



**elev8**

life on another level

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# Student Workbook

**YEAR 1**

**The Gospel  
of Mark  
Kingdom of God**

**Bible Readings**  
Mark 13 to 16



### Learning Outcomes

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

- Locate chapters 13 – 16 of Mark's biography on Jesus.
- Express the main theme of facing opposition 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 do we react to opposition?

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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?

Think of something you enjoy doing (a sport, hobby, video game, stuff you build, etc) and talk about some of the challenges involved with it (whether it is not enough time or money to do more of it, or tough opponents, or not having enough skill, practice or right equipment at the time).

### 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:** Last four chapters

If you didn't already know, here's a spoiler: Jesus dies. So we have the lead up to his execution, some gruesome details about it and the epilogue.

Five concepts to get excited about

#### 1. Jesus' death was all part of the plan.

You know how in bad movies you can predict the plot and all the things that are going to happen? Most humans are predictable like that.

God didn't have to control people against their will (just like you don't control the actors in a predictable movie). He just knew what they would do.

And he let it happen so that the bigger picture could be served. All the people involved were told by Jesus what they were going to do, so they had the choice to change.

But as we looked at earlier, people rarely change.

#### 2. Be open to change.

Even though most people don't actively change, some people do, especially those that ask God for help with the change.

Sure some of those changes might be very, very scary like facing death when you're fighting for a cause worth dying for, but God will help you see it through.

Remember there are countless many that continue to die in the world today because they are striving to bring more of God's kingdom right now and are facing opposition from people who don't want things to change.

God doesn't take us away from challenges, but helps us with them.

#### 3. Many will claim to speak on God's behalf, and it is important for us to use our judgment.

Is what is being said more in line with the culture we live in and its values, or are the values and priorities on God's upside down kingdom?

Always check that 'good' advice is also right in God's eyes. Jesus was not always the 'nice guy', just like people who follow Jesus should sometimes be difficult and frustrating people because they stand

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### Explore – Locate (...continued)

up for what is right not just what is comfortable and will make people happy.

#### 4. Remember Jesus' act of total obedience and sacrifice every time you eat and drink.

Even the people that watched him die knew there was something special about him. Sure many churches celebrate and remember Jesus' last supper and 'communion' with his mates in different ways, and they have value in themselves.

We remember with the ritual act of eating and drinking because we know how easily we forget and take for granted what we already have.

#### 5. Situations that are hugely challenging or times that we failed need to be seen as great opportunities to see how much we trust in God and live our his Kingdom (Mark 13:9 – 11).

Knowing we will occasionally fail to stand up for the right things or even act right, Jesus offers us second chances.

As a quote from the movie "Batman Begins" says: We fall, so we can get up again.

### Explore – Express

Form two teams to debate the topic: "Human history would be so much better off if Jesus had been saved from dying on the cross."

Flip a coin to decide which team will be defending the statement, while the other team has to argue the other side.

Spend 10 minutes to research, discuss and prepare your team's arguments. It would be good to have at least two computers/phones with internet access to help each team prepare their comments.

- Remember in a debate, each team needs to order their speakers, with each speaker only speaking once.
- Each team takes turns on who is speaking. You can decide how long each speaker speaks for, but it has to be an agreed time limit that applies to all speakers.
- The first generally gives an overview of his team's main ideas, with subsequent speakers able to debate the arguments of the other team.
- Finally the last speaker sums up his team's position as well as is able to rebut (argue against) the other team.

If there is time, discuss the passages of Mark 13:5 – 6.

How can we tell if someone is falsely coming in Jesus' name? What are the ways can we judge if someone is just saying 'good and nice' things versus the 'right' things by God?

### Explore – Integrate

At the end of Mark's biography it says that Jesus had risen from the dead and went into Galilee after the women went to his tomb. Jesus goes before us in the world, so we should be confident to be bold witnesses and workers with him.

#### Suggested ways forward:

With God:

Knowing I have been chosen by God to be a mighty witness and worker, where do I need to go to and be more of a witness in word and deed for the Kingdom of God and trust that he will speak through us?

Within myself:

What fears or temptations do I need to hand over to God, to believe more that he has equipped me sufficiently and I have everything it takes to serve him, just as long as I put myself in the situations where I can be more active agents of the Kingdom?

With others:

Whose views and approval do I need to ignore (and not always argue with or feel intimidated by) in order to be bold for God? Who else do I need to spend more continuous time with to help them experience God's new reality now regardless of what others think?

With the wider world:

What issue or groups do I need to be more actively and boldly involved with to bring change into the world, knowing that God has gone before me and wants me to join him there?

### 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 Mark 14:36 seven times.

Realising that God's will for your specific life has already been the stuff you've discovered about God's kingdom (or new reality) here on earth, pray you will trust more in God and actively joining in his work.

The things that seem to grab you or trigger something inside while you've been engaging with any of Jesus' life (or other parts of the Bible) gives you clues as to where your attention and focus should be.

Pray you trust God enough to be God so that you have the confidence to act and be bold about what God has already sparked in you or you seem to be thinking most of.