



Growth Group Booklet

Term 1 | 2022

Name: _____



Contents

Series Introduction	- 2 -
About Mark	- 2 -
About this Series	- 3 -
About Us	- 4 -
How to Use this Booklet	- 4 -
Mark Series Video Plan – Term 1	- 5 -
Further Resources	- 5 -
Map of Sea of Galilee	- 6 -
Theme Song: <i>See Him Coming</i>	- 7 -
Episode 1	- 8 -
Episode 2	- 10 -
Episode 3	- 12 -
Episode 4	- 14 -
Episode 5	- 16 -
Episode 6	- 18 -
Episode 7	- 20 -
Episode 8	- 22 -
Episode 9	- 24 -
Episode 10	- 26 -

Series Introduction

Fear. 2022 seems to be another big year for fear: fear of COVID, of vaccines, of government overreach, of chronic undersupply, fear of not having enough toilet paper... again. Fear even of each other. This pandemic has revealed that we all have a complicated relationship with fear.

Yet fear is nothing new to the human condition. We all fear. Always have. Part of being human, this side of the Fall, is to fear. Since Adam and Eve's first fear of missing out, fear has long wrapped its tail around anxious hearts like ours.

But in a sense, becoming a Christian and working out our faith is partly about the taming of our deepest fears. When we begin to follow Jesus our worst fears become a bit like the much-loved family dog – a beast, which untamed and in the wild could rip our little children to shreds yet now sits quietly in the corner, or at the end of our bed, or eating gently from our children's hands. How does this wild beast become a family pet? By being put properly in its place by a much more powerful force – by knowing who its master is.

About Mark

The Gospel of Mark is all about fear. My fear and yours. In fact, fear even seems to have the last word in Mark: 'terrified' (Mark 16:8). Mark is about what we think are our greatest fears. But better, it's about their taming, by a much more powerful master, a God-come-man that even death itself has learned to fear. As Lucy says of Aslan in the Narnia chronicles, "He's not *safe*, but he's *good*." As Christians, we now know this man is 'Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God' (Mark 1:1). As Jesus draws near to us, he says, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid" (Mark 6:50).

Part of what's so unique about Mark's gospel is its setting: the atmosphere, the scenery and 'vibe'. When we think of John's gospel, we remember the Jewish festivals. With Matthew's gospel we think of mountains, with Jesus' famous Sermon on the Mount. With Luke it's a journey setting, with Jesus teaching 'on the way' to Jerusalem. But with Mark, it's dark. As readers of Mark, we find ourselves following Jesus in the desert, among the tombs, across the sea. He faces demons, death, disease and denials. Mark gives us a privileged viewing of Jesus' baptism, and Jesus' prayers, and Jesus' solitary reflections - tired and alone. Perhaps the scenery that will most stay with us from this series is of the Sea of Galilee with wild and stormy waters. For in Jewish thinking, the sea was an evil place, a dangerous place, a place first and foremost to be *feared*.

Another part of what's unique about Mark's story is its great ending (Mark 16:8). Have you noticed how each of the gospels ends with something 'Great'? Most famously, Matthew ends with 'The Great Commission'. John's gospel? 'The Great Reinstatement' of Peter. Arguably, Luke ends with 'The Great Fulfilment', where Jesus explains (Luke 24) that the whole Old Testament was 'all about me!' But what's great about Mark's ending? The answer is, 'The Great Question'! To understand what this question is, you'll need to come on the journey in this series. (A hint though - it's related to the main graphic for this series: Who is looking, and from where?) To be clear at the outset, what we'll definitely see in the climax of Mark's gospel is the taming of all our fears, as we see our God 'Up Close'.



About this Series

As your pastors, we're stoked to be taking you through this series in Mark, over the first two terms of 2022. We've called it 'Seeing God Up Close'. It's a series about what happens to us as readers as we journey through Mark to its climax and the question the author poses for us all, at the end.

Here's our Big Idea (main teaching point) for this series from Mark:

'We look upon Jesus from a distance but when he comes close, we can see him for who he really is: the God we fear, calling us to follow Him.'

We'll be taking all 16 chapters in turn, teaching them the way Mark wrote them - as a **story**. A **true** story. In fact, Mark deliberately writes his biography of Jesus as a true, **fulfilment** story.

