



SERVANT **KING**

MARK 9-16

SERVANT KING: MARK 9-16

INTRODUCTION

READ THE BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

DAILY READING NOTES - SERVANT KING: MARK 9-16

Week	Passage	Theme
1	Mark 8:31-9:29	The suffering King of glory
2	Mark 9:30-50	The way of the King's cross
3	Mark 10:1-52	Belonging to the King's Kingdom
4	Mark 11:1-25	The King comes to His temple
5	Mark 11:27-12:44	Opposition to the King
6	Mark 13:1-37	The coming judgment of the King
7	Mark 14:1-26	The King's blood
8	Mark 14:27-52	The temptation of the King
9	Mark 14:53-15:15	The King on trial
10	Mark 15:16-16:8	The Servant King

We want to encourage each other to be on mission to our non-Christian friends, family and contacts.

Who are you on mission to?

Make a list and start praying for them (and yourself).

Pray for three friends, once a week, for one minute (3-1-1).

List the names of your family and friends here:

TERM 1 - 2017

How to use this book:

1. PERSONAL READING

- Use this guide to help you read your Bible every day.
- Scribble down your thoughts and questions each day, and remember to pray and ask God to speak to you by His Spirit, through His Word.

2. GROWTH GROUPS

- Take this guide with you to your Growth Group each week so you can write down prayer points that come from the study that week and prayer requests from the members of your group.
- Let your group know who you are on mission to.

3. CHURCH

- Keep this guide with your Bible and bring it with you to church.
- Scribble down sermon notes in the space provided.

SIGN UP FOR THESE NOTES AS A DAILY EMAIL AT:
www.evchurch.info/series

GIVING AT EV CHURCH

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More info on giving and account details:
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INTRODUCTION

SERVANT KING: MARK 9-16

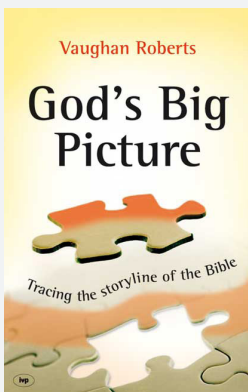
Early Christian tradition tells us that this gospel was written by John Mark, a citizen of Jerusalem (Acts 12:12) who was later a colleague of Paul, Barnabas (Acts 12:25) and Peter (1 Peter 5:13). Papias, an historian, who wrote between 95-120 AD, wrote that Mark was the “interpreter” of Peter. By this he meant that Mark recorded the substance of Peter’s sermons concerning Jesus most likely from Rome during the mid 60’s AD. Mark likely drew much of his material for this Gospel from Peter.

“Who is this man?” That’s the question with which Mark confronts his readers in the opening eight chapters. Mark puts his premise before his readers in the opening verses, asserting that Jesus is not just the long-awaited Jewish Messiah, but the very Son of God. When Peter dramatically reaches this conclusion at the hinge point of the gospel in chapter 8, a new question is posed: “What has this man come to do?” In the next eight chapters it will be clear that this King has come to suffer, die, and, after that, to rise. He is the Servant King, who gives His life as a ransom for many. Throughout these chapters Mark also weaves in what it will mean to follow Jesus. This leaves the reader with a powerful challenge: When you have understood who Jesus is and what He has come to do, will you follow Him the way He requires?

“Mark” is the shortest gospel and there’s good evidence that it was also the first, serving as the core document for both Matthew’s and Luke’s gospels. Mark wrote in Greek for a Gentile audience most likely in Rome, as shown by Mark’s need to explain Jewish traditions and terms, his use of Roman words and their system of time, along with the testimony of early witnesses that both Peter and Mark were together in Rome during this period. Since only around 15% of the population could read, and fewer still could afford their own scroll, it is likely that Mark was designed to be read aloud, possibly in a single sitting while the church was gathered together. Mark wrote concisely yet vividly. When read aloud, we can appreciate his skilful build-up and release of tension revealing threads in the narrative that we might otherwise have missed. While Mark points out much of Jesus’ power as a teacher, he does not major on Jesus’ actual teaching but writes rather of eager crowds, stunning miracles and terse confrontations. Mark’s approach allows us to

feel the revolutionary and often disconcerting impact Jesus had on those around Him. Questions abound in this gospel – there's over 100 of them. Many are directed at Jesus, but even more are asked by Him, including the crucial one: "Who do people say I am?" It is likely that Mark wrote to invoke a response to this most important of questions.

His persuasive, provocative writing style, and dramatic portrayal of Jesus leaves little room for the reader to miss his point. His Gentile audience in Rome would no doubt have been drawn into the story and forced to draw a conclusion. If they agreed with their countryman who declared at the foot of the cross, "Truly this man was the Son of God!" (Mark 15:39), they would then need to determine what to do with Him. The same challenge remains for all who read Mark today.



SUGGESTED READING

"God's Big Picture" by Vaughan Roberts

Sixty-six books written by forty people over nearly 2,000 years in two languages and several different genres. A worldwide best-seller published in countless sizes and bindings, translations and languages. Sworn by in court, fought over by religious people, quoted in arguments. The Bible is clearly no ordinary book. How can you begin to read and understand it as a whole? In this excellent overview, Vaughan Roberts gives you the big picture - showing how the different parts of the

Bible come together under the theme of the Kingdom of God. He provides both the encouragement and the tools to help you read the Bible with confidence and understanding. And he points you to the Bible's supreme subject, Jesus Christ, and the salvation God offers through Him.

READ THE BIBLE IN TWO YEARS

Something new you might like to use to extend your daily Bible reading.

The Bible is truly an extraordinary book, unique among all other books. It consists of 66 individual books, written by 40 different authors, in three different languages across 1,500 years of history. Yet for all of this diversity it contains a unified message that focuses on the coming of Jesus and the amazing salvation He offers through His death and resurrection!

The Bible contains words written by men in all the richness of literary types making it fun, challenging and enjoyable to dig into. Yet, at the same time, the Bible is also the very words of God given to us by His Spirit (1 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). These are not just words spoken in times past, but words that are alive for us to read today (Hebrews 4:12-13). The God of the universe actually addresses us today clearly in the pages of the Bible - amazing!

Jesus says the entire Bible points us to Him, that He is the focal point of it all. Listen to what He says, "He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." (Luke 24:44). Or, again Jesus says, "You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life." (John 5:39-40).

Knowing this is helpful in motivating us to read the Bible regularly, to keep building a bigger understanding of God's purposes and how they are being fulfilled in Jesus. To help with this, the Daily Reading Notes now include an extra challenge: to read the whole Bible in two years. It's totally optional, are you up for it?

