

**FELLOWSHIP BIBLE STUDIES  
(Reading the Bible together)**



**Gospel of Mark (I)**

**SHALOM CHURCH, SINGAPORE  
(Upholding the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith)**

## GOSPEL OF MARK (I)

### **INTRODUCTION AND LESSON 1**

After Jesus went up to heaven, at first people did not need to read about His life. The reason was that those who had known Him when He was on earth witnessed about what He had said and done.

But after some time, the people who had lived with Jesus, those who had watched His death, and those who had seen Him after He had risen again were dying. So some men wrote down what they knew and remembered about Jesus.

Of the four Gospels, the Gospel of Mark was the first one written. Mark (called John) was the writer. He was a friend of Peter, the apostle. Peter told Mark the things that are written in this book.

Although Mark was the man who wrote these things for us, the Holy Spirit was guiding him as he wrote. Mark's Gospel is part of the Word of God and 2 Timothy 3:16 says, "All Scripture is inspired by God".

The Bible tells us some things about Mark.

#### 1. Acts 12:12-17

Mark's family were wealthy, and his mother was a believer in the Lord Jesus. A prayer meeting was held in her home when Peter was in prison and miraculously set free by an angel. Mark may have been at that prayer meeting.

#### 2. Acts 13:4-5

He went with Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey as a helper.

#### 3. Acts 13:13; Acts 15:36-38

For some reason he left them and went back home. Therefore Paul was very disappointed in him. He did not consider him faithful. He would not allow him to go with them on their second journey. However, years later Paul saw that Mark had changed and was now a man he could trust. (2 Timothy 4:11)

Like us Mark was weak and made mistakes, but God gave him work, not only to serve Paul, but also to write the Gospel for us. If we, like Mark, become weak in God's work, or, if having started to serve God, we fail to complete the work, we should not give up hope. In God's power, we can start again. Like Mark, it's possible for us to become faithful workers for the Lord.

## Questions for lesson 1

Memory verse: Mark 10:45

Day 1 Read the Introduction and Lesson 1. Philemon verse 24

1. Who was Mark's close friend?
2. What did Mark do wrong?
3. Years later, what did Paul say about Mark? (Phil 24)
4. What can we learn from this?

Day 2 Mark 1:1 Matthew 1:21 Isaiah 9:6

5. What is the meaning for the name "Jesus"? (Matt 1:21)
6. In the verses given for reading today, what other names are given to Him?
7. From these names, which one gives much blessing to you? Why?

Day 3 Mark 1:2-4

Isaiah 40:3-5

8. What was the name of God's messenger?

9. What was the work the messenger was sent to do?

Day 4 Mark 1:4-5

Matthew 3:1-3

10. Which people came to John?

11. Before John baptised them, what did the people have to do?

12. What does the word "repent" mean?

Day 5 Mark 1:4-6 1 John 1:7-10

13. What do these verses tell us about John's way of living?

14. What must we do to be forgiven our sins?

15. What makes us clean from our sins?

16. Have you confessed your sins to God and found forgiveness?

Day 6 Mark 1:7-8

17. In what ways are John and the One who would come after him (Jesus) different? Write the 2 main things.

Day 7 Mark 1:1-8

18. From the following verses, write John's message in your own words.  
(a) v.3                      (b) v.4                      (c)v.7                      (d) v.8

## LESSON 2

### **Mark 1:1-8                      Jesus Christ and John the Baptist**

Mark does not begin his Gospel by telling us about the birth of the Lord Jesus, but by revealing what He did when He was already grown up. Jesus had lived with His family for thirty years in the small town of Nazareth where He worked as a carpenter. (Mark 6:3)

The name "Jesus" means "Saviour". A lot of Jewish boys had that name, but the Lord Jesus was the only one who could save from sin. The word "Christ" means "Messiah" or "the Anointed One". In Old Testament times, those who were anointed as they began their work were the leaders - the kings, priest and prophets. When the Jews said, "The Messiah is coming", they were hoping that God would send a great leader. In the Old Testament there are many prophecies about the Messiah. Jesus fulfilled them all.

