

MARK

Bible studies

Term 1, 2026



This Bible Study booklet has been produced for Mark chapters 10 to 16.

These are available for Quirindi Anglican Parish bible study groups & individuals.

Many of us believe the best way to get the most out of God's word & the preaching of it is to be familiar with Sunday's passage before we arrive at church. Hence, the bible studies are usually studied before the preaching on any given Sunday.

Mark's Gospel (chs 10-16)

The Way To The Cross

01 Feb

Mark 10:1-12

08 Feb

Mark 10:13-31

15 Feb

Mark 10:32-52

22 Feb

Mark 11:1-26

01 Mar

Mark 11:27 - 12:12

08 Mar

Mark 12:13-34

15 Mar

Mark 12:35-44

22 Mar

Mark 13:1-37

29 Mar

Mark 14:1-72

03 Apr

Mark 15:1-47

05 Apr

Mark 16:1-8

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. - Mark 10:45

Mark



This space is for notes, prayer points, or major learning points to meditate on further

Mark 10:1-12

Intro: What are some common attitudes toward marriage and divorce that you hear around Quirindi or in wider Australian society? How do these compare with what you grew up hearing?

Read Mark 10:1-12

1. Where has Jesus moved from & to? Locate on a map?
2. Who are the Pharisees and what was the intent of the question for Jesus? What was their goal? How might their question enable their goal?
3. How did Jesus initially answer their question? Why does He mention Moses? Read Deuteronomy 24:1-4 and compare their answer. (See Genesis 1:27, 2:24, 5:2)
4. What does Jesus say is God's will in this matter?
5. In v.9 Jesus gives a clear command. Who is the command address to? Is there any significance in this? Why?

6. Why does Jesus explain this when he is alone with the disciples? Does it seem stricter? (Why might they have needed further clarification?)
7. Jesus traces God's intention for marriage all the way back to creation, before the fall. Why is it important for Jesus to uphold God's original creation ordinance for marriage, even in a fallen world?
8. How should God's word intentionally shape our close relationship relationships, especially marriage in today's world?
9. How can we hold a high view of marriage whilst showing compassion to those whose marriages have failed?

Application

10. For those who are married: What is one practical way this passage challenges or encourages you in your marriage this week? For those who aren't married: How does understanding God's high view of marriage shape how you pray for or support married couples you know?
11. According to the apostle Paul what is marriage a picture of? See Ephesians 5:22 to 33. (The only reason we have hope despite our spiritual adultery is because Jesus keeps His covenant even when we break ours. Pray & thank God for that.)

Mark 10:13-31

Intro Question: If someone in town asked you, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?", how do you think most people around here would answer? What answers would you hear at the pub versus at church?

Mark 10:13-16

1. Who brings the children to Jesus, and what do the disciples do? Why do you think the disciples responded this way, what might they have been thinking?
2. How does Jesus respond to the disciples' actions in v.14? What two things does Jesus command?
3. What does Jesus mean that "the kingdom of God belongs to such as these"? What do you think it means to receive the kingdom like a child?
4. Jesus adds a solemn warning in v.15: those who don't receive the kingdom like a child will "never enter it." How serious is this?

Mark 10:17-22

5. What do you notice about the man's question in verse 17? What is the answer he is looking for.
6. How does Jesus respond to the means question? What does He list? (You can check Exodus 20:1-17)
7. Why do you think Jesus starts there instead of directly answering the man's question? Do you think the man's answer was honest?
8. V21 tells us Jesus looked at him and loved him. How does this change the tone of what Jesus says next? Why was it so devastating for this man?

9. What do you think is the one thing he lacks? Why do you think Jesus ask him to sell everything rather than giving some money to the poor?

Read Mark 10:23-27

10. N.b. Some people try to 'soften' Jesus as analogy in v.25, but I think he is probably being literal (that is an actual camel and an actual sewing needle). What point is Jesus trying to make about a rich person saving themselves?
11. Why are the disciples so shocked at Jesus answer (v.27)? What is the implication in their thinking for the rest of us?
12. Remember the man's original question, what does Jesus answer in v.27 tell us? How does it get to the heart of the gospel?

Read Mark 10:28-31

13. Peter speaks up in v.28, what do you think he is looking for from Jesus? Reassurance, reward, or something else?
14. Jesus reply is a very astonishing promise. Does anything surprise you in His reply? How have you seen what He has promised played out?
15. Jesus finishes with v.31, how does this reverse the worlds view of success? How does it connect back to the rich young ruler (& even the children in vv.13-16)?