There is a list of around 15 chapters of additional reading for each week of the term that will help you achieve this challenge. These readings can be done on whatever days work best and in whatever order you prefer to read them. At the end of each term you have a chance to catch up before the next term's suggested readings begin again. You can also track your readings across the two years right here. Enjoy!

YEAR 1: TERM 1

- | | | |
|--------|---|--------------------------|
| Week 1 | Genesis 1-5; Psalms 1-4; Genesis 5-10; Matthew 1-2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 2 | Genesis 11-15; Psalms 5-7; Genesis 16-20; Matthew 3-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 3 | Genesis 21-25; Psalms 8-10; Genesis 26-30; Matthew 5-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 4 | Genesis 31-35; Psalms 11-16; Genesis 36-40; Matthew 7-9 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- Week 5 Genesis 41-45; Psalms 17-19; Genesis 46-50; Matthew 10-11
- Week 6 Exodus 1-5; Psalms 20-24; Exodus 6-10; Matthew 12-13
- Week 7 Exodus 11-15, Psalms 25-27; Exodus 16-20; Matthew 14-15
- Week 8 Exodus 21-25; Psalms 28-31; Exodus 26-30; Matthew 16-17
- Week 9 Exodus 31-35; Psalms 32-34; Exodus 36-40; Matthew 18-19
- Week 10 Leviticus 1-5; Psalms 35-37; Leviticus 6-10; Matthew 20-21

YEAR 1: TERM 2

- Week 1 Leviticus 11-15; Psalms 38-41; Leviticus 16-20; Matthew 22-24
- Week 2 Leviticus 21-27; Numbers 1-3; Proverbs 1-3; Matthew 25-26
- Week 3 Numbers 4-13; Proverbs 4-6; Matthew 27-28
- Week 4 Numbers 14-23; Proverbs 7-9; Acts 1-2
- Week 5 Numbers 24-33; Psalms 42-44; Acts 3-4
- Week 6 Numbers 34-36; Psalms 45-48; Acts 5-6
- Week 7 Deuteronomy 1-7; Psalms 49-51; Acts 7-8
- Week 8 Deuteronomy 8-17; Psalms 52-54; Acts 9-10
- Week 9 Deuteronomy 18-27; Psalms 55-57; Acts 11-12
- Week 10 Deuteronomy 28-34; Joshua 1-3; Psalms 58-61; Acts 13-14

YEAR 1: TERM 3

- Week 1 Joshua 4-13; Psalms 62-65; Acts 15-16
- Week 2 Joshua 14-23; Psalms 66-68; Acts 17-18
- Week 3 Joshua 24; Judges 1-9; Psalms 69-71; Acts 19-20
- Week 4 Judges 10-19; Psalms 72; Proverbs 10-11; Acts 21-22
- Week 5 Judges 20-21; Ruth 1-4; 1 Samuel 1-4; Proverbs 12-14; Acts 23-24
- Week 6 1 Samuel 5-14; Proverbs 15-17; Acts 25-26
- Week 7 1 Samuel 15-24; Proverbs 18-20; Acts 27-28
- Week 8 1 Samuel 25-31; 2 Samuel 1-3; Proverbs 21-22; Mark 1-2
- Week 9 2 Samuel 4-13; Psalms 73-75; Mark 3-4
- Week 10 2 Samuel 14-24; Psalms 76-77; Mark 5-6

READ THE BIBLE IN TWO YEARS

YEAR 1: TERM 4

- | | | |
|---------|---|--------------------------|
| Week 1 | 1 Kings 1-5; Psalms 78-80; 1 Kings 6-10; Mark 7-8 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 2 | 1 Kings 11-15; Psalms 81-83; 1 Kings 16-20; Mark 9-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 3 | 1 Kings 21-22; 2 Kings 1-8; Psalms 84-86; Mark 11-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 4 | 2 Kings 9-13; Psalms 87-89; 2 Kings 14-18; Mark 13-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 5 | 2 Kings 19-25; 1 Chronicles 1-3; Psalms 90-93; Mark 15-16 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 6 | 1 Chronicles 4-8; Psalms 94-96; 1 Chronicles 9-13; Romans 1-2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 7 | 1 Chronicles 14-18; Psalms 97-101; 1 Chronicles 19-23; Romans 3-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 8 | 1 Chronicles 24-29; Psalms 102-104; Romans 5-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 9 | 2 Chronicles 1-5; Psalms 105-106; 2 Chronicles 6-10; Romans 7-8 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 10 | 2 Chronicles 11-15; Proverbs 23-25; 2 Chronicles 16-20; Romans 9-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

YEAR 2: TERM 1

- | | | |
|---------|--|--------------------------|
| Week 1 | 2 Chronicles 21-25; Proverbs 26-28; 2 Chronicles 26-30; Romans 11-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 2 | 2 Chronicles 31-36; Ezra 1-4; Proverbs 29-31; Romans 13-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 3 | Ezra 5-10; Nehemiah 1-4; Psalms 107-109; Romans 15-16 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 4 | Nehemiah 5-13; Psalms 110-113; 1 Corinthians 1-2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 5 | Esther 1-10; Psalms 114-117; 1 Corinthians 3-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 6 | Job 1-5; Psalms 118; Job 6-10; 1 Corinthians 5-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 7 | Job 11-15; Psalms 119:1-48; Job 16-20; 1 Corinthians 7-8 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 8 | Job 21-25; Psalms 119:49-96; Job 26-30; 1 Corinthians 9-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 9 | Job 31-35; Psalms 119:97-144; Job 36-40; 1 Corinthians 11-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 10 | Job 41-42; Ecclesiastes 1-8; Psalms 119:145-176; 1 Corinthians 13-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

YEAR 2: TERM 2

- | | | |
|--------|---|--------------------------|
| Week 1 | Ecclesiastes 9-12; Song of Songs 1-5; Psalms 120-122; 1 Cor 15-16 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 2 | Songs of Songs 6-8; Isaiah 1-7; Psalms 123-125; Luke 1-2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 3 | Isaiah 8-12; Psalms 126-130; Isaiah 13-17; Luke 3-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 4 | Isaiah 18-22; Psalms 131-135; Isaiah 23-27; Luke 5-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 5 | Isaiah 28-32; Psalms 136-138; Isaiah 33-37; Luke 7-8 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- Week 6 Isaiah 38-42; Psalms 139-142; Isaiah 43-47; Luke 9-10
- Week 7 Isaiah 48-52; Psalms 143-145; Isaiah 53-57; Luke 11-12
- Week 8 Isaiah 58-62; Psalms 146-147; Isaiah 63-66; Luke 13-14
- Week 9 Jeremiah 1-5; Psalms 148-150; Jeremiah 6-10; Luke 15-16
- Week 10 Jeremiah 11-15; Luke 17-21; Jeremiah 16-20

