



elev8

life on another level

Student Workbook

YEAR 1

**The Gospel
of Mark
Kingdom of God**

Bible Readings
Mark 9 to 12



Learning Outcomes

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

- Locate chapters 9-12 of Mark's biography on Jesus.
- Express the main ways people embrace and react badly to the idea of 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:

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 How do people react to Jesus' aims and purpose?

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?

Think of things you and other have been excited by in life – e.g. a particular band, movie, event, experience, other person, etc.

When you've been really excited about something, how do others react in supportive and in unsupportive ways? (Or how have you reacted supportively or unsupportively to someone else being excited?)

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 12:1-12

Counsellors know that most people often say they want change in their lives but really don't.

People don't change unless life as it is unbearable and they are desperate enough to change, but even then often avoid it.

One of the most important steps of the Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) self-help approach is for the individual to realise the full extent of the negative consequences of their current lifestyle on all the people around them, as well as equip them to keep moving forward.

There is a lot of comfort and security in knowing how things are (even if they are bad) rather than facing an unknown future with unknown outcomes.

But holding onto how things are (and looking at other ways to distract or numb the current discomfort) prevents a brighter and more hopeful future.

You've got to leave the ground if you're going to climb the ladder to see life from a higher viewpoint!

Five concepts to get excited about

1. Because we know Jesus is the son of God, we can trust his ways will bring a brighter future for all (Mark 9:7).
2. Even when we doubt, we can ask God for a better ability to trust in him (Mark 9:24).
If you want to be able to trust a friend more, give them more of yourself that they can betray you with, and see what happens. If they stay true, you know you can trust them with more.
3. It is perfectly natural when you're on the winning side to want to think well of yourself, and forget you're part of a team. Look after the rest in your team, and you will go better.
4. The Kingdom of God is often described by others as having upside down values to what we expect.
 - To be seen as a great leader, be a servant or slave to all.
 - To be wise, assume you know very little.
 - Give your highest priority to and look out for those that are the least important or have nothing to give.
 - Rather than look for what you can get out of a relationship, focus more on what you can give.
 - Sacrifice more in order to be richer.
 - If you want to get people's attention do something that is least expected of someone important.

(continued...)

Explore – Locate *(...continued)*

5. If you really are about God's business, you will face opposition from those with the greatest power, influence and money because they have the most to lose when the upside down kingdom comes into play.

In society, which side of the balance are you currently on? If you're on the wrong side, you're probably not going to look forward to God's kingdom coming as things will change away from your favour.

Even the 'good' people might be on the wrong side if they are only focussed on people just like them and are not active about bringing God's new reality to everyone everywhere else.

Explore – Express

In pairs, create a top ten listing of Jesus' ideas in chapters 9 – 12.

You might write down a quote or passage or just a summary (or section title if your Bible has those) of a section of a chapter.

Each pair will present their ideas to the others and explain why they chose what they did to convey what was significant in these chapters.

Choose one idea from Jesus and brainstorm what would happen to the world if it was adopted and applied by everyone.

How would it affect how people saw themselves, others, everyday life, money, goals, behaviour, education and training programs, religious structure or practices, entertainment and hobbies, etc?

Look at the positives and negative impacts it would have on life as we know it.

Explore – Integrate

"Nothing changes if nothing changes." Drastic change generally involves drastic action. You've got to make choices and follow through if you want change in yourself and the world.

Suggested ways forward:

WITH GOD:

What is one thing I need to start doing more of in order to change how I relate to or practically trust in God?

WITHIN MYSELF:

What is one area I need to start doing more of in order to be more equipped or be more active in helping the Kingdom of God be real?

WITH OTHERS:

Who should I be spending more time with actively to help them experience more of the new reality of God?

WITH THE WIDER WORLD:

What issue or groups do I need to be more actively involved with to bring change into the world, knowing that doing so will involve sacrifice and opposition from others because they like the way things are (or the way they have gotten used to seeing you)?

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 know our purpose is to be active agents to help bring about God's new reality now and to live that out boldly without doubt or fear.

Give thanks that God is God and capable of all things, and that God has equipped us, and will look out for his agents that are helping bring about his Kingdom on earth.