We'll see that Mark himself makes this clear from the beginning, showing us how Jesus fulfils so many prophecies about him from the Old Testament. And by the end we'll see how Mark shows Jesus fulfilling his *own prophecies* about himself - something very much neglected in much modern-day teaching of Mark's gospel.

The series will be covered in two terms, with a short break in the Easter school holidays. We'll cover Mark's 16 chapters in 19 episodes: 10 in term 1, and 9 in term 2.



To help guide us through Mark we're including some short videos in our services. These are narrated by Dr Peter Bolt, a world-class theologian and leading commentator on Mark's gospel. Peter directly lectured some of your pastors, and indirectly lectured the others by lecturing their lecturers! But we're confident that you'll enjoy his down-to-earth style and very Australian facial hair.

These videos have been made available to us free of charge, thanks to the generous heart of another sister church from the Presbyterian Church of Queensland (Living Church, formerly Creek Road Presbyterian) and Moore Theological College, who produced them in 2014.

Our teaching will be integrated across our services. This means that the songs we've chosen, the videos, the Bible readings and even these growth group studies, are all integrated with the main teaching point ('big idea') from the part of Mark's gospel that

we're up to, in any given week. Following that, these studies are designed to be used in home/growth/discipleship groups that meet during the week *following* the weekly sermon. We hope you find them helpful.

About Us

Together we'll be enjoying Mark's biography of Jesus across the church families of our four sister churches: Biloela, Mackay, Rose City (Warwick) and Stanthorpe Presbyterian. The four pastors who have prepared this series together are, from right to left in the photo taken at our planning week last year: Rev Andrew Purcell, Mr Troy Wilkins, Rev Dave Bailey and Rev Peter Evans. Thanks go especially to Mr Nick Prins for his admin support to our little 'band of brothers' and Mrs Sarah Bailey for her assistance with recommending appropriate hymn and song options for each church to customise according to their own needs.



How to Use this Booklet

This booklet includes the first 10 studies that follow the first 10 teaching episodes in this series, taught in Term 1 of 2022. A second booklet will be made for episodes 11-19 to be taught in Term 2.

The best way to understand how these studies work is to assume we've written them for grown-ups! That is, we're making certain assumptions about adult education in the 21st century: that you're self-motivated, that you're highly impacted by experience, that you learn well through discussion with other adults in a healthy and non-anxious setting, and that the primary role of the group leader is to facilitate the group's learning rather than having to teach it. This means that each week the studies follow a similar pattern with 6 movements: **reflect, remember, reacting, recalling, responding and renewing**.

First, we begin with our experience of church together on Sunday, as adults, in **REFLECT**: *'Where did you see God at work in our gathering together on Sunday?'* If God's Word was opened on Sunday, God was at work in the gathering! This could be in any number of ways: in the sermon, singing, readings, video, conversations, prayers, welcoming, morning tea, on the drive home, etc.

The second movement is **REMEMBER**: *'Together, read this episode in Mark (Optional extra: watch this week's video again). What struck you afresh?'* This question grounds us in God's Word and helps us remember what we learnt last Sunday when it was taught.

The third movement is **REACTING IN FEAR**: *'Instinctively, how would you react seeing God 'up close' in Jesus, in this episode?'* This is about putting ourselves in the shoes of those in the story, experiencing Jesus for the first time – like those first, terrified disciples in the boat (Mark 4): "Who is this man? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

Fourth, we **RECALL THE EPISODE**. This demands some hard work remembering what you've learned together last Sunday. Where do we see some Old Testament being fulfilled in this passage? Do we see Jesus fulfilling some of his own prophecies from within Mark's story yet? And how does this episode build tension and get us anticipating where this story is going to climax, at the cross? The key with this section is not to get bogged down in the Old Testament discussions. Leaders will need to keep it moving at this point, to get to the real application gold, coming up.

The fifth and sixth are the most important application movements: **RESPONDING AS FOLLOWERS** and **RENEWING IN PRAYER**. Try to spend most time here, discussing how we're being called to follow Jesus from this episode. How do we think God wants us to respond as followers now, this side of the cross? Then we finish in prayer by **praising** God together, **thanking** him, and **asking** Him for help to apply what we've learnt to our lives.