YEAR 2: TERM 3

- Week 1 Jeremiah 21-25; Luke 21-24; Jeremiah 26-30; 2 Corinthians 1
- Week 2 Jeremiah 31-35; 2 Corinthians 2-7; Jeremiah 36-40
- Week 3 Jeremiah 41-45; 2 Corinthians 8-13; Jeremiah 46-50
- Week 4 Jeremiah 51-52; Lamentations 1-5; Galatians 1-6
- Week 5 Ezekiel 1-5; Ephesians 1-6; Ezekiel 6-10
- Week 6 Ezekiel 11-15; Philippians 1-4; Ezekiel 16-20
- Week 7 Ezekiel 21-25; Colossians 1-4; Ezekiel 26-30
- Week 8 Ezekiel 31-35; 1 Thessalonians 1-5; Ezekiel 36-40; 2 Thessalonians 1-3
- Week 9 Ezekiel 41-48; 1 Timothy 1-6; 2 Timothy 1-4
- Week 10 Daniel 1-10; Titus 1-3, Philemon

YEAR 2: TERM 4

- Week 1 Daniel 11-12; Hosea 1-8; Hebrews 1-7
- Week 2 Hosea 9-14; Joel 1-3; Hebrews 8-13
- Week 3 Amos 1-9; James 1-5; 1 Peter 1-5
- Week 4 Obadiah; Jonah 1-4; 2 Peter 1-3; 1 John 1-6; 2 John; 3 John
- Week 5 Micah 1-7; Nahum 1-3; Jude; Revelation 1-5
- Week 6 Habakkuk 1-3; Revelation 6-19:10
- Week 7 Zephaniah 1-3; John 19:11-22:21
- Week 8 Haggai 1-2; John 1-12
- Week 9 Zechariah 1-14; John 13-17
- Week 10 Malachi 1-4; John 18-21

WEEK 1: MARK 8:31-9:29

DAY 1

Read Mark 8:27-33

1. After a considerable time with His disciples, Jesus asks them two important questions. How does Peter's response differ from the response of the general public, and what does He mean by it?
2. What does Peter's rebuke of Jesus, and Jesus' subsequent rebuke of Peter show about their different understandings of the Messiah and His mission?
3. What does Jesus say is Peter's problem? Can you think of circumstances where you have the same problem?

Prayer: Give thanks that Jesus is the Messiah who suffered, died and rose to save us. Pray that you would have in mind God's concerns rather than merely human concerns.

THE SUFFERING KING OF GLORY

DAY 2

Read Mark 8:34-9:1

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Genesis 1-5; Psalms 1-4;

Genesis 5-10; Matthew 1-2

1. Jesus sets a high bar for discipleship. What does He call us to in each of the following verses:
 - a. Verse 34?
 - b. Verse 35?
 - c. Verse 38?
2. What does Jesus mean when He calls you to “lose your life for me and the gospel”? Can you think of ways that you have done this in the past? What about ways you are doing this now?
3. What does it mean to “save your life” and what is the cost?

Prayer: Give thanks that the Kingdom of God has come with power in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Pray that you and those you know would deny themselves, take up their cross and follow Jesus.

WEEK 1: MARK 8:31-9:29

DAY 3

Read Mark 9:2-13

1. What Old Testament events, people and places does the transfiguration of Jesus remind you of? How might these be significant? (See Exodus 24:15-17; Psalm 2; Isaiah 42.)
2. Who is the Elijah who has “come first, and restores all things”, and why do you think Jesus speaks of Elijah’s suffering? (See Malachi 4:5-6; Mark 1:4-5 and 6:14-28.)
3. The one command that comes from the cloud of God’s presence is, “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to Him!” What would listening to Jesus look like in someone’s life and in what ways can you better listen to Jesus?

Prayer: Praise Jesus that He is the great Prophet, but, even more, is God's glorious Son. Pray that you might listen to, and obey Him in all things.

THE SUFFERING KING OF GLORY

DAY 4

Read Mark 9:14-29

1. Why do you think Jesus says what He does in verse 19? What is the problem that the crowd and the disciples seem to have (see verses 23 and 29)?
2. In contrast, how does the boy's father respond to Jesus? How are his words in verse 24 a great model for us in times where doubts creep in?
3. This episode comes straight after the transfiguration. Why do you think Mark may have placed it here?

Prayer: Pray that you might prayerfully depend on Jesus and His mighty power.

WEEK 1: MARK 8:31-9:29

DAY 5

Read Mark 8:31-9:29

1. In this chapter, what do we learn about:
 - a. Jesus' power and glory (Mark 8:29, 38; 9:2-7, 23, 25-27)?

 - b. Jesus' suffering (Mark 8:31; 9:12-13)?

 - c. What it means to follow Jesus (Mark 8:34-38; 9:19, 23, 24-25)?

2. It seems that dying to ourselves, taking up our cross and following Jesus (Mark 8:34) will be expressed as we listen to Jesus (Mark 9:7) and prayerfully depend on Him (Mark 9:23-24 and 29). What place do God's Word and prayer have in your daily life? Are there ways you would like to develop this further?

Prayer: Praise Jesus as the glorious Son of Man, Messiah, who came, suffered and died for us before rising from death. Pray that you might follow Him, listening to Him in His Word and depending on Him in prayer.

THE SUFFERING KING OF GLORY

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 2: MARK 9:30-50

DAY 1

Read Mark 9:30-37

1. What does the disciples' argument (verse 34) show about their understanding of Jesus and what it means to follow Him? (See Mark 8:31-38 and 9:30-32.)
2. In verses 35-37, what does Jesus teach the disciples about the way of the cross and how does He illustrate it?
3. When do you find you slip into the disciples' way of thinking? How would living as "the servant of all" change your life?

Prayer: Pray that you would follow Jesus, our servant King, by humbly serving all others, unconcerned about your own status.

