

Study 1: The Gospel and the King – Mark 1

Growth Group Series: “The Cross and the Kingdom”, Mark 1-8

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These studies follow the sermon series which can be downloaded from the church website: <http://www.berwickanglicans.net>

1. How would you answer the question: “Who is Jesus?” Why is this an important question? What is at stake?

2. Mark's gospel is the shortest gospel, most likely written first out of all the gospels. Look up the following passages and see what you can learn about Mark:
 - a) 1 Peter 5:13
 - b) Acts 12:12, 13:5, 13:13
 - c) Acts 15:36-39
 - d) Colossians 4:10

3. In the ancient Roman world there was an obsession with kingship, power and glory. Mark begins with a provocative statement about the identity of Jesus. Who does Mark say Jesus is in 1:1? In your own words try and unpack the meaning behind each title. (Bonus question: What is surprising about the final revelation of the Son of God at the end of the book (15:39)?)

4. According to the prophecy quoted (1:2-3) who was John and what was he meant to do? Why is John dressed funny? (hint: Malachi 4:5-6 and 2 Kings 1:7-8) What does John's ministry teach us about getting ready to meet God?

5. Who does God the Father say Jesus is? (1:9-13) How does the affirmation of v11 prepare Jesus for the challenge of v13? Why is our relationship with God fundamental for facing suffering and temptation?

6. What significant announcement does Jesus make (1:14-15)? What is the “kingdom of God”? What is the right response to the announcement? Why is the announcement called “good news”?

7. What does the response of the fisherman to the call of Jesus reveal about his identity (1:16-20)? Is this an over-enthusiastic response? Does the call of Jesus have the same power in our life?

8. God's people have been waiting a long time for their Messiah to arrive. What evidence in Mark 1 suggests that the time has arrived? In what ways is the first coming of Jesus the biggest event of all time and history? If announcing the kingdom brought Jesus into temptation and conflict, should we expect the same for our faith in him?

9. What aspect of Jesus' arrival most encourages you? What most challenges you? Share in the group and then spend time praying about both.