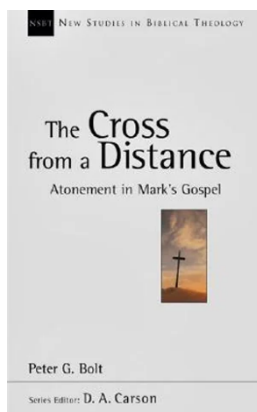
Mark Series Video Plan – Term 1

EPISODE #	EPISODE TITLE	PETER BOLT VIDEO # & TITLE
1	New Beginning	1. The Baptism of Jesus
2	New Authority	1. The Baptism of Jesus
3	New Purpose	2. The Healing of the Paralysed Man
4	New Family	2. The Healing of the paralysed Man
5	The Great Secret	3. The Parable of the Sower
6	Great Fear, Surprising Faith	3. The Parable of the Sower
7	A Great Harvest	4. The Beheading of John the Baptist
8	New Beginning for Anyone	4. The Beheading of John the Baptist
9	Seeing the Messiah	5. The Healing of the Blind Man
10	His Kingdom is Coming	5. The Healing of the Blind Man

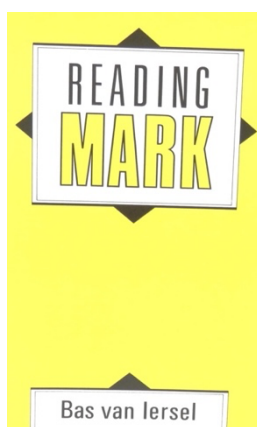
Further Resources

Here is a link to all the Peter Bolt **videos**:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/14UTt00BojUsXXuEYMOkurahE77KRWqdJ?usp=sharing>



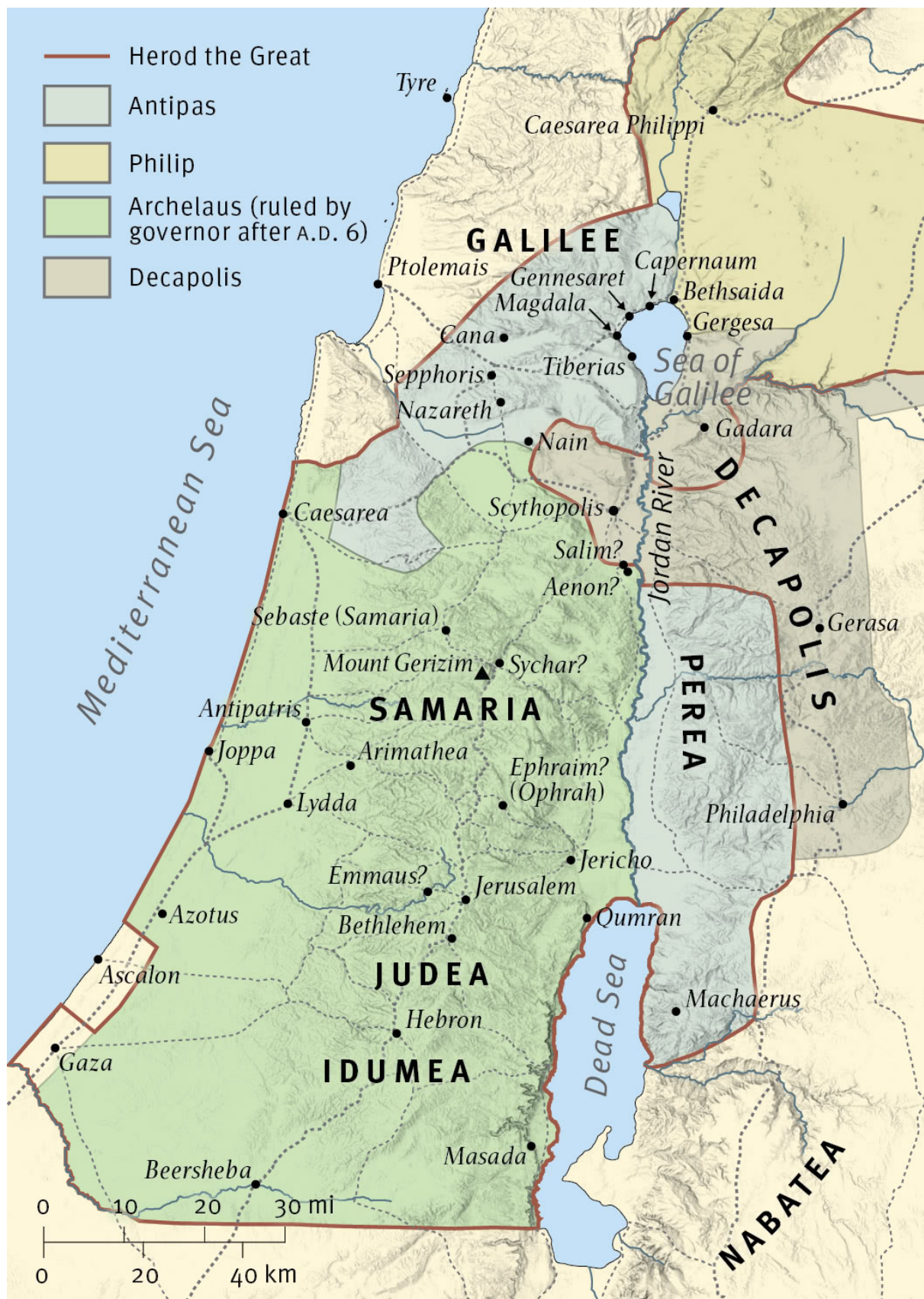
Here are the details of Peter Bolt's major **book** on Mark's gospel.