THE WAY OF THE KING'S CROSS

DAY 2

Read Mark 9:38-41

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Genesis 11-15; Psalms 5-7;
Genesis 16-20; Matthew 3-4

1. What reasons does Jesus give to the disciples for not stopping people doing miracles in His Name? What is He warning against?
2. How do you think you should think of someone who does or says things 'in Jesus Name' but who thinks about Jesus and the gospel differently to the Bible? (See 2 Corinthians 11:1-4 and Galatians 1:6-9.)
3. How does verse 41 relate back to verses 35-37?

Prayer: Pray that the Lord would protect you from narrow exclusivity.

WEEK 2: MARK 9:30-50

DAY 3

Read Mark 9:42-50

1. What do these verses teach us about the seriousness of stumbling and of causing others to stumble (turn away from Christ)?
2. In what sense are we to cut off a hand or pluck out an eye?
3. When have you had to do this? In what ways do you need to do this today?

Prayer: Pray that you might treat stumbling and causing others to stumble as deadly serious. Ask the Lord to enable you to be radical in the surgery of dealing with sin.

THE WAY OF THE KING'S CROSS

DAY 4

Read Mark 9:42-50

1. Looking through verses 44-48, what do they teach about hell? (See also Isaiah 66:22-24.)
2. Do you take Jesus' warning about hell seriously? If you took it more seriously, what impact would it have on your life?
3. What is Jesus talking about in His references to salt?

Prayer: Ask the Lord that He would cause the reality of hell to be something that shapes your daily life and fills you with compassion for the lost.

WEEK 2: MARK 9:30-50

DAY 5

Read Mark 9:30-50

1. In what ways do the disciples misunderstand Jesus throughout this section?
2. What warning and encouragements does Jesus give them?
3. Which warning and/or encouragement is most striking to you?

Prayer: Give thanks for Jesus' willingness to sacrificially serve us. Pray that you might sacrificially serve others.

THE WAY OF THE KING'S CROSS

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 3: MARK 10:1-52

DAY 1

Read Mark 10:1-12

1. Jesus again enters the region ruled by Herod Antipas. John the Baptist had been executed by King Herod over the issue of divorce and remarriage. Here the Pharisees test Jesus over this issue. What does Jesus say or imply was (and was not) the intention behind the law of Deuteronomy 24:1?
2. Jesus then takes the Pharisees back to God's original intention for marriage (see Genesis 1:27 and 2:23-25). What is Jesus teaching about marriage? How does this challenge the way many people think about marriage, divorce and gender today?
3. In verses 10-12, what does Jesus teach about remarriage? Read also 1 Corinthians 7:10-15 and Matthew 19:8-9. According to these verses, are there situations where remarriage is permissible?

Prayer: Pray that you personally, and the Christian church corporately, would honour marriage. Pray for those who are married, that they would be committed to their spouse in faithful lifelong union.

BELONGING TO THE KING'S KINGDOM

DAY 2

Read Mark 10:13-31

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Genesis 21-25; Psalms 8-10;

Genesis 26-30; Matthew 5-6

1. Jesus says that to enter the Kingdom of God, people must receive it like a little child. What does Jesus mean when He says to receive it "like a little child" and what does He not mean?
2. How does the attitude and response of the rich man stand in contrast to the attitude and response Jesus says is necessary to enter the Kingdom of God?
3. In what ways does Jesus try to help him?

Prayer: Pray that the Lord would enable you to depend on Him like a little child, and that He would convict the people of Australia of their sin and need for salvation.

WEEK 3: MARK 10:1-52

DAY 3

Read Mark 10:17-31

1. How does the man's response in verse 22 show Jesus' reflection in verses 23-25 to be true? How is this a warning for us? What other things besides riches might in a similar way stop people following Jesus?
2. According to Jesus, how is it possible that anyone is saved?
3. From verses 29-31, what might someone give up to follow Jesus, and what will we gain in following Him? How does this motivate you?
4. What have you given up to follow Jesus? What relationships have you lost or had impacted by following Jesus?

Prayer: Give thanks that God has done the impossible in enabling us who are wealthy to inherit the Kingdom of God. Pray that we would willingly give up everything to follow and serve Jesus.

BELONGING TO THE KING'S KINGDOM

DAY 4

Read Mark 10:32-45

1. What will happen to the Son of Man? Considering what Daniel 7:13-14 says about the Son of Man, how might much of this seem unthinkable?
2. What do you think was motivating James and John, and how does Jesus respond to them?
3. What does Jesus say is true Christian greatness? How is this seen in His life (verse 45), and how might you work on exhibiting it more in your life?

Prayer: Give thanks that Jesus is the Servant King, the Son of Man, who was delivered over to the Gentiles, mocked, spat on, flogged and killed for us. Pray that you might serve others in the way you have been served.

WEEK 3: MARK 10:1-52

DAY 5

Read Mark 10:46-52

1. Although physically blind, what could Bartimaeus see clearly? How is this ironic considering the response of those who could see physically?
2. What does Jesus do for Bartimaeus, and what is his response?
3. Have a look through chapter 10 and find examples of, or teaching about, who ends up right with God and who doesn't. What do you notice characterises each group?

Prayer: Pray that the Lord would give us spiritual sight to see Jesus rightly, so that we would constantly see our need and respond by depending on Him.

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 4: MARK 11:1-25

In this week's passage, the King finally arrives in His city. Yet there are still Old Testament Scriptures to be fulfilled before the King can fulfil His mission.

DAY 1

Read Mark 11:1-11

1. By organising to arrive in Jerusalem on a donkey colt, Jesus is deliberately fulfilling Zechariah 9:9. What is He saying about Himself by doing this?

2. The expressions of joy by the people (verses 9-10) are a fitting backdrop for the arrival of the King in His city, yet they are short lived, and fall short of recognising Jesus as the Messiah. What does this indicate about their understanding of who Jesus is, and what He has come to do?

Prayer: Give thanks to God for His faithfulness in bringing the promised King to save the world and establish the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus. Ask God to open many more peoples' eyes to the true identity of our Lord.

THE KING COMES TO HIS TEMPLE

DAY 2

Malachi 3 anticipates the arrival of God's Messiah to the temple.

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Genesis 31-35; Psalms 11-16;

Genesis 36-40; Matthew 7-9

Read Malachi 3:1-4

1. What is expected to happen at the arrival of the Lord to His temple?
2. Back in Mark 11:11, Jesus arrives at the temple. With Malachi 3 in mind, how is Mark 11:11 a bit of an anticlimax?
3. With the Lord now in Jerusalem, having inspected His temple, what might you expect to happen in the following passages of Mark?