John the Baptist was a relative of the Lord Jesus. His special work was to tell people that the Messiah was coming, and to get them ready. He lived in the desert, ate the food he could get there like the poor people did, and wore clothes like the Old Testament prophets had worn. Luke tells us more about him and his birth (Luke 1:5-25, 57-80). People knew that he was somebody God had sent, and they listened to him. Crowds of people travelled out to where he was preaching to hear him. He told them, "You need to repent and have your sins forgiven". "Repent" means to turn away from our sins and to stop going our own way. If we want Jesus to be our Lord, we must first be sorry for our sins and confess them to God. Unless we do this, and unless our hearts are changed, baptism is no use to us. That

is why John said, "So that you will find forgiveness for your sins, repent and be baptised." - v.4

John said, "The One who comes after me is far greater than I am, and I am only His slave." God gave John a great work to do, but there was no pride in him. He wanted to tell others about the Lord Jesus so they could know Him too. Do you want others to know Him too? Are you ready to be like a slave for the Lord Jesus?

**Questions for lesson 2**

**Memory verse: Matthew 1:21**

Day 1 Read the notes for Lesson 2.

1. From the notes, write 2 things which help you.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What is the meaning of the name "Christ"?

Day 2 Mark 1:9-11

3. What amazing things happened when Jesus was baptised?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. In these verses we read about God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. What did each one do?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Jesus never sinned but He was baptised. Can you think why?

Day 3 Mark 1:12-13

6. Why did Jesus go to the desert?

7. What happened while He was there?

8. What is Satan tempting you to do today?

Because Jesus has been tempted like you are, He can help you.

Day 4 Mark 1:14-20

9. What was Jesus' message?

10. What did the four fishermen leave to follow Jesus?

11. Can you think of anything you need to leave behind to be His follower?

Day 5 Mark 1:21-28 Hebrews 10:25

12. Why were they astonished at the teaching of Jesus?

13. Where was it Jesus' custom to go on the Sabbath?

14. What can we learn from this?

Day 6 Mark 1:29-39

15. When they returned from the synagogue, Jesus spent the day doing many things. What did He do?

16. Why did Jesus get up so early?

17. When do you pray and read your Bible?

Day 7 Mark 1:40-45

18. Because the leper did not obey Jesus, what happened?

19. Copy John 14:15.

20. What command of Jesus do you find difficult?

### **LESSON 3**

#### **Mark 1:9-45     Jesus begins His work**

Jesus began His work by asking John to baptise Him. John was baptising the people who repented and confessed their sins. It was not necessary for Jesus to be baptised because He never sinned. But He chose to be baptised to show that He is one with us. When He was baptised the Holy Spirit came down like a dove and the Father spoke from heaven, showing He was God's Son, and that He was doing what God wanted.



Straight after this the Holy Spirit led Him into the desert. While He stayed there by Himself for 40 days, Satan came and tempted Him. It was while He was obeying God that He was tempted. Likewise, if we try to obey God, we are sure to be tempted. But being tempted is not sin. Hebrews 2:18 says, "Because He (Jesus) has suffered and been tempted, He can help us when we are tempted."

### ***Jesus calls His disciples - verses 14-20***

After He came back to Galilee, Jesus began preaching. His message is still the main one for us today, "Repent. Believe the gospel." He called Andrew, Peter, James and John to go with Him. They were fishermen, but they left their work and their income to follow Him.

Jesus chose these men. Like us they were people who often said and did wrong things. He wanted to teach them and change them so that they become men who would do great things for Him. He has chosen you and me. That is an amazing thing and one that causes great joy. When we have repented and believed the gospel, He wants us to follow Him and serve Him.

### ***Jesus' first miracles - verses 21-34, 40-43***

There are four different miracles here.

1. The man with the evil spirit was in the synagogue (church). Our going to church does not save us. We need to ask the Lord Jesus to be our Saviour and to take away our sin.
2. Peter's wife's mother's sickness prevented her from working. When Jesus healed her she was able to serve them. The Lord Jesus can help us to be faithful in the work we have been given.
3. Because He loved everyone without exception, anyone who wanted to could come to Jesus. He is the same today and receives all who come to Him.
4. Because his disease was infectious, the man with leprosy was not allowed to live with his family. He lived alone and no-one came near to him. But Jesus touched Him and healed him. Even if we are despised by people, Jesus comes near to us.

Because Jesus really loved people, He helped them, and because He was the Son of God, He had power to heal them and give them new lives. He loves us too and wants to change our lives. Also He wants us to love other people on His behalf.

### ***Jesus prays - verse 35***

Although He was the Son of God, and had much work, Jesus gave time to pray and to be alone with God. If He needed to do this, so do we. It isn't always easy, but we need to give time every day to pray and read the Bible. If we don't do this, how can we know God? How can we hear Him speak to us? How can we know His will? Just as Jesus got His strength from God, so we get our strength from prayer and God's Word.

### **Questions for lesson 3**

### **Memory verse: John 14:15**

Day 1 Read the notes for Lesson 3.