Application

16. Jesus put his finger on this man's particular idol—his wealth. If Jesus looked at you with love and identified the one thing keeping you from wholehearted following Him, what might it be?
17. This passage teaches us it is impossible for us to earn our salvation, but God achieves the impossible through Jesus. How does that free us from trying to be 'good' enough for God? How should this change the way we view our possessions this week?

Mark 10:32-52

Intro Question: when you think about leadership or greatness in our world what qualities are achievements usually come to mind? What does our world celebrate a 'successful' leadership?

Read Mark 10:32-34

1. As Jesus leads people towards Jerusalem as the Passover nears, how are the 12 disciples feeling? How are others feeling? What's the difference? Why?
2. Jesus is predicting his death for the third time in Mark's gospel, what specifically does Jesus say will happen? Is there any new details? Why is it important Jesus tells His disciples this before it happens?

Read Mark 10:35-45

3. Right after talking about his death and suffering, Jesus is approached by James and John with a bold request. What does it reveal about what they've understood, or failed to, about Jesus's mission? What were they expecting?
4. Jesus is response with questions about a 'cup' & baptism. Read Isaiah 51:17 and Jeremiah 25:15. What do you think Jesus was referring to? What was He about to drink? What is he saying James and John don't understand?
5. Why can't Jesus grant their request? Who ends up being on his left and right when He comes into His 'glory' on the cross (15:27)?
6. Why were the other 10 angry at hearing about James and John's request?

7. Looking at vv.42-45, how does Jesus contrast how the world operates with the way His kingdom works? What is the shocking reversal He is calling for?
8. V45 is key to this passage (and this gospel account). Remind one another why Jesus uses the term 'Son of Man' here. And who's being ransom and from what? (Explain the idea of ransom)
9. How does v.45 completely redefined what true greatness looks like? How does Jesus himself model what He has just taught?

Read 10:46-52

10. What does Bartimaeus call Jesus, and what does he ask for? How does his request contrast with James and John's request?
11. How does Jesus respond to Bartimaeus? What does Jesus' question "What do you want me to do for you?" reveal, especially when we compare it to the same question he asked James and John in v.36? What is significant about Bartimaeus following Jesus on this particular road?

Application:

12. Jesus connects service with greatness, glory with suffering, what are the unseen or unpopular task around Church (the people) that often no one wants to do?
13. It's easy to look down on James and John, but if we're honest, we can often feel entitled to recognition for our service. Have you ever felt indignant when someone else received credit and you did not? How does remembering we will ransom change our need for recognition now?

Mark 11:1-26

Intro Question: Have you ever been to an event where someone important arrived—maybe a politician visiting Quirindi, or a special guest at a show or function? What kind of reception did they get? How do people show honour or respect to important visitors?

Read Mark 11:1-11

1. Mark gives some details of Jesus arranging for a colt, why does Mark include this? What does it show us about Jesus's control and authority? (Including for all the events that follow?)
2. Imagine the excitement as the people spread cloaks and branches while shouting "hosanna". Compared 2 Kings 9:13, what are the crowds expecting Jesus to do? What kind of king were they hoping for? (Ps.118:9-10)
3. While they shout v10a chases is entering Jerusalem on a donkey cult. What is the significance of this? See Zachariah 9:9
4. V11 it seems like an anti-climax, Jesus simply looks around and then leaves. Why do you think Mark notes (even emphasises) this? What does this tell us about Jesus's mission?

Read Mark 11:12-26

Mark often uses a "sandwich" technique (chiasm), so that when he starts with details about a fig tree, interrupts it with an incident in the temple, and then finishes with the fig tree again - this tells us we should interpret the two incidents together.

5. Jesus curses a fig tree for not having fruit (vv.12-14). This seems like an odd & harsh action. What do you make of it?
6. Read vv.15-17 carefully. What does Jesus do in the temple, and why? What two things does Jesus say the temple was meant to be, and what had it become instead?
7. Jesus quotes from Isa. 56:7 & Jer. 7:11. In what ways was the temple 'leafy' but fruitless? How does vv.18-19 contrast with Jesus entry to Jerusalem the day before?
8. Peter is shocked at the fig tree has weathered so quickly. What was the prophetic action? Jesus was performing?
9. In Jesus answer (vv.22-25) He connects five, prayer and forgiveness. What does it mean in this context to 'have faith in God' & pray with confidence? Why do you think Jesus highlights forgiving others at this point?

Application:

10. The temple was supposed to be a house of prayer for all nations, welcoming outsiders and pointing them to God. How can our church be more intentional about being a praying community that welcomes all people, including those who might feel like outsiders?
11. Jesus challenges us to pray with faith, believing that God hears and answers. Is there something you need to bring before God in prayer this week with bold, expectant faith? What's holding you back from praying this way?