Prayer: Give thanks that our Lord Jesus has purified us before God, so that we may now live lives acceptable to God, worshipping Him in righteousness.

WEEK 4: MARK 11:1-25

DAY 3

Read Mark 11:12-20

1. As Jesus begins His ministry in Jerusalem, we're told of two scenarios where things are not as they ought to be. How is the failure of the fig tree to produce fruit similar to what Jesus finds in the temple?
2. The fig tree appeared as though it were in leaf, yet its fruitlessness led to Jesus cursing it. Read Mark 13:1-2, and consider if there is any parallel between the fig tree and the temple?
3. Jesus found the temple to be "a den of robbers". How does His fierce response connect with the Malachi 3 prophecy of the Lord refining His people at His arrival at the temple?

Prayer: Jesus' response shows His passion for God's glory and honour through the right worship by His people. With the removal of the physical temple, we have been enabled to worship God in Spirit and in truth! How might you seek to honour God in all of your life today? Ask for God's help.

THE KING COMES TO HIS TEMPLE

DAY 4

Read Mark 11:20-25

1. Heading back to the temple once again, Jesus uses His extraordinary cursing of the fig tree to teach His disciples a lesson about prayer (a fitting thing to do considering that the temple should be “a house of prayer” – Mark 11:17). What does Jesus teach them, and what reaction does it draw from you?
2. The crumbling of the Mount of Olives (where Jesus was when He said these words) was spoken of in Zechariah 14, and was said to occur when the Day of the Lord came. On this day, God promised that the Lord would come and defeat His enemies and save God’s people. If Jesus was speaking about this event, why could God’s people be certain that their prayers about even the most seemingly unbelievable event – like hurling a mountain into the sea – would happen?
3. God is powerful and faithful; He will accomplish all He has promised us! What promises from God are you currently clinging to?

Prayer: Pray about the things you identified in Question 3. Trust that the Lord is faithful to keep His word!

WEEK 4: MARK 11:1-25

DAY 5

Today's passage begins a series of interrogations of Jesus by the leaders of the Jewish people (see also Mark 12:12, 13, 18, 28).

Read Mark 11:27-33

1. Jesus' response to the Jewish leaders is astounding. Why did Jesus not simply answer their question?
2. What does the leaders' discussion among themselves reveal about their true priorities and concerns?
3. The Jewish leaders' fear of man and love of positional power and prestige meant they did not recognise that this man before them was God's Spirit-anointed Messiah (see Mark 1:11). How do people today often make a similar mistake when told about the things of Jesus?

Prayer: Pray for the community around us, that they would see clearly that Jesus is Lord and Saviour, appointed by God. Pray for your own heart, that it would not shrink back from obeying Jesus through fear of man.

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 5: MARK 11:27-12:44

Last week, in Mark 11:27-33, we began reading a series of interrogations of Jesus by the Jewish leaders. In today's passage, Jesus tells a sobering parable of Israel's history and coming future.

DAY 1

Read Mark 12:1-12

1. Consider Mark 4:11-12. Why may have Jesus begun to speak in parables to the Jewish leaders at this point in chapter 12?
2. Who do each of the characters in the parable represent from Israel's history?
3. How are verses 7-10 a prediction of what was to come for Jesus, the Jews, and the Gentiles?
4. Once again, the hardness of heart of the Jewish leaders is shocking (verse 12). What would have been the appropriate response to this parable, if they had any sense at all to fear God?

Prayer: Praise God that He has opened your eyes to see that Jesus is 'the cornerstone' – the key to our forgiveness and eternal life! Plead with God to open more eyes to see Jesus for who He is.

OPPOSITION TO THE KING

DAY 2

Read Mark 12:13-17

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Genesis 41-45; Psalms 17-19;
Genesis 46-50; Matthew 10-11

1. What is so ironic about their smooth talk and flattery in verse 14?

2. Their question was designed to trap Jesus with either a theological or political dilemma: Would Jesus promote the use of money that portrayed Caesar as divine or would He promote the submission of God's people to the rule of their Gentile oppressors? Once again, Jesus' response is perfectly wise and brilliant!
 - a. How does Jesus' response honour God?

 - b. What does His response reveal about Him? (For example – His mind, His character, His mission?)

Prayer: Give thanks to God for Jesus. He was (is!) a truly unique character of history! Praise God for Jesus' wisdom, His integrity, and His concern for God's will to be done. Ask God to conform you into His image more and more.

WEEK 5: MARK 11:27-12:44

DAY 3

Read Mark 12:18-27

1. What does Jesus pinpoint as the source of the Sadducees' errors in thinking?
2. Concerning the rising of the dead, Jesus refers back to Exodus 3:6. At that point of time, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob had all died. How does this statement from God show that although they had all died, they were actually still spiritually alive, and, therefore, that they would be resurrected?
3. It is quite profound that Jesus' attention even to the tense of words in scripture ("I am" versus "I was") informed His thinking. Clearly Jesus had a very high view of the Old Testament! How might this feature of Jesus' character and thinking inform and shape your thinking about the Bible? How might it also challenge your practices and habits surrounding the Bible?

Prayer: Ask God to give you a great love of and dedication to His Word, just as our Lord demonstrated. Ask God to increase your knowledge of the Scriptures so that you might live in accordance with the truth.

OPPOSITION TO THE KING

DAY 3

Read Mark 12:28-34

1. Considering Jesus' previous interactions with the Pharisees and Herodians, and then the Sadducees (Mark 12:13-27), how is the tone different in this episode?
2. How is Jesus' affirmation of the two greatest commandments both a wonderful reminder of God's design for humanity, and a sobering reality check?
3. Jesus said this man was "not far from the Kingdom of God". What would he still need to do to be brought into the Kingdom (consider Mark 1:15)?

Prayer: Jesus' words wonderfully centre us on God's purposes for life, but also penetrate our hearts with a reminder of our shortcomings and sins. As you pray today, do three things: Repent of your failure to live God's way, thank Him for forgiveness in Christ, and ask Him for the Spirit's strength in your life to live out the two greatest commandments.

WEEK 5: MARK 11:27-12:44

DAY 5

Read Mark 12:35-44

1. The time has come for Jesus to ask the questions! (See Mark 12:34.) Jesus' question concerns the identity of the Messiah; He would bring about the Kingdom of God (Mark 12:34 again). What did the teachers of the law have right about the Messiah, and what had they not yet understood?
2. In verse 38, Jesus directly warns against the teachers of the law. In the previous verses, He had inadvertently demonstrated their lack of knowledge about God's plans for the Kingdom and salvation. How does their behaviour also serve as a warning not to trust them?
3. How are you challenged, or encouraged by the lessons of verses 38-40 and 41-44?