Here is a really helpful **commentary** for those keen to explore Mark more.

Map of Sea of Galilee

Here is a **map** of the Sea of Galilee and surrounding region to help you navigate many of the places in Mark's gospel:



Theme Song: *See Him Coming*

Chorus

See Him coming on the clouds of heaven
Every eye behold Him now
He's the Living One
The first and last who once was dead
But now He lives forever and ever

Verse 1

Glory and power to the One who loves us
Honour and praise Him forever
Come Lord Jesus
Come Lord Jesus

Verse 2

Glory and power to the One who freed us
From all our sins by His blood
Come Lord Jesus
Come Lord Jesus

Verse 3

Glory and power to the One who made us
A kingdom of priests for God's service
Come Lord Jesus
Come Lord Jesus

Bridge

Jesus is the Living One
Who died and came alive
Jesus is almighty Lord
Who was and is to come

CCLI Song # 4289410

Mark Peterson

© 2003 Peterson, Mark

Big Idea:

Mark writes this story for us, to share the good news of the new beginning that God has brought, by coming up close to show us the Way.



1. Reflect

Where did you see God come near to us in our church family in our gathering together on Sunday? **For example: in the bible reading, singing, prayers, sermon, welcoming, morning tea?**

2. Remember

Mark 1:1-15. Together, read this episode in Mark (Optional Extra: Watch the video again). What struck you afresh?

3. Reacting in Fear

Instinctively, how would you react seeing God 'up close' in Jesus, in this episode?

4. Recall the Episode

Genesis 1:1-2

Psalms 2

Isaiah 40:1-11

a) Where in this episode do we see fulfilment, or hear resonance, from these Old Testament passages?

b) How does this episode build tension, raise expectations and point forward to the climax of Mark's gospel at the cross?

5. Responding as Followers

Discuss how we are called to follow Jesus, from this episode. How do you think God wants us to respond as followers, this side of the cross?

6. Renewing in Prayer

Praise, Thank, Ask

- Praise God for good news!
- Thank God that with the coming of Israel's Messiah, Jesus, the Kingdom of God has come near.
- If you're not a Christian yet, ask God to help us enter His Kingdom, repenting of our sins and receiving forgiveness, believing in 'the Son of God'.

Sunday following
6/2/2022

Episode 2

Big Idea:
*Jesus shows that
he is the son of
God with authority
over people,
demons, in
teaching and
sickness that no
one has seen
before.*



1. Reflect

Where did you see God come near to us in our church family in our gathering together on Sunday? **For example: in the bible reading, singing, prayers, sermon, welcoming, morning tea?**

2. Remember

Mark 1:14-45. Together, read this episode in Mark (Optional Extra: Watch the video again). What struck you afresh?

3. Reacting in Fear

Instinctively, how would you react seeing God 'up close' in Jesus, in this episode?

4. Recall the Episode

Psalms 16

Isaiah 41:8-20

a) Where in this episode do we see fulfilment, or hear resonance, from these Old Testament passages?

b) If and where do we see Jesus fulfilling things from previous episodes within Mark's Gospel?

c) How does this episode build tension, raise expectations and point forward to the climax of Mark's gospel at the cross?

5. Responding as Followers

Discuss how we are called to follow Jesus, from this episode. How do you think God wants us to respond as followers, this side of the cross?