Mark 11:27- 12:12

Intro Question: Why do people struggle with authority? Have you ever been in a situation where someone questioned your authority or right to do something? How did you respond? What makes questions about authority so challenging?

Read Mark 11:27-33

1. Who comes to question and 'shirt front' Jesus? Why is what he has been doing such a concern for them? (check out the day before)
2. Jesus answers their question with a question about John the Baptist. Why does Jesus bring up John? Is Jesus dodging a question? Or is there a connection between Johns ministry and His own?
3. The religious leaders of Israel plead ignorance even though they clearly have an opinion. What does their refusal to answer reveal about them? Why does Jesus then refuse to answer their question?

Read Mark 12:1-12

Chases didn't give a clear answer to the religious leaders, but He does give one through a parable (refresh your understanding of why Jesus taught in parables by reading Mark 4:10-12; 33-34)

6. Based on the common Old Testament imagery of the 'vineyard' (Isa. 5:1-7), who do you think each of the characters in the parable represent:

the man who planted the vineyard:

the servants:

the tenants:

and the son:

7. Compare and explain with Israel's history. What does it tell us about God's patience & heart, David to those who repeatedly reject Him?

8. The owner plays his trump (&final) card, his beloved son. What was the owner expecting? What was the twisted logic of the farmers and how does it mirror the religious leaders plans for Jesus?
9. What is the outcome for the farmers? How does it speak to the seriousness of rejecting Jesus?
10. In vv.11-12 Jesus quotes Psalm 118:22-23. How does the image of the 'stone' explain what is about to happen to Jesus? How does it reveal Jesus' authority? Was Jesus death a tragic accident or part of a divine plan? Explain.
11. Did the religious leaders understand the parable? What stop them from arresting Jesus right there and then. (Who has authority here?)
12. Where do we find the essence of sin in this parable? Explain.
- Application:**
13. In what areas of your life that you tempted to say to Jesus 'this is mine, stay out'?
14. Are they teachings of Jesus? You and even our church? Find difficult to accept because they are unpopular in our society?
15. The rejected stone, Jesus, becomes the cornerstone. How does this truth comfort you when you see Christianity being marked or marginalised in our world today?

Mark 12:13-34

Intro Question: What is the hardest or most awkward question you have ever been asked about your faith? Why do you think they asked the question?

(How did you handle it?)

Read Mark 12:13-17

1. Why is it significant that these two groups (who usually hated each other) have teamed up? What does it tell us about their attitude toward Jesus?
2. They butter Jesus up with flattery & then drop a bomb: "Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?" Why is this a lose-lose situation for Jesus?
3. Jesus sees through their hypocrisy & asks for a coin (vv. 15-16). What does Jesus mean by His answer (see Get.1:27)? And how does this answer escape the trap while teaching profound truth?

Read Mark 12:18-27

4. The Sadducees now come with a question. Because they don't believe in the resurrection (v.18), what are they really trying to prove, and how are they attempting to make the resurrection look ridiculous?
5. What two things does Jesus say the Sadducees don't know? What does Jesus teach about marriage in the resurrection, and how does this expose the flaw in their thinking?
6. Jesus quotes Exodus 3, where God speaks to Moses at the burning bush. How does God describing himself as "the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob"

prove the resurrection? What does this teach us about God's power and the certainty of resurrection life? How should we view Christian funerals?

Read Mark 12:28-34

7. Jesus' debate with different religious groups continues to attract attention. Who now approaches Jesus? What seems different about his intent, if any?
8. What two commandments does Jesus give? Why do you think Jesus gives two commandments when asked for the most important one?
9. What does it mean to love God with your whole being—not just with feelings, but with everything you are? How does loving others relate to loving God? Can you truly do one without the other?
10. What does Jesus say is more important than burnt offerings and sacrifices? Why is this such a significant statement for a Jewish teacher to make, & how does Jesus respond to him in v.34?
11. How is Jesus response in v34 a compliment & a warning? What was he missing?

Application:

12. We bear God's image (Genesis 1:27), so we owe God everything—our whole selves. Jesus calls us to love him with all our heart, soul, mind, & strength, and to love our neighbours as ourselves. What does this look like practically in your life this week, both in your relationship with God & with the people around you in Quirindi? How might we sometimes emphasise religious activities while missing what God truly wants?

Mark 12:35-44

Intro Question: When you think about what impresses God—what he notices and values—what comes to mind? How might this be different from what impresses people in our world, or even in our churches?