Prayer: The more we hear Jesus speak, the more we encounter His wisdom, and the more we are confronted by His determination to bring honour to God. Pray for a great understanding of truth and a love to walk humbly and obediently with your God.

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 6: MARK 13:1-37

DAY 1

Read Mark 13:1-13

1. What is so shocking about what Jesus says in verse 2, and why do Peter, James, John and Andrew ask the questions in verse 4?

2. What things are the disciples warned about:
 - a. Verses 5-6
 - b. Verses 7-8
 - c. Verse 8
 - d. Verses 9-11
 - e. Verse 13

3. What positive things are there in the midst of this difficulty:
 - a. Verse 5
 - b. Verse 11
 - c. Verse 13

4. Jesus doesn't say when these things will happen, but what do verses 7 and 10 indicate about when these things will take place?

Prayer. Pray that the Lord would enable you to watch out, be on your guard, and stand firm through the deceptions, difficulties, persecutions and betrayals of this age.

THE COMING JUDGMENT OF THE KING

DAY 2

Read Mark 13:14-23

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Exodus 1-5; Psalms 20-24;

Exodus 6-10; Matthew 12-13

This section speaks of a dreadful judgment that will happen; a dreadful sign that foreshadows the final judgment. In verse 14, “the abomination that causes desolation” refers back to Daniel 9 and 11. In Daniel 9 there is the promise that God’s temple (destroyed by the Babylonians) would be rebuilt (this occurred under Zerubbabel), but will then again be destroyed. And when this takes place, the abomination that causes desolation will be set up – a terrible defilement of the temple.

1. When this abomination happens, what will those days be like?

In 70AD, the Romans brutally crushed a Jewish uprising. They sacked Jerusalem, butchered countless people, destroyed the temple (never to be rebuilt), and defiled God’s temple – the abomination that causes desolation. This was God’s judgement on the nation of Israel, which had rejected their Messiah and defiled their temple with false worship.

2. What does Jesus say Christians should do when they see this sign?

In 70AD, the Christians did see this sign and fled from Jerusalem because of this prophecy. As a result, they were spared this terrible judgment.

3. What does verse 22 teach us about false prophets and miracles? How does this help us not be deceived?

Prayer. Pray that the Lord would give you great compassion for those who currently stand outside of Christ and so face a far worse judgment than that of 70AD, which was just a shadow of what is to come. Pray that the Lord would protect you from the deception of false prophets and teachers.

WEEK 6: MARK 13:1-37

DAY 3

Read Mark 13:24-31

1. In its Old Testament context, what does the language of verse 24 refer to? (See Isaiah 13:6-11 and 34:1-4; Joel 2:10, 30-31; 3:15.)

It is difficult to work out what verses 24-26 are referring to. It is possible these verses have multiple fulfilments; that they refer to different elements of the judgment of God.

It is possible to assume “coming in clouds with great power and glory” refers to Jesus ‘coming’ to us; however, it may more accurately refer to the Son of Man coming into the presence of God (see Daniel 7:13-14). ‘Angel’ is just the word ‘messenger’, and can refer to an angelic being or a human carrying a message. This can only be determined by the context.

2. How might verses 24-26 refer to Jesus’ death, resurrection and the gospel going to the Gentiles? How does this help to make sense of verses 28-31?
3. How might verses 24-26 also refer to Jesus coming at the end of the age in final judgment?
4. If verses 24-26 refer both to Jesus’ death, resurrection and the gospel going out, and also refer to Jesus’ second coming and the final judgment, what additional meaning might this give to verses 14-23?

Prayer. Give thanks that God’s judgment fell upon Jesus instead of us who trust Him, and that He is exalted in all power and glory, and His gospel is now going out. Pray for our country, that people would turn to Jesus before the terrifying final judgment comes at His return.

THE COMING JUDGMENT OF THE KING

DAY 4

Read Mark 13:32-37

1. What does Jesus say about the exact timing of these things, and what does this teach us about Jesus?
2. How are Christians to live until then? How does Jesus' illustration help us understand?
3. What will it mean today for you to "keep watch"?

Prayer. Pray that the Lord would enable you to keep watch, living in light of His return and the coming judgment.

WEEK 6: MARK 13:1-37

DAY 5

Read Mark 13:1-37

1. Run through this chapter and find all the commands that are given by Jesus.
2. What do these commands teach us about how we are to live?
3. If you were to live in greater obedience to the commands of Jesus in this chapter, what is one practical change you would need to make?

Prayer: Pray that the Lord might equip you to live always ready for His return.

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 7: MARK 14:1-26

DAY 1

Read Mark 14:1-11

1. What dilemma do the chief priests and teachers of the law find themselves in (verses 1-2) and what is the solution to their problem (verses 10-11)?
2. Why does Judas agree to betray Jesus? (See also John 12:6 and Matthew 26:15.)
3. How is his betrayal a warning to us? What might be your 30 pieces of silver?

Prayer: Pray that the Lord would make you aware of those things that are real temptations to turn you away from following Jesus.

THE KING'S BLOOD

DAY 2

Read Mark 14:1-11

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Exodus 11-15, Psalms 25-27;
Exodus 16-20; Matthew 14-15

1. What is "beautiful" about the actions of the woman, and how might you be more like her?
2. Jesus indicates her actions are entirely appropriate for this moment. In what way are they appropriate?
3. What do Jesus' words here highlight about Him, His destiny, and the future beyond that?

Prayer: Pray that you would so love and value Jesus that you would be willing to give up anything in love and service of Him. Give thanks for Jesus' total commitment to die and be buried, and to have the gospel preached throughout the world.

WEEK 7: MARK 14:1-26

DAY 3

Read Mark 14:12-26

1. Looking through this passage, what actions or words of Jesus indicate His absolute control over this situation and all that is to follow?
2. Verse 21 teaches us something about God's role in Jesus' death, and the role and responsibility that humans have in the death of Jesus. What profound truth do we see here?
3. Why do you think the disciples respond the way they do in verse 19 to the news of Jesus' betrayal by one of them?

Prayer: Give thanks for Jesus' absolute control as He heads towards death for us, in contrast to the weakness of His apostles (and all humans). Pray that the Lord would enable you to take full responsibility for your actions even as you recognise that He is in control of all things.