6. Renewing in Prayer

Praise, Thank, Ask

- Praise God that in a world of fake news, conspiracy theories and 'unsocial' media, God has provided the ultimate 'man of authority', whom we really must trust with our whole lives.
- Thank Him that this Son of God shows his authority over people, demons, in truthful teaching and disease in this episode... and even over death, at the conclusion of Mark's story.
- Ask God to help us respond first and foremost to Jesus' call of 'Follow Me!'

Sunday following
13/2/2022

Episode 3

Big Idea:
*Jesus reveals
God's new
purpose for his
people, bringing
them forgiveness
of sins by 'the
taking away of the
bridegroom'.*



1. Reflect

Where did you see God come near to us in our church family in our gathering together on Sunday? **For example: in the bible reading, singing, prayers, sermon, welcoming, morning tea?**

2. Remember

Mark 2. Together, read this episode in Mark (Optional Extra: Watch the video again). What struck you afresh?

3. Reacting in Fear

Instinctively, how would you react seeing God 'up close' in Jesus, in this episode?

4. Recall the Episode

1 Samuel 21:1-6

Daniel 7:13-14

a) Where in this episode do we see fulfilment, or hear resonance, from these Old Testament passages?

b) If and where do we see Jesus fulfilling things from previous episodes within Mark's Gospel?

c) How does this episode build tension, raise expectations and point forward to the climax of Mark's gospel at the cross?

5. Responding as Followers

Discuss how we are called to follow Jesus, from this episode. How do you think God wants us to respond as followers, this side of the cross?

6. Renewing in Prayer

Praise, Thank, Ask

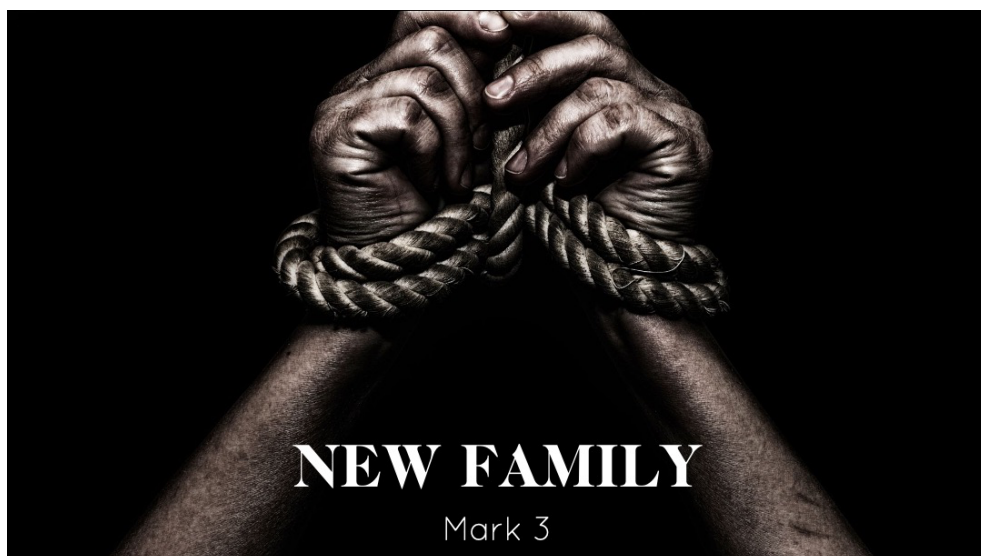
- Praise God the Father for surprisingly giving 'this fellow' (v.7) the authority to forgive sins.
- Give thanks for good friends who take us to Jesus in our need, for the 'good doctor' who comes to call on sinners like us, and that all our sins can be forgiven - all because the bridegroom was prepared to 'be taken away' for us.
- Ask God for help, so we can humbly accept the assurance that Jesus has totally forgiven our sins, and that He is good to lead us in a new way of living, in His kingdom.

Sunday following
20/2/2022

Episode 4

Big Idea:

*As the name of
Jesus spreads and
the stakes are
rising, the Enemy
starts plotting...
but Jesus gets on
with his job of
preaching, calling
his new family and
appointing them
to preach.*



1. Reflect

Where did you see God come near to us in our church family in our gathering together on Sunday? **For example: in the bible reading, singing, prayers, sermon, welcoming, morning tea?**

2. Remember

Mark 3. Together, read this episode in Mark (Optional Extra: Watch the video again). What struck you afresh?