Read Mark 12:35-37

1. Where is Jesus and what was he doing?
2. Why did the Teachers of the Law (what Law?) teach that the Messiah is the son of David? Do you think it was a popular idea? Why?
3. Jesus quotes Psalm 110 to challenge their thinking. Who does David say is the Messiah? Why is it a riddle to say the Messiah? It's both David son and Davies Lord? What does it tell us about the status of the Christ?

Read Mark 12:38-40

4. At least all the things Jesus says the teachers of the law love to do. What do they have in common? What were they really after?
5. How were the religious leaders treating widows? Why is this particularly serious given their position acknowledge of God's word?
6. Jesus says they will be punished most severely. Why is this a shock? And how does it worn us?

Read Mark 12:41-44

7. Where is Jesus in these verses and what does he notice? What do we learn about what he values?
8. Why wasn't Jesus impressed with what he saw in v41? (n.b. v44). What's the difference between giving out of wealth and giving out of poverty?
9. The widow gave a very small amount into the treasury, why does Jesus say she put in more than all the rest? How does God measure generosity different to how we tend to?
10. Look back at v.40. Explain the tragic irony occurring here. What does the widows action reveal about her heart? What does this level of trust in God look like for you?

Application:

11. How does knowing Jesus is Lord change how you live? What climb does he have on our lives? What might be the equivalent to wearing long robes today?
12. The Rich gave out of their leftovers. If someone looked at your bank statement, at your calendar, would they see surplus offerings or sacrificial offerings? (take a couple of minutes before you answer - don't be showy)
13. Think of one area God might be calling you to trust him more with what you have. Write in down & pray about it this week.

Mark 13:1-37

Intro Question: When you hear people talk about "the end times" or "the signs of the times," what comes to mind? What attitudes—either fearful or curious—have you encountered around these topics?

Read Mark 13:1-13

1. What impressed the disciples about the temple? And how does Jesus shock them? (vv.1-2)
2. The disciples Jeff ask 'when' and 'what sign', yet in Jesus' initial answer what does he warn them not to be distracted by? Why do you think he caused these things "the beginning of the birth pains"? Is this the end?
3. In vv.9-13, what kind of opposition will Jesus' disciples face? What encouragement I've given alongside the warnings?

Read Mark 13:14-23

Note: many scholars agree that vv.14-23 refer primarily to the desecration and destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem by the Romans in AD70 – a specific judgement on the temple system – while vv.24-27 look forward to the final judgement.

4. Jesus describes a time of great distress for Judah". What does He urge the people to do? What does v.20 tell us about God's character and control of over history?
5. Why do you think Jesus warns so strongly against false messiahs and false prophets during times of distress? What can make people vulnerable to such deception when life is difficult? How can we guard against this today?

Read Mark 13:24-31

6. How is the coming of the Son of Man different from the 'war and rumours of war' earlier in the chapter?
7. What comfort does v.27 give to God's people?
8. What is the lesson of the fig tree?
9. How does v31 and carry out confidence when everything else feels shakeable?

Read Mark 13:32-37

10. What does Jesus say we cannot know in v.32-33? And what does he say we must do instead?

Application:

11. How does vv.43-37 apply to us? What might falling asleep look like in our lives and our church today?
12. Jesus ends with a command to who? The command 'watch' appears 4 times in these verses. What does it mean in practical terms to 'watch' for Jesus is return while living in the Northwest in 2026? How might this look different from anxiety or obsession about end times?
13. Looking back over the whole chapter, what is Jesus main concern for His disciples? What would it look like for our Church to be a community that watches together?

Mark 14:1-72

Intro Question: Have you ever been let down by someone you trusted deeply? What makes betrayal or disappointment so painful?

Read Mark 14:1-11

1. In vv.3–9, how does the woman show her devotion to Jesus? What do you think her action reveals about her understanding of who Jesus is?
2. Compare her response with that of Judas in vv.10–11. What motivates Judas, and what does that contrast teach us about the difference between genuine discipleship and false following?
3. Jesus says the woman's act will be told "wherever the gospel is preached." Why do you think her act of devotion is so significant in the gospel's story?

Read Mark 14:12-26

4. How does Jesus reinterpret the Passover meal in vv. 22–24? What is the significance of his words about his body and blood in revealing His identity & understanding of His atoning work?
5. If Jesus is pouring out his blood for a new covenant, what is he implying about his impending death? Is it a tragedy, or a sacrifice?

Read Mark 14:27-52

6. In verses 32–42, what do we learn about Jesus' humanity and his obedience to the Father's will? How does this deepen your understanding of what it meant for Jesus to die for us?

7. Why do you think the disciples couldn't stay awake? What might this reveal about spiritual alertness and weakness?

8. How does Jesus respond to betrayal and arrest? (n.b. included is a strange detail about a young man fleeing naked. What does this reveal about the terror of the whole situation?)

