



Reading Mark

This is a plan for reading Mark's telling of the good news of Jesus Christ over six weeks.

Mark's Gospel is thought to be the first of the four Gospels (Matthew, Luke and John are the others) that was written. Around 50-60 years after the death and Resurrection of Jesus.

It is a short and exciting account of the story of Jesus.

Over the next six weeks try to meet up in your pair or small group around 3-4 times to talk over what you've read, ask each other questions and encourage one another to keep going!

This is not a formal Bible study course. And there are no right ways of understanding Mark. What matters is that you share what on earth you think is going on in this story.

Follow your own instincts about what you've read and talk them over when you meet up as a pair.

Through reading the Gospel, we are invited to meet the central figure, Jesus Christ. What you make of him is up to you.

You might find it useful to think about the following questions while you're reading and perhaps even when you meet up.

1. What happens in this section?
2. What, if anything, stands out to you about God in this section?
3. What, if anything, stands out to you about people in this section?
4. How does this section change, challenge or affirm your view of God?

Still, others, use a way of reading the Bible where the reader imagines themselves into the story, perhaps as one of the main characters or as an onlooker.

These are just suggestions, which you could try out if you like.

Below is a suggested pattern for reading Mark.

Week one

Mark 1.1-45, Mark 2.1-28

- try to meet up at the end of week one for a chat about the first couple of chapters...

Unlike the other Gospels, Mark jumps right into Jesus' adult life and ministry, with his baptism by John, temptation in the wilderness, calling of the first disciples and healings.

Week two

Mark 3.1-35, Mark 4.1-41

Jesus was a controversial figure, and sometimes a confusing one. These two chapters give us a close-up view of some of his unprecedented and at times cryptic behaviour.

Week three

Mark 5.1-43, Mark 6.1-56, Mark 7.1-37

- try to meet up in week three for a chat about chapters 3-7

Now we begin to see some of the reactions to Jesus, which range from awe and enthusiasm to contempt and violent rejection.

Week four

Mark 8.1-22, Mark 9.1-50, Mark 10.1-52

Jesus is now deep into his ministry. At times, he cuts a frustrated and dismissive figure. The stakes seem to have got higher.

Week five

Mark 11.1-33, Mark 12.1-44, Mark 13.1-37

- meet up in week five for a chat about what you've been reading...

The tension between Jesus and the authorities of the day is building. Jesus becomes more isolated from his disciples who are finding the going tough.

Week six

Mark 14.1-72, Mark 15.1-47, Mark 16.1-20

- meet up for a chat when you've finished the whole Gospel

Jesus is now almost completely silent both in his trial and in his torture and death.