3. Reacting in Fear

Instinctively, how would you react seeing God 'up close' in Jesus, in this episode?

4. Recall the Episode

Genesis 37:17-20

Deuteronomy 30:15-16

Isaiah 49:24-26

a) Where in this episode do we see fulfilment, or hear resonance, from these Old Testament passages?

b) If and where do we see Jesus fulfilling things from previous episodes within Mark's Gospel?

c) How does this episode build tension, raise expectations and point forward to the climax of Mark's gospel at the cross?

5. Responding as Followers

Discuss how we are called to follow Jesus, from this episode. How do you think God wants us to respond as followers, this side of the cross?

6. Renewing in Prayer

Praise, Thank, Ask

- Praise God that He has made us a part of His family, adopting us as brothers and sisters of 'the Son of God'.
- Give thanks for Jesus' authority as he secures our freedom from Satan, plundering the "strongman" after binding him at the cross. Thank the Lord Jesus for rescuing us from the bondage of evil and the kingdom of darkness.
- Ask for God to help us share the good news with non-believers but also with other Christians.

Sunday following
27/2/2022

Episode 5

Big Idea:

By the lake Jesus teaches the crowd, while in private he explains the parables to his disciples - also handing them the great secret to God's kingdom! But when will they understand?



1. Reflect

Where did you see God come near to us in our church family in our gathering together on Sunday? **For example: in the bible reading, singing, prayers, sermon, welcoming, morning tea?**

2. Remember

Mark 4:1-34. Together, read this episode in Mark (Optional Extra: Watch the video again). What struck you afresh?

3. Reacting in Fear

Instinctively, how would you react seeing God 'up close' in Jesus, in this episode?

4. Recall the Episode

Isaiah 6:8-10

Jeremiah 5:20-25

a) Where in this episode do we see fulfilment, or hear resonance, from these Old Testament passages?

b) If and where do we see Jesus fulfilling things from previous episodes within Mark's Gospel?

c) How does this episode build tension, raise expectations and point forward to the climax of Mark's gospel at the cross?

5. Responding as Followers

Discuss how we are called to follow Jesus, from this episode. How do you think God wants us to respond as followers, this side of the cross?

6. Renewing in Prayer

Praise, Thank, Ask

- Praise God for giving struggling disciples like us the secret to the Kingdom of God!
- Thank Him for patiently waiting on yet-to-be disciples, to discover how the secret is revealed in the climax of Mark's gospel.
- Ask God to grant our friends and family ears to hear that understand, eyes to see that also perceive - that they too would turn and be forgiven.

Sunday following
6/3/2022

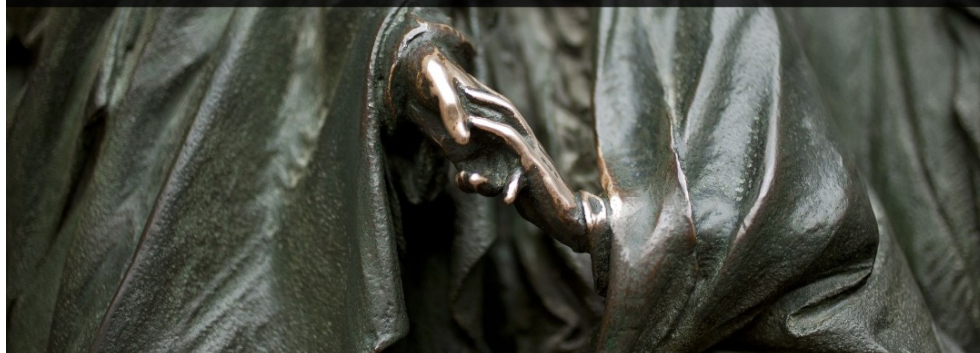
Episode 6

Big Idea:

*Who is this man
who goes where
no good Jew
would go: coming
close in unclean
places and to
unclean people,
working among
death and fear, yet
finding faith and
bringing life?*

THE GREAT FEAR, SURPRISING FAITH

Mark 4:35-5:43



1. Reflect

Where did you see God come near to us in our church family in our gathering together on Sunday? **For example: in the bible reading, singing, prayers, sermon, welcoming, morning tea?**

2. Remember

Mark 4:35-5:43. Together, read this episode in Mark (Optional Extra: Watch the video again). What struck you afresh?

3. Reacting in Fear

Instinctively, how would you react seeing God 'up close' in Jesus, in this episode?