Read Mark 14:53-72

9. What stands out to you in Jesus' trial before the council? How does His bold confession in v. 62 contrast with Peter's denial in vv.66–72?

10. Why is Peter's failure recorded for us? How does it prepare us to understand the grace and restoration Jesus will offer after the resurrection? (see John 21:15–19)

11. What encouragement does this passage give us as disciples who often fall short and yet are loved and restored by a faithful Saviour?

Application:

12. Throughout this chapter, Jesus knows exactly what's going to happen—the betrayal, the desertion, the denial, his own suffering. Yet he moves forward deliberately. What does this tell us about Jesus' mission and his love for us; & both the cost and the certainty of our salvation?

13. This chapter shows us terrible human failure—betrayal, desertion, denial—alongside beautiful devotion and Jesus' perfect obedience. Where do you see yourself in this story? How does Jesus' faithfulness in the face of our faithlessness give you hope?

Mark 15:1 - 16:8

Intro Question: We're about to read the climax of Mark's Gospel. What emotions do you feel when you hear about the crucifixion? Is there a mix? Explain.

Read Mark 15:1-15

1. In vv. 1–15 Pilate seems torn—he recognises Jesus' innocence yet hands him over. What motivations and pressures are at play for Pilate?
2. Pilate is amazed that Jesus refuses to defend himself against the accusations. Read Isaiah 53:7. How does Jesus' silence here confirm that he is the "Suffering Servant" promised hundreds of years before?
3. The crowd demands that the innocent man be killed and the guilty man go free. How does that help you understand what Jesus has done for you?
4. What is the irony in the soldiers' mockery of Jesus as "King of the Jews" in vv.16–20? How does Mark invite us to see the truth that even they cannot?

Read Mark 15:21-41

5. What details in vv.21–32 highlight the humiliation and suffering of the crucifixion? Why is it significant that Jesus did not save Himself?
6. Mark includes several bystanders. List them. Who among them truly understands what is happening, and what does that reveal about faith?

7. In v34 Jesus cries out, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” How should we understand this cry? What does it show about the cost of bearing sin in our place?

8. When the temple curtain is torn in two (v38), what does this symbolise in light of the gospel?

Read Mark 15:42-47

9. Why do you think Mark takes care to record Joseph’s actions? What do his actions reveal about courage and discipleship at a time of danger?

10. In what ways does Jesus’ burial confirm both his real death and the reliability of the gospel accounts?

Read Mark 16:1-8

11. What emotions drive the women to the tomb, and how do they respond to the empty tomb and the angel’s message?

12. How is the resurrection the ultimate confirmation that Jesus’ death truly brought forgiveness and life?

13. The women flee in fear and silence at the end of verse 8. Why might Mark end his gospel this way? How could this ending challenge believers today in how we respond to the risen Christ?

Application:

14. Looking back over the whole passage, what does Mark want us to understand about the kingship of Jesus? How does this shape the way we live and share our faith in our community this week—on farms, in families, and among neighbours?



HOW TO BE A GOOD BIBLE STUDY MEMBER

BE THERE

1 The power of just turning up to encourage others is phenomenal. We don't think of our groups as events we might go to, but people we do life with. Seek to commit yourself to your small group family weekly. The blessings we give and get from one another are of eternal value!



BE ACTIVE

2 It's true, the more you put in, the more you'll get out of your small group. Look through the study or passage before the group meets. Engage in conversation, answer questions, share opinions, be willing to pray, read, lead, help set-up or pack- up. Jesus wasn't lying when he said "it is more blessed to give than to receive".

BE OPEN

3 Be open about yourself, your joys and your struggles. One of the greatest blessings of a small group is knowing others and being known more personally. So share and listen openly. Similarly, be honest about when you don't understand a question or part of scripture. Chances are, someone else has been through a similar experience and appreciates you sharing it, or had a similar question to you but were too shy to ask it



BE CONCERNED for others

4 Resist the temptation to think "the group must serve my needs" before asking, "how can I serve the needs of others?" It's also not just the leaders' role to care for the needs of the group; Each member plays their part as we all care for one another. Be concerned for how people are travelling. Ask questions about their week and their life and be active in caring for them as they share. Seek to connect with members outside of the meeting.

BE ON ABOUT GOD

5 One of the temptations of a good small group is to get caught up in each other's interests and end up talking about lots of not-so-meaningful things. Be on about God and what He's doing in each other's lives. Share His word with each other, pray for each other, encourage mission and godly living, rebuke, correct and train one another in righteousness.