1. What profitable thought did you find in the notes?

2. Complete this verse, "He Himself has been tempted ---"

3. Why should we pray and read the Bible every day?

Day 2 Mark 2:1-5

4. Why did the 4 men bring their friend to Jesus?

5. What did Jesus do for him? (v.5)

6. Which is more important, to be healed from sickness, or to be cleansed from sin?

Day 3 Mark 2:6-12

7. They said, "Only God can forgive sins." Is that true?

8. Then what did Jesus mean when He said, "The Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"? (v.10)

9. What 3 things did Jesus do that show He had God's power?

(a) v.8                      (b) v.10                      (c)v.11-12

Day 4 Mark 2:13-14 Matthew 9:9

10. What did Jesus spend much time doing? (Also read again 1:21 and 2:2)
  
11. What was Levi's job? (He is usually called Matthew.)
  
12. What did Matthew have to leave to follow Jesus?

Day 5 Mark 2:15-17

13. Matthew called his friends and made a feast in Jesus' honour. (Luke 5:29) Who were his friends?
  
14. What can you do to help your unbelieving friends meet the Lord Jesus?
  
15. What sort of people benefit from the lesson Jesus teaches?

Day 6 Mark 2:18-22

16. Do you know what the word "disciple" means?
  
17. When Jesus said, "the bridegroom" (v.20), who was He speaking about?

18. What commandment did the Pharisees say Jesus' disciples had broken?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
19. What reasons did Jesus give to show that His disciples' actions were without fault?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
20. The Jewish sabbath was on Saturday. Why did Christians change to keeping Sunday as the Lord's day? Look at Mark 16:1-6 and Acts 20:7.

#### LESSON 4

#### **Mark 2:1-28                      Jesus the servant of God**

Although Jesus had much work, He gave time to people who came to Him.

#### ***Men bring their friend to Jesus - verses 1-12***

Knowing how important it was for people to learn about God, Jesus gave much time as He taught them. But when four men brought a cripple to Him, He stopped His teaching to help the man. Jesus saw that the man's greatest need was not that he be healed from his sickness, but that he be forgiven his sin. Jesus also wanted people to know that, because He was God's Son, He had power to forgive sins. The religious leaders were right in saying, "Only God can forgive sins." But they were mistaken, because they did not realise that since Jesus is God's Son, He can do what God can do.

#### ***Jesus calls Matthew - verses 13-17***

Matthew (or Levi) was a tax-collector. Tax-collectors were despised by other Jews. The reasons were that, (1) they collected taxes, not for the Jews, but for their rulers the Romans, and (2) because these tax-collectors took money from the people for themselves. The Pharisees would never eat with tax-collectors, and accused Jesus because He did. But Jesus loved even tax-collectors and other sinners. These ones knew they needed help and forgiveness. But the Pharisees considered themselves righteous and would not receive Jesus' help.

#### ***Jesus' teaching is new - verses 18-22***

What Jesus reveals here is this. His teaching was completely different from what the Jews had known in the past. He was not just going to add new things to their religion, but He would bring something completely new.

### ***A question about the sabbath - verses 23-28***

For the Jews the sabbath was the day set aside for God. They observed it according to Moses' law. But the Pharisees had added many laws that God did not give. It was permitted for travellers to pick and eat grain as they walked through the grain fields. But when Jesus' disciples did this on the sabbath, the Pharisees said, "They are working and not keeping God's laws." But Jesus said, "The sabbath was made for man's benefit. And I am the Lord of the sabbath."

Because the day Jesus Christ rose from the dead was Sunday, we say Sunday is the Lord's day. While it is a day of rest for us, it is also the day we honour and worship God. It is not a day when we are troubled as we try and keep the law, but a day when we rejoice, remembering God's mercy to us.

### **Questions for lesson 4**

### **Memory verse: Mark 2:10**

Day 1 Read the notes for Lesson 4.

1. What thing did you learn from last week's lesson?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Jesus chose Matthew to be His disciple. Does this amaze you? Why?

Day 2 Mark 3:1-6

3. (a) What was the aim of the people in the synagogue who were watching Jesus?  
(v.2, 6)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- (b) What do you think Jesus' aim was?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Why did Jesus feel sorrow and anger?

Day 3 Mark 3:7-12

5. How do you think the news about Jesus spread?
  
6. (a) In these present times, how do people hear about Jesus Christ?  
  
(b) Which of these do you think is the best method?
  
