



**elev8**

life on another level

# Student Workbook

**YEAR 1**

**The Gospel  
of Mark  
Kingdom of God**

**Bible Readings**  
Mark 5 to 8



### Learning Outcomes

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

- Locate chapters 5 – 8 of Mark's biography on Jesus.
- Express the idea of the Kingdom of God active now 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:

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**Observation** What is happening in this Bible reading?

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

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

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**Key Question** How can people experience the way God intended life to be (the Kingdom of God) right now?

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### 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?

Imagine what the best life you could have, and describe what you would do each day of the week, who you would spend it with and what it would be like for them too?

### 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 8:27-38

Road trip! Jesus and his crew and more on the move, meeting all sorts of people, doing things and sharing ideas and stories that cause them to rethink themselves and their purposes.

Five concepts to get excited about

**1.** Great ideas are always practical, and we see lives changed not just because something good happened to them, but because they now saw themselves in a different light, a fresh start and a new appreciation for being alive.

A demon-possessed man freed is not going to live like he used to, neither is a woman who spent years focused on her sickness, or a dad who once thought his daughter was dead!

It's easy to imagine these people are now going to focus on what is really important in life.

**2.** It's easy to focus on the magic tricks and think that God is just trying to wow people into believing in him, but when pressed he doesn't perform on cue like a dancing bear.

Even when he does something really impressive to thousands of people, he takes off soon after, not allowing them to 'worship' him.

The focus was on the changes that could happen in the lives of others (repent just means turn around to go into a new different direction) and the magic happened after there was already some 'faith' or attitude of desperately wanting change in their lives.

**3.** It's easy to look 'clean', 'good' and 'right' to other people. Jesus cuts through false fronts and appearances, and makes it clear what's on the inside is more important.

Even sometimes wanting to do 'good stuff with and for God' can be wrong, if your motives are more for yourself deep down.

But Jesus doesn't condemn people for what is there, but offers them help to change the darkness, brokenness and weaknesses there.

**4.** Suffering and sacrifice are involved in working with God to save the world. Achieving something great is never easy or quickly obtained. You have a greater sense of satisfaction finishing hard games or winning against harder opponents.

Giving in is easy, but sometimes the consequences for not standing strong will haunt you for the rest of your lives.

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### Explore – Locate *(...continued)*

Whatever Jesus asks or inspires us to do, always remember that Jesus was always prepared to do it first. He took the initiative and didn't just let things happen around him. Jesus knew he was going to die, but he knew it was worth it.

So don't expect to have an easy comfortable life with God, but know that what you do with God is going to be amazing.

5. God continues to choose the most unlikely people to work with, even people that good religious people don't like or trust. Keep your eyes on what God is about, not what label people wear or are part of.

### Explore – Express

The life of Jesus as told by Mark is largely from Peter's point of view, as Mark spent a lot of time with Peter later in his life. And we know it's a pretty honest account, because Peter comes across as a bit of an idiot at times!

Work in pairs to come up with 10 Face Book status updates by Peter during the events that are mentioned in chapters 5 – 8.

Get each pair to present their status updates to the others and explain why they chose what they did to convey what stood out for them in these chapters.

Come up with 5 main areas you want to see change for the better in human life or society within 5 years.

Share your dreams of the Kingdom of God.

### Explore – Integrate

Mark fleshes out a lot more in a practical way what it means to live out and experience what the kingdom of God, or God's new reality, is actually like for real people.

He gets people to imagine what life will be like when everything runs the way God intended, and when each person is and lives like they were intended to be, and when everyone relates to God and each other in line with the original dream.

#### **Suggested ways forward:**

##### **With God:**

What is one thing in how I view, relate to or practically live with God that could change to be more like God originally intended it to be?

(e.g. Do I need to feel his reality more? Do I need to communicate more to him? Do I need to listen to him more? Do I just need to enjoy his company more? Do I need to forgive him or he forgive me more?)

##### **Within myself:**

What is one area of my life or behaviour or thinking that I want change in to be more in line with what God intended for my life?

(e.g. Do I need to celebrate my body more rather than focus on its faults? Do I need to change aspects of my life to be better? Do I need to seek help to

*(continued...)*

### Explore – Apply *(...continued)*

improve or have someone else in my life that keeps me more on track? Do I need to be more honest?)

#### **With others:**

Be specific about who do I need to spend more time with and help them experience more of life as God intended it to be for that person?

(e.g. In God's kingdom, no will feel lonely and rejected, how can I make someone I already think is that way experience God's new reality now?)

#### **With the wider world:**

What issue (the way people or other aspects of creation is suffering) is something that won't exist in God's new reality, and what can I do, or join in the work of God and others in order to change it now?

What practical steps will I take in order to help bring God's kingdom more into reality now?

(e.g. God embracing and looking out for all people no matter how different or wrong society or others judge them to be – whether ugly, weird, gay, wrong religion or race, not cool enough, too disabled, suffering in another country, or whatever. )

### 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.

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 I continue to see the ways I need to change in myself or become more like in order to be more the person you intended me to be.

Pray for us to imagine more what God's kingdom reality will be like in this life now and how I can be a part of bringing it into reality (Lord I pray that I may help "your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven").