom of God" to describe an alternate reality for everyone, where God's original dream for the healing and wholeness of all creation is how all people now see life.

(continued...)

Explore – Locate *(...continued)*

3. People originally learned about Jesus through him and other human beings not through pages in a thick book.

And they didn't just read, but sang and danced (sometimes to very loud music), performed poetry and drama, talked and questioned each other sometimes while their mouths were stuffed with food. Emotions were stirred, thoughts about the world and themselves were shaped and reshaped. Lifestyles and behaviours were radically improved. Lives were restarted, reformatted and 'converted' into whole new understandings of what life was about and for.

Learning about Jesus isn't about 'interesting and good' ideas, but more about how it practically changes your life and those around you, affects what you currently deal with, and what it means for the destiny for all.

4. Jesus not only claimed to speak about God, but gave evidence he had the power of God as well. Freaky supernatural stuff, as well as helping people understand clearly what God was about through his actions, and occasionally using words.

He didn't do stuff to prove to others he was God, but let people judge from the evidence.

5. Jesus not only offers a fresh start for people's lives, but also new identities and purposes.

Rather than see yourself as falling short of what society expects of you, Jesus helps people become an active conspirator, operative or agent right now (no matter your age, ability or circumstances) to make God's kingdom the only reality.

Explore – Express

Work in pairs to create a comic strip of 10 panels about the life of Jesus as described in chapters 1-4. Focus on what each scene is trying to get across about either the type of person Jesus was, or what the main ideas he was trying to get across to others.

Each pair will present their comic strip to the others and explain why they chose what they did to convey what was significant in chapters 1-4.

The main theme of Jesus' teaching, or the most popular topic he shares with others, is the idea of the Kingdom of God starting during his life, a new reality that people would live in and with.

Cadbury's ran a series of TV commercials on "Wouldn't it be nice if the world was chocolate?" showing us how life in that alternative reality would be like.

John Lennon sang a song called "Imagine" which was about an alternative reality he liked?

Describe, draw, act out or write a song about what you think life would be like in your 'alternative reality'?

How would people spend their time, and how would people relate to each other, and what would people want?

(continued...)

Explore – Express (...continued)

Explore – Integrate

Keep dreaming of what an ideal reality would be like.

Suggested ways forward:

With God:

Continue to invite God to collaborate with you on his vision of his new kingdom or reality. Set 3 minutes aside to try to listen or dream God's thoughts.

Within myself:

What do I need to change, ask help to change, develop the skills for or get more knowledge about to reflect God's new reality.

With others:

What can I volunteer for, or who should I just spend more time directly working with or for, in order for someone else to experience more of what God's kingdom would be like right now in their lives (eg knowing that God provides, organising people to fundraise in order to give to someone else struggling, so they know that God does provide for their needs).

With the wider world:

What people or issue is God nudging me more on to find out more, care more about, pray regularly for, and what God wants me to do about improving their situation so that they experience more of God's kingdom in their lives.

Extend

Discuss with your group the challenges you are tackling. Use the time to ask for any help you might need, or to work together on any shared projects that you have.

Questions that may be helpful include:

- What challenges are you working on at the moment?
- Do you need any support or assistance?
- Are there any challenges that you have completed that we need to recognise and celebrate?
- Are there any new challenges that you want to work on?

Encourage

Tell another student in your group something you value or appreciate about them.

Share one thing you would like to pray for and pray for one another.

Pray for us to imagine more what God's kingdom reality will be like in this life for a particular group of people.

Give thanks that God is God and capable of all things; and that God has equipped us, and has chosen us to be his agents, and fellow collaborators.

Pray that our hearts will be broken by the things that break God's heart.