7. What did the evil spirits know about Jesus?

Day 4 Mark 3:13-19 Luke 6:12-13

8. Before Jesus chose the 12 apostles, what preparation did He make? (Luke 6:12-13)
  
9. Jesus chose those who would be His disciples. In which circumstances in your life do you have the opportunity to make a choice?
  
10. What should you do before you choose?
  
11. Jesus chose the twelve to do 3 things. What were they?
  
12. Which do you think was the most important?

Day 5 Mark 3:20-21

13. When many people followed Him like this, why do you think Jesus didn't send them away?

14. Why were Jesus' family concerned about Him?

Day 6 Mark 3:22-30

15. Who opposed Jesus?

16. What did they say about Him?

17. Who is Beelzebul?

18. What do you think "speaking blasphemy against the Holy Spirit" is?  
(If you are afraid thinking, "I have committed this sin," you may know certainly that you have not.)

Day 7 Mark 3:31-35

19. When His family tried to prevent Him doing God's will, who did Jesus say are His true family?

20. For you, which comes first, to obey God or to please your family?

## LESSON 5

### **Mark 3:1-35      Some follow and some oppose Jesus**

Because the Lord Jesus loved people, because He healed the sick, and because He talked about God in a way the people could understand, they gladly listened to Him and followed Him. So the Pharisees and religious leaders became angry and they began to make plans to kill Him. He was not afraid of them and went on doing God's work.

#### ***Jesus heals the man in the synagogue - verses 1-12***

When Jesus healed the man, He showed that the sabbath is not only a day of rest, but also a day for doing good. The Pharisees did not care about the man and his problem. They accused Jesus saying, "He does not honour the sabbath." But in their hearts they were planning to kill Jesus. They appeared to be those who obeyed God. But Jesus saw their hard hearts and was sad and angry. God looks not only at what we do, but also at our hearts. Today, is He pleased at what He sees in your heart?

People were talking about Jesus and telling each other what He had said and done. Do you tell others what He has done for you?

#### ***Jesus chooses His disciples - verses 13-19***

Jesus knew the time had come to choose the men who would go on working for Him after He had gone back to heaven. He wanted to teach them a lot. Luke 6:12 tells us that before He chose them, He spent all night praying about it. He called them "apostles" which means those sent with a message. These men were just like us. They were not rich, and they knew how to work hard. Jesus wanted them to be with Him (v.14) so they could learn about Him and then tell others. They were His friends and He wants us to be His friends too. We too can be with Him, not in the flesh, but by praying and reading His Word, the Bible. When Jesus chose Judas, He knew he would betray Him, but He still loved him and tried to make him His friend. Judas betrayed Jesus by his own will. It is not by force that we love and follow Jesus. He calls us, and if we are willing, we become His disciples. Are you willing to follow and obey Him?

#### ***Jesus' family and the teachers of the law - verses 20-35***

When the teachers of the law accused Jesus saying, "He casts out Satan by Satan's power", they said a foolish thing. Satan does not oppose himself. In v.27, the one called "the strong man" is Satan. He has made men his prisoners. The demons are his workers. Since he is strong, who can tie him up? Only one greater than he is. That One is Jesus and He showed His power by casting out demons. Well, where does Jesus' power come from? From the Holy Spirit.



These teachers knowingly opposed God's work saying, "Jesus casts out demons by Satan's power." Their hearts were hard, and they refused to say Jesus was from God. Those who harden their hearts so that they won't hear what the Holy Spirit is witnessing to them about Jesus Christ are the only ones who can never receive forgiveness for their sins. Jesus said, "Whoever comes to Me I will never drive away" John 6:37. If we seek His forgiveness and grace we will find it.

Jesus loved His family. When He was dying on the cross He thought about Mary and asked John to look after her (John 19:26,27). But He had to tell them that everyone who loves God and obeys Him is His family. Have you realised that if you do His will, you are not only His friend, His disciple, but also His brother or His sister? Think on this wonderful thing.

### **Questions for lesson 5**

### **Memory verse: Mark 3:35**

Day 1 Read the notes for Lesson 5.

1. What profitable thought did you find in the notes?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Why was Jesus angry with the Pharisees?

Day 2 Mark 4:1-9

3. Give the four kinds of soil in the parable.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What happened to the seed which fell on each kind of soil?

Day 3 Mark 4:10-17

5. What does the seed represent? (v.14)

6. What do the birds represent? (v.4 and v.15)

7. What causes the people who are like rocky soil to fall away?

Day 4 Mark 4:18-20 Galatians 5:22-23

8. From v.19, what are the three things that can choke God's Word out of our lives? Try and put them in your own words.

9. What things keep you from obeying God's Word?

10. What kinds of people are good soil?

11. What is the fruit of the Spirit?

Day 5 Mark 4:21-25 Matthew 5:15-16

12. What are we to do with the light we have received from God? (Matthew 5:16)

13. What do you think it means to let our light shine?

14. (a) When we have open hearts to receive God's message, what happens?  
(v.24,25)

(b) What if we don't receive the message?

Day 6 Mark 4:26-34

15. Give the verse numbers to match these statements:-

(a) It is our work to sow the seed (God's Word). v.\_\_\_\_

(b) God makes the Word grow. v.\_\_\_\_

(c) At the right time there will be a harvest. v.\_\_\_\_

(d) From small beginnings, God's work can grow into something great. .v.\_\_\_\_

Day 7 Mark 4:35-41

16. Even though the storm was frightening, why should the disciples not have been afraid?

17. What are the two questions Jesus asked them?

18. What new thing did the disciples learn about Jesus?

19. What difficulty is there in your life which is like a storm?

## LESSON 6

### Mark 4:1-41      Jesus' teaching

The Lord Jesus often used parables to teach His disciples. A parable is a story that teaches a lesson. This sort of teaching helped the disciples to understand what He was saying. But those who did not receive God's Word could not understand the parables.

#### 1. The parable of the sower - verses 3-20

When the farmer sowed seed, it did not all grow and produce fruit. Jesus said that God's Word is like the seed, and those who hear it are like the different sorts of soil. Sometimes Satan takes God's Word away from people's hearts like the birds eating the seed beside the road. Some people seem to believe in Jesus, but when they have trouble they change their minds. Jesus didn't promise us that it would be easy to follow Him. Other people are like the seed that grew among the thorns. Because they are doing and thinking other things, they do not find time to read God's Word, and they do not grow. The people who are like the good soil produce fruit. The Bible tells us about this fruit in Galatians 5:22 and 23. What kind of soil do you think you are?

#### 2. The parable of the lamp - verses 21-25

That the light be seen, we put a lamp in an obvious place. God has given us light, we must let the light be seen (Matthew 5:16). We must be careful how we hear and receive God's Word. If we receive it carelessly, it will not be profitable to us, but will judge us.

#### 3. The parable of the seed - verses 26-29

When a man plants a seed, he doesn't know how it grows. Likewise, when we sow God's Word, we don't know how the Holy Spirit causes it to grow. Nevertheless, our work is to sow the seed of God's Word.

#### 4. The parable of the mustard seed - verses 30-34

Jesus tells us that God's kingdom, although small to start with, grows into something big. Until now it is growing and spreading in the world.

### ***Jesus calms the storm - verses 35-41***

It was by Jesus' command that the disciples were crossing the lake. Even so, a storm arose against them. While we are obeying Him, difficulties like a storm may come against us. To say, "If I am doing God's will no problems will come to me", is not right. When the disciples were in difficulty, Jesus was there with them. He has promised us, "I will never leave you or forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5). But because they didn't realise how great His power was, they were afraid. After Jesus had calmed the storm, He said, "Why did you fear? How is it that you have no faith?" If we realise that Jesus is with us, whatever the



5. How was it that he knew these things and was so very strong?

Day 3 Mark 5:9-17

6. The evil spirits asked permission from Jesus and they obeyed Him. From this, what can we know about Jesus?

7. What changes did Jesus bring in the man's life?

8. Has Jesus made any changes in your life? What are they?

Day 4 Mark 5:16-20

9. Why did the people want Jesus to leave?

10. What did the man want to do?

11. Why didn't Jesus let him?

12. What lesson is there in v.19 for us?

Day 5 Mark 5:21-24 I Peter 5:7

13. What sort of man was the one who now wanted help?

14. How did he bring his request to Jesus?

15. What are we to do with those things that trouble us?

Day 6 Mark 5:25-34

16. Because of her sickness, what suffering had come to this woman?

17. Why didn't she ask Jesus to heal her?

18. When she fell down before Jesus, fearing that He would judge her, what kind word did He say to her?

Day 7 Mark 5:35-43 John 11:25-26

19. What did Jesus tell Jairus he must do?

20. What miracle did Jesus perform in Jairus' house?

21. (a) What promise does Jesus give in John 11:25-26?

(b) To whom is it given?

(c) What kind of life does He speak of?