4. Recall the Episode

Leviticus 15:25-32

Jonah 1:7-17

Jonah 3:6-10

a) Where in this episode do we see fulfilment, or hear resonance, from these Old Testament passages?

b) If and where do we see Jesus fulfilling things from previous episodes within Mark's Gospel?

c) How does this episode build tension, raise expectations and point forward to the climax of Mark's gospel at the cross?

5. Responding as Followers

Discuss how we are called to follow Jesus, from this episode. How do you think God wants us to respond as followers, this side of the cross?

6. Renewing in Prayer

Praise, Thank, Ask

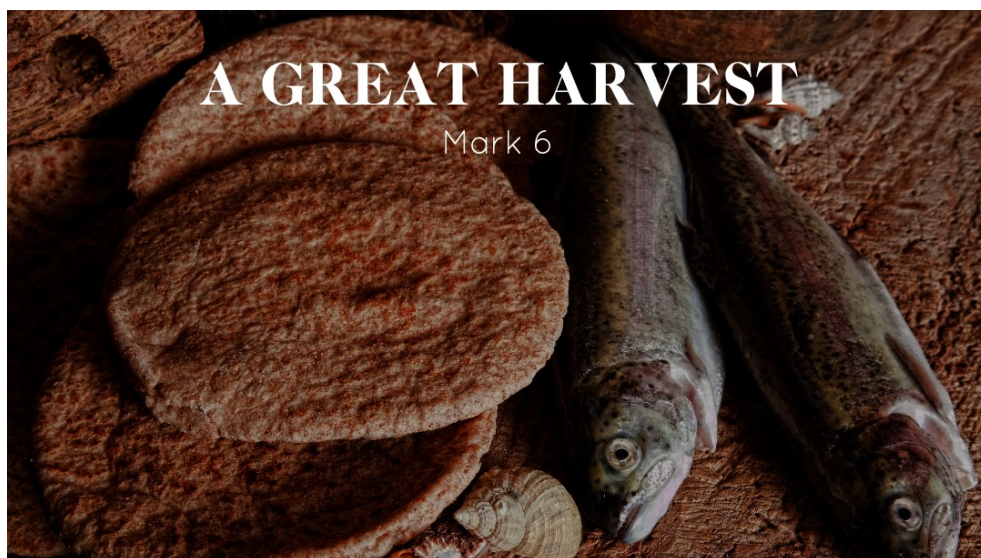
- Praise God that Jesus comes even closer when we are most unclean, and when we find ourselves making a mess of our lives.
- Thank God for this 'feared' man, who reveals His authority even over creation.
- Ask God to surprise us in our faith, especially when He allows us to experience great fear.

Sunday following
13/3/2022

Episode 7

Big Idea:

Despite apparent failure, even by Jesus, the disciples are sent to live out the parable of the sower, but their hardened hearts still don't understand the secret yet to be revealed.



1. Reflect

Where did you see God come near to us in our church family in our gathering together on Sunday? **For example: in the bible reading, singing, prayers, sermon, welcoming, morning tea?**

2. Remember

Mark 6. Together, read this episode in Mark (Optional Extra: Watch the video again). What struck you afresh?

3. Reacting in Fear

Instinctively, how would you react seeing God 'up close' in Jesus, in this episode?

4. Recall the Episode

Exodus 34:1-9

Psalms 23

Malachi 4:5-6 (also 2 Kings 4:18-37 and 42-44)

a) Where in this episode do we see fulfilment, or hear resonance, from these Old Testament passages?

b) If and where do we see Jesus fulfilling things from previous episodes within Mark's Gospel?

c) How does this episode build tension, raise expectations and point forward to the climax of Mark's gospel at the cross?

5. Responding as Followers

Discuss how we are called to follow Jesus, from this episode. How do you think God wants us to respond as followers, this side of the cross?

6. Renewing in Prayer

Praise, Thank, Ask

- Praise God that even though Jesus experienced apparent failure, it was all a part of him producing a great harvest.
- Thank God that Christ is so patient with disciples like us, persevering with us as we face our fear and doubts, continually proving faithful to his own promises.
- Ask God to help us find satisfaction in the abundant blessings of God's Kingdom, rather than the tempting banquets of the kingdoms of this world.