## LESSON 7

### Mark 5:1-43

### More miracles of Jesus

#### 1. Jesus heals the demon-possessed man - verses 1-20

This man was a slave of many demons. They made him do what they wanted, and he could not live with his family. People were afraid of him, and because the demons gave him strength, he broke the chains he was bound with. Because the Lord Jesus was the Son of God, He had power to order the demons to leave the man. They did not want to go, and He allowed them to go into the pigs. For one man's salvation, 2000 pigs were lost. How greatly God counts one person's value! More than this, that you be saved, He gave His only Son. Think about this amazing thing.

Even if we are not held prisoners by evil spirits, Satan wants us to be slaves to sin. But Jesus can set us free. He can help us win over all sin. Just as the man was changed and became a new man, so in Jesus Christ we become new and can overcome sin (2 Corinthians 5:17).

#### 2. Jesus and the sick woman - verses 25-34

This woman who had been sick for twelve years had suffered much. Also, according to Moses' law, because of her sickness, she was counted unclean. That is why she feared to tell Jesus that she had touched Him. But He didn't despise her, as others did, but praised her for her faith. Even if other people despise us, Jesus receives us if we have faith.

#### 3. Jesus and Jairus' daughter - verses 21-24 and 35-43

Although Jairus was a ruler in the synagogue and an important man, when his girl got sick, he could not help her. He was very worried. Believing that Jesus could heal her, he came to



Him. But as Jesus was going to Jairus' house He stopped to help the sick woman. When the servant came and said to Jairus, "Your girl has died", Jairus probably thought, "If Jesus had hurried and had not stopped for that woman's matter, He would have arrived before my daughter died." Nevertheless Jesus said to him, "Only believe and don't be afraid." Like Jairus, we are often hurrying. We want our prayers answered quickly. When we don't get the answer we want, sometimes we give up hope. But the Lord Jesus says, "Only believe Me. Don't be afraid." Perhaps the reason we didn't get an answer to our prayer is that God plans something greater than we thought. It was like that for Jairus. What he thought was that his child would be healed from sickness. But God's thought was greater - her rising from the dead! So, knowing that God hears us, let us in faith continue our praying.

When our Christian friends and families die, we are sad. But Jesus has promised to raise all who believe in Him (John 11:25). This girl received physical life that day. We who believe receive eternal life.

### **Questions for lesson 7**

### **Memory verse: Mark 5:19**

Day 1 Read the notes for Lesson 7.

1. From the notes, write something that helped you.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. If God does not immediately answer our prayer, what could the reason be?

Day 2 Mark 6:1-6

3. The people were puzzled about Jesus. What were they saying?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What was it that stopped Jesus from working in His own village?

Day 3 Mark 6:7-13

5. (a) What was the message the disciples preached?

(b) Who else had preached this? Mark 1:4, 14-15

6. Do you think this message is important for us today? Why?

Day 4 Mark 6:14-20

7. Who did Herod think Jesus was?

8. Why did Herod's wife hate John?

9. Even though Herod heard John's word gladly, do you think he benefited from it? Why?

Day 5 Mark 6:21-29

10. Look at v.26. Why do you think Herod chose to keep his promise rather than to save John?

11. Do you think he made the right choice?

12. Read Proverbs 29:25. What happens if we fear people and their opinions?

Day 6 Mark 6:30-44

13. When Jesus and the disciples went alone for a rest and people followed them, why didn't Jesus send them away?

14. In the evening, what else did He do for them?

15. Can you tell your group of an occasion when God gave you what you needed? (Perhaps food or money or other thing)

Day 7 Mark 6:45-56

16. Why did Jesus stay behind?

17. What lesson is there here for you?

18. When the disciples were in trouble, what things did Jesus do?

(a) v.48      (b) v.50      (c)v.51

19. When we are in trouble, does He do these things for us? Can you tell of an occasion when He did one of these things for you?

## LESSON 8

### **Mark 6:1-56     Jesus and the people**

Wherever the Lord Jesus went people talked about Him. While some believed Him, others did not. People still have to choose what they think about Jesus.

#### ***The people of Nazareth - verses 1-6***

These people had known Jesus as He grew up. They were acquainted with His family. Because they could not understand how He could do miracles, they did not believe Him. So He could not do many miracles there.

#### ***Jesus sends out the disciples - verses 7-13***

The Lord Jesus chose His disciples to be with Him (3:14). Now He sent them out to do His work. If we are His disciples, firstly we must be with Him (by praying and reading His Word), then we must go to witness to others about Him. He sent them out in twos so they could help each other. They were to teach everyone who would listen. But if people did not want to listen, they were not to force them.

#### ***King Herod's sin - verses 14-29***

When King Herod heard about Jesus he was very worried. The reason was he had killed John the Baptist and was afraid he had come back to life. Herod knew God's way. Even although John the Baptist had accused him saying, "You have done wrong to marry your brother's wife," Herod liked to hear John preach God's Word. But however much God's Word may bring us joy, unless we obey it, it doesn't profit us. In the end Herod was caught in Satan's trap. Fearing to be dishonoured before men, he had John killed.

While God allowed John the Baptist to be killed, it was after he had finished the work God gave him to do. Although his life on earth was a short one, he did everything God told him. It does not really matter if our lives are long or short, but it does matter whether or not we obey what God tells us.

#### ***Jesus feeds 5000 people - verses 30-44***

This miracle shows us how much the Lord Jesus cared about people. He saw that they were like sheep without a shepherd so He taught them spiritual lessons. Then, when they were tired and hungry, He fed them. Just as He gave them all they needed, so He gives us all we need, whether for our spiritual or physical lives (Philippines 4:19).

#### ***Jesus walks on the water - verses 45-56***

When Jesus had fed the people, He sent the disciples across the lake in a boat, and He sent the people away. He stayed alone and prayed. When He saw the disciples in trouble, He went to help them. Today it may seem to you that He is a long way away. But He sees your trouble. He says to you, "Be comforted. Don't be afraid"(v.50.) He will bring calm to your life, just as on that occasion He calmed the wind.

## Questions for lesson 8

## Memory verse: Philippians 4:19

Day 1 Read the notes for Lesson 8.

1. From the notes, write something that encourages you.
2. Although John the Baptist was killed without reason, what makes you happy about his life?

Day 2 Mark 7:1-8

3. What did the Pharisees say to accuse Jesus' disciples?
4. What did the disciples not keep - God's law or man's customs?
5. Why did Jesus say to the Pharisees, "You hypocrites"? (v.6-7)

Day 3 Mark 7:9-13

6. As is written in Moses' law, what should we do for our parents?
7. For those who didn't want to obey this command, the Pharisees created a way. What did Jesus say they were doing to God's command? v.13
8. Nowadays, if people do not want to obey God's commands, like the Pharisees they create a way. Can you give examples of what they say?

Day 4 Mark 7:14-19

9. What is it that doesn't make us unclean before God?

10. What does, "All food is clean" mean? v.19

Day 5 Mark 7:20-23 Psalm 139:23-24

11. What makes a person unclean? v.20

12. Make a list of the sins written here. Are there any words whose meanings you don't understand?

13. Are any of these sins found in your heart? Ask God to examine your heart to show you any sins there.

14. Read 1 John 1:9, and ask God to cleanse you from those sins that are making your life unclean.

Day 6 Mark 7:24-30

15. How did the woman show that she had faith?  
(a) in v.26-28 (b) in v.29-30

16. What lesson can we learn from this woman about what to do if we do not immediately get an answer to our prayers?

Day 7 Mark 7:31-37

17. What could the reason be that Jesus put His fingers in the man's ears and touched his tongue?

18. What did the people say about Jesus' miracles?

## LESSON 9

### **Mark 7:1-37      Jesus goes on working.**

#### ***Jesus and the Pharisees - verses 1-23***

The Pharisees were the religious leaders who taught the people about God's laws. But they added many of their own traditions to the Old Testament laws. For example, they said, "In order not to be defiled, people must wash their hands according to our laws." But Jesus said, "You are hypocrites." The reason was that they seemed to be those who honoured God. But in their hearts they were far from God. In place of obedience to God, they created their own laws. If we honour religious customs but in our hearts do not obey God, or if we look for reasons for not obeying His Word, we are like the Pharisees. Later, Jesus explained the matter to His disciples. Nothing that goes into a person's stomach can make him unclean. But if we allow sin to live in us, that is what makes us unclean. Only the blood of Jesus Christ can cleanse us from these sins. Let us remove these sins from within us.

#### ***Jesus and the Gentile woman - verses 24-30***

While Jesus was living on this earth, His main work was to the Jews. Nevertheless, we often see examples of His love for Gentiles (people who are not Jews) as well. But when this Gentile woman came and asked Him to heal her daughter, Jesus seemed to say, "I can't help you because you are not a Jew." Her answer pleased Him because it showed she was humble. She knew she didn't deserve His help, but she had faith that He would do as she asked. So He gladly answered her prayer by healing her daughter. We also do not deserve

to receive God's mercy. It is only by His great grace that we can come to Him. Let us humbly thank Him for the mercy He has given to us.

***Jesus and the deaf and dumb man - verses 31-37***

This man's friends brought him to Jesus. Do you have friends who need His help? What are you doing so that they come to Jesus? If we don't help them, many people will not come to Him by themselves. Because the man was deaf, Jesus could not speak to him, so He showed him what He was going to do by putting His fingers in his ears and touching his tongue. Perhaps this helped him to believe.

When people heard about this miracle, they said, "He has done everything well" v.37. Because in these days He still does everything well, let us thank Him.

**Questions for lesson 9**

**Memory verse: Mark 7:20**

Day 1 Read the notes for Lesson 9.

1. Copy a sentence from the notes that helped you.
  
2. Read Acts 10:34-35. From which country does God receive people?

Day 2 Mark 8:1-3

3. How long had the people been with Jesus?
  
4. Without thinking of food, they had stayed to listen to Him. Do you desire God's Word to this extent? Do you at least read it every day?
  
5. Copy the words which show that Jesus thought about the people's difficulties.



Day 3 Mark 8:4-10

6. (a) How many loaves were there?                      (b) How many fish?
- (c) How many people?                                      (d) How many basketfuls were left?
7. What things did the disciples do to help Jesus?

Day 4 Mark 8:11-21

8. Why did the Pharisees come and question Jesus?
9. What did Jesus say to the disciples about the Pharisees?
10. What made Jesus sad about their answer?

Day 5 Mark 8:22-26

11. What did Jesus do to heal this blind man?
12. Where did He take him before He healed him? (v.23)

13. Just as Jesus stayed with the man until his healing was complete, what promise does God give to us in Philippians 1:6?

Day 6 Mark 8:27-30

14. What questions did Jesus ask His disciples?

15. What was Peter's answer?

16. Why do you think he said that?

Day 7 Mark 8:27-31

17. If Jesus asked you, "Who do you say I am?" what would be your answer?

18. What new things have you learned about Jesus from this study in Mark's Gospel?

19. What did Jesus tell the disciples would happen to Him?

## LESSON 10

### Mark 8:1-31

### Who is Jesus?

#### ***The feeding of the four thousand - verses 1-10***

This was the second time Jesus fed a large crowd with a small amount of food. These people had been with Him for three days. Because they wanted very much to listen to Him, they did not go back home. Jesus knew that the people were hungry, and that they were too weak to go home without food. He understands when we are hungry or weak and will give us what we need. The disciples did not think He would feed the people again. Perhaps they had forgotten that He had fed the five thousand people. We often forget what God has done for us in the past, and don't have faith to believe He can help us when a new difficulty comes to us.

Jesus did not do this miracle alone. The disciples helped Him by giving the food to the people. We also have work to do for Him. What work has God given to you? Perhaps it does not seem great work to you. But if He has given it to you, you must be faithful to complete it.

#### ***The yeast of the Pharisees - verses 11-21***

The Pharisees asked Jesus for a miracle to prove that He was the Messiah. But He had done many miracles and they had not believed. So Jesus warned His disciples about the Pharisees' "yeast". He was speaking about their hypocrisy and their hardness of heart, but the disciples did not understand what He said. We also often fail to understand what He says to us. But He is patient with us.

#### ***Jesus heals the blind man - verses 22-26***

Many times, the way Jesus healed people was by just speaking a word. But this time, He did not immediately complete the man's healing. His methods are not always the same. What He does in your life may be different from what He does for your friend. He will do what is best for you. Sometimes He answers our prayers immediately. But sometimes we don't get a complete answer. Nevertheless, if He has started a work, He will not fail to complete it. He will complete the work He has started in your life (Philippians 1:6).

#### ***Jesus asks the disciples, "Who am I?" - verses 27-31***

All the people were talking about Jesus. Who was He? Different people had different opinions. Many saw His miracles but did not believe that He was God's Son. But when Jesus asked the disciples for their opinion, Peter said, "You are the Messiah (Christ)." He and the other disciples understood that Jesus was really the Son of God. Do you also understand that? You have read in Mark's Gospel about what He did and what He said. Who do you think Jesus is? We must all give an answer to this great question.

## MEMORY VERSES FOR MARK'S GOSPEL

1. Mark 10:45  
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.
2. Matthew 1:21  
She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.
3. John 14:15  
If you love me, you will obey what I command.
4. Mark 2:10  
But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.
5. Mark 3:35  
Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother.
6. Matthew 5:16  
In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.
7. Mark 5:19  
Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you."
8. Philippians 4:19  
And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.
9. Mark 7:20  
He went on: "What comes out of a man is what makes him 'unclean'."

## ADDITIONAL NOTES/QUESTION