Sunday following
20/3/2022

Episode 8

Big Idea:

*In the face of
heartless religion,
Jesus reveals the
depth of our heart
problem and that
the Good News
proclaimed in the
beginning could
extend to anyone
who will repent
and believe.*



1. Reflect

Where did you see God come near to us in our church family in our gathering together on Sunday? **For example: in the bible reading, singing, prayers, sermon, welcoming, morning tea?**

2. Remember

Mark 7. Together, read this episode in Mark (Optional Extra: Watch the video again). What struck you afresh?

3. Reacting in Fear

Instinctively, how would you react seeing God 'up close' in Jesus, in this episode?

4. Recall the Episode

Isaiah 26:13-14

Isaiah 35

a) Where in this episode do we see fulfilment, or hear resonance, from these Old Testament passages?

b) If and where do we see Jesus fulfilling things from previous episodes within Mark's Gospel?

c) How does this episode build tension, raise expectations and point forward to the climax of Mark's gospel at the cross?

5. Responding as Followers

Discuss how we are called to follow Jesus, from this episode. How do you think God wants us to respond as followers, this side of the cross?

6. Renewing in Prayer

Praise, Thank, Ask

- Praise God for the baptism of Jesus in chapter 1, where the heavens opened and blessings flowed, and for His healing of the blind man in chapter 7, where the heavens opened and blessings flowed!
- Thank Him for showing us the heart of our problem with sin, that we desperately need repenting of: the problem of our heart!
- Ask God for the courage to submit to His healing of our own defilements: not our physical hygiene, but in our personal relationships.

Sunday following
27/3/2022

Episode 9

Big Idea:

After so much conflict around his identity, Jesus puts his disciples on the spot, asking them to answer their own question, "Who is this man?"



1. Reflect

Where did you see God come near to us in our church family in our gathering together on Sunday? **For example: in the bible reading, singing, prayers, sermon, welcoming, morning tea?**

2. Remember

Mark 8:1-9:1. Together, read this episode in Mark (Optional Extra: Watch the video again). What struck you afresh?

3. Reacting in Fear

Instinctively, how would you react seeing God 'up close' in Jesus, in this episode?

4. Recall the Episode

Psalm 2

Isaiah 59 (esp v.10)

Daniel 7:13-14

a) Where in this episode do we see fulfilment, or hear resonance, from these Old Testament passages?

b) If and where do we see Jesus fulfilling things from previous episodes within Mark's Gospel?

c) How does this episode build tension, raise expectations and point forward to the climax of Mark's gospel at the cross?

5. Responding as Followers

Discuss how we are called to follow Jesus, from this episode. How do you think God wants us to respond as followers, this side of the cross?

6. Renewing in Prayer

Praise, Thank, Ask

- Praise the Lord that we can enjoy seeing how Jesus fulfills the Old Testament, in Mark's gospel.
- Thank him that we are also starting to see how Jesus fulfills his own prophecies, within Mark's gospel!
- Ask God to encourage us in our future discipleship, that we will keep our eyes firmly fixed on the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.

Sunday following
3/4/2022

Episode 10

Big Idea: The God of the living commands would-be-disciples to listen to His Son, the Messiah, about the coming of His Kingdom.



1. Reflect

Where did you see God come near to us in our church family in our gathering together on Sunday? **For example: in the bible reading, singing, prayers, sermon, welcoming, morning tea?**

2. Remember

Mark 9:2-50. Together, read this episode in Mark (Optional Extra: Watch the video again). What struck you afresh?

3. Reacting in Fear

Instinctively, how would you react seeing God 'up close' in Jesus, in this episode?

4. Recall the Episode

Exodus 24:12-18

1 Kings 19:1-18

a) Where in this episode do we see fulfilment, or hear resonance, from these Old Testament passages?

b) If and where do we see Jesus fulfilling things from previous episodes within Mark's Gospel?

c) How does this episode build tension, raise expectations and point forward to the climax of Mark's gospel at the cross?

5. Responding as Followers

Discuss how we are called to follow Jesus, from this episode. How do you think God wants us to respond as followers, this side of the cross?

6. Renewing in Prayer

Praise, Thank, Ask

- Praise God that He is in control of all history - both the past and the future.
- Thank Jesus for leading His people into eternal life, including Moses, Elijah, his first disciples, us - and those we will tell about Him and invite to join us.
- Ask God to help us listen to his Son, whom He loves - by becoming like little children in his kingdom, rather than fighting others to make ourselves look great.