THE KING'S BLOOD

DAY 4

Read Mark 14:12-26

1. Look at the words used in verses 22-24: 'bread', 'broke', 'gave', 'body', 'cup', 'drank', 'blood', 'poured', 'covenant'. What do these words indicate about the nature and method of salvation?
2. In what way is Jesus the ultimate fulfilment of the Passover? (See verses 12 and 22-25.)
3. What is the new covenant that Jesus is establishing by His death? (See Jeremiah 31:31-34.)

Prayer: Give thanks that God has worked throughout the history of Israel to help you understand Jesus' death. Ask the Lord to continually remind you of Jesus' blood poured out to establish the new covenant in which there is the forgiveness of your sins.

WEEK 7: MARK 14:1-26

DAY 5

Read Mark 14:1-26

1. Looking through this section, what different attitudes do all the characters have towards Jesus?
2. Which of these attitudes do you want to avoid, and which do you want to cultivate?
3. In what ways does this section contribute to building a picture of Jesus' ultimate mission?

Prayer: Pray that you might exhibit the love, adoration and devotion that the woman exhibits to Jesus, and give thanks for Jesus' total commitment to die for our salvation.

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 8: MARK 14:27-52

DAY 1

Read Mark 14:27-31

1. In verses 27 and 28, what things does Jesus predict about Himself and His disciples?

In its original context, Zechariah's prophecy was about the scattering of God's people as part of a refining process. The remnant will be tested, refined and eventually reaffirmed as God's covenant people (Zechariah 13:7-9).

2. In the ultimate fulfilment of this prophecy here, who is the shepherd, who are the sheep, and who is the one who strikes the shepherd? What does this teach us?
3. Considering Jesus' words in verse 30 come true (see Mark 14:71-72), what do Peter's emphatic denials teach us about him and about humans in general?

Prayer: Give thanks that the Lord is in control of all things, including the striking of Jesus and the scattering of the disciples before Jesus rose in victory. Pray the Lord would enable you to recognise and accept your weakness and trust Him.

THE TEMPTATION OF THE KING

DAY 2

Read Mark 14:32-42

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Exodus 21-25; Psalms 28-31;
Exodus 26-30; Matthew 16-17

Jesus goes to pray. There are only three times in Mark's Gospel where Jesus withdraws to pray (Mark 1:35-39; 6:46 and 14:32) and each time marks a point of decision: Will He go God's way or choose another path?

1. Jesus is in deep distress and sorrow (verses 33-34). What is it about "this cup" (see Jeremiah 25:15-29; 49:12; Isaiah 51:17, 22-23) and "the hour" (see verse 41) that so terrifies Him?
2. What does Jesus' prayer in verse 26 teach us about His relationship with His Father?
3. How is Jesus' prayer a model for us?

Prayer: Give thanks that Jesus was willing to submit to His Father's will and drink the cup of God's wrath on your behalf. Ask the Lord to make you prayerful; approaching Him as your heavenly Father, trusting in His power to do anything, asking for what you desire, and willingly submitting to His will over your own.

WEEK 8: MARK 14:27-52

DAY 3

Read Mark 14:32-42

1. What stands out about the disciples in this passage?
2. How is this magnified when set against the backdrop of Jesus' actions here?
3. According to Jesus' words in verses 41-42, what does the arrival of Judas indicate? (See Mark 8:31; 9:12; 9:31; 10:33-34; 10:45; 14:18.)

Prayer: Give thanks that the Son of Man was willing to be delivered into the hands of sinners for us. Pray that this message would continue to spread across the Central Coast and around the world.

THE TEMPTATION OF THE KING

DAY 4

Read Mark 14:43-52

1. What does the nature of Jesus' arrest highlight about Jesus and highlight about the religious leaders?
2. From the perspective of each group in this account (Judas, the religious leaders, the disciples, and Jesus), what has caused these events to happen?
3. The disciples all desert Jesus and flee, including one young man (likely the author, Mark), who flees naked. In what ways are we tempted to deny or desert Jesus today? How does this passage motivate us not to do it?

Prayer: Give thanks for Jesus' resoluteness, courage and control in the face of betrayal, injustice and treachery. Pray that the Lord would enable you to stand with Jesus in all circumstances.

WEEK 8: MARK 14:27-52

DAY 5

Read Mark 14:27-52

1. How is Jesus' prediction and the quote from Zechariah (verse 27) fulfilled this very night?
2. Both the disciples and Jesus face struggles and temptations in this section. What struggles do the disciples face and how do they handle them? What struggles does Jesus face and how does He handle them?
3. What does this contrast teach you about Jesus and about yourself?

Prayer: Give thanks that Jesus is what we cannot be, that He is the only one who can stand in temptation without sin and win our salvation. Pray that you would always trust Him alone for your salvation.

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 9: MARK 14:53-15:15

DAY 1

Read Mark 14:53-65

1. What do you notice about the goal of the religious leaders and how they seek to achieve it? What does this teach us about the religious leaders in particular and people in general?
2. What do we learn about Jesus' identity in verses 61-62? (See also Psalm 2; Exodus 3:13-14 and Daniel 7:13-14.)
3. If this is the case, why is what happens next so shocking?

Prayer: Praise Jesus that He, the Messiah, the almighty Son of Man, the Lord God Almighty, was for us willing to be condemned by corrupt humans despite His absolute innocence.

THE KING ON TRIAL

DAY 2

Read Mark 14:66-72

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Exodus 31-35; Psalms 32-34;
Exodus 36-40; Matthew 18-19

1. How do Peter's actions in this time of testing (see verses 54 and 66-72) compare with his confidence beforehand (see verses 27-31)?
2. What are we again reminded about the words of Jesus?
3. When have you in some way acted like Peter, and how might you act less like this in the future?
4. Read Mark 16:7. Why do you think Jesus mentions Peter in particular here, and what does this teach us?

Prayer: Ask for forgiveness for the times you have denied Jesus under pressure, or failed to speak up for Him when the opportunity arose. Pray that the Lord would enable you to speak up for Jesus in all circumstances and not be ashamed of Him.

WEEK 9: MARK 14:53-15:15

DAY 3

The objective of the Jewish Council was to find legal grounds for putting Jesus to death. They had already decided beforehand that they would kill Jesus (Mark 14:1), but they needed some grounds that would justify them in condemning Him and would secure Pilate's confirmation of the verdict.

Read Mark 15:1-15

1. If Jesus, the perfectly innocent one, suffered injustice in this way, what should we expect as Christians?
2. From a human perspective, what brings about the outcome of this trial and Jesus' subsequent death?
3. Read Isaiah 53:7-8. How do you see this prophecy being fulfilled in today's passage, and what does this show about what is really occurring here?

Prayer: Give thanks that the Innocent One was handed over according to God's purpose to save guilty criminals like us. Pray that you would respond with godliness and love when you suffer persecution and injustice for following Jesus.

THE KING ON TRIAL

DAY 4

The Jewish leaders now want Pilate to carry their verdict into effect. They did not have the right of capital punishment and so required the Roman governor's decision for Jesus to be executed.

Read Mark 15:1-15

1. What does the crowd's attitude to Jesus show about humanity's attitude to God in general?
2. What has Barabbas done (verse 7), what has Jesus done (verse 14), and what fate is handed to each of them?
3. How is this a picture of the gospel?

Prayer: Pray that the message of Jesus as the innocent substitute who takes the place of guilty sinners would spread across our nation and cut through people's hostility or indifference to God. Pray this for one of your friends.

WEEK 9: MARK 14:53-15:15

DAY 5

Read Mark 14:53-15:15

1. Looking back through this week's section, what stands out about:
 - a. The religious leaders?
 - b. Peter?
 - c. Pilate?
 - d. Jesus?
2. Throughout this week's section, various titles are used for Jesus. What are they? Who is this man?
3. Considering who Jesus is, and the reality of verse 14, why is what is occurring so astonishing and disgusting?

Prayer: Turn your answers to questions 1d and 2 into praise.

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 10: MARK 15:16-16:8

DAY 1

Read Mark 15:16-26

1. In verses 16-20, how do the Roman soldiers treat Jesus, and what irony is there in their words and actions?
2. Why do you think Jesus refused the wine mixed with myrrh?
3. In what way is it significant that the soldiers cast lots for Jesus' clothing? (See Psalm 22:16-21.)

Prayer: Praise Jesus, the King of Kings. Give thanks that He is the fulfilment of God's unfolding plan of salvation through the ages.

THE SERVANT KING

DAY 2

Read Mark 15:21-32

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Leviticus 1-5; Psalms 35-37;
Leviticus 6-10; Matthew 20-21

1. What is significant about Jesus being executed with rebels? (See also Isaiah 53:7-12.)
2. How is Jesus treated by the passersby, the religious leaders and even by those crucified with Him? How are their words, and the written notice of the charge against Him, ironic?
3. What temptation does the words of all those present place before Jesus? How do you think you would have responded? How does Jesus respond?

Prayer: Give thanks that Jesus willingly suffered such degradation, mockery, rejection and pain to do what needed to be done for our salvation. Give thanks that He did not yield to temptation, but continued in obedience to God to save us.

WEEK 10: MARK 15:16-16:8

DAY 3

Read Mark 15:33-41

1. What might the darkness indicate about Jesus' death? (See Zephaniah 1:14-18.)
2. In verse 34, Jesus' words are quoted from Psalm 22. This Psalm, written over 1,000 years before, is ultimately fulfilled in Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. Read Psalm 22, and take note of how you see this Psalm being fulfilled in Mark's Gospel.
3. What is the significance of the curtain in the temple being torn? (See Hebrews 9:8; 10:18-22.)
4. The words of the Roman centurion here, right near the end of Mark's gospel (verse 39), echo the words in the very first sentence of Mark's Gospel (Mark 1:1). Why do you think Mark might have recorded the words of this Gentile?

Prayer: Give thanks that Jesus, the Son of God, stood under the judgment of God for us and has made access to God possible by His death. Make the most of this access by spending time in prayer.

THE SERVANT KING

DAY 4

Read Mark 15:42-47

1. Christianity stands or falls on the historical resurrection of Jesus. How does each of the following verses contribute to our certainty that Jesus really was dead and was later resurrected:
 - a. Verse 44?
 - b. Verse 45?
 - c. Verse 46?
 - d. Verse 47?
2. What do you learn here about Joseph? Considering who he is and the circumstances of the time, what is impressive about his actions?
3. In what circumstances could you be more like Joseph? How might you make steps towards this?

Prayer: Pray that God would give you deep confidence in the historical resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Ask the Lord to give you such love for His Son that you honour and identify with Him in all circumstances.

WEEK 10: MARK 15:16-16:8

DAY 5

Read Mark 16:1-8

1. What is impressive about the women throughout this period (See Mark 15:40-41, 47; 16:1-3), and how could you be more like them?
2. How are the angel's words a great summary of Jesus' ministry, and how would these words have been a wonderful comfort to Jesus' disciples?
3. Why do you think the Gospel of Mark might end so abruptly here?

The earliest manuscripts and some other ancient witnesses do not have Mark 16:9-20. These verses are very likely a later addition, not written by Mark and not part of the original gospel.

Prayer. Thank God for Mark's Gospel. Consider how you have grown to know Jesus better and yourself better through your time in Mark's Gospel. Give thanks for these things.

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

EV MISSION PARTNERS



Derek and Anna - Southeast Asia (OMF)

Derek and Anna (Liam, Jasmine and Juliet) are working in theological education and cross-cultural worker mobilisation in Southeast Asia. Derek continues with his classes in a local Bible college and is starting to train people to reach out to minority ethnic groups where there is no church. They are also trying to reach out to their local community, developing friendships and reading the Bible with those interested.



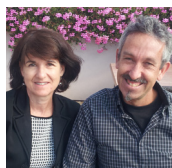
Colin and Jill Bakon - SIM: Latin American Ministry

Colin's two roles are in church mobilisation in Latin America where he is raising up national teams to run Kairos, with special focus this year on Ecuador and Peru. He is also working with a taskforce in SIM (Serving In Mission), to mobilise for new initiatives within SIM. This will see work happening in areas where there is no church, and development of missionaries being sent out from all countries where SIM works in Africa, Asia and Latin America.



Craig and Samantha McCorkindale - Cambodia (CMS)

The McCorkindales replace the Vinks (CMS) who have now returned to Australia and are in residence at SMBC. Craig and Samantha, along with their children, are going to Cambodia in early 2017. In their first year in Cambodia, they will both begin formal language learning as they connect in with the community. Craig will be forming relationships at Phnom Penh Bible School, where he plans to teach. We're asking Growth Groups who have been supporting the Vinks to transfer this support to the McCorkindales.



Paul and Sandra King - Strasbourg, France (CMS)

Paul and Sandra are thriving in their university ministry in Strasbourg and somewhat newer ministry in a local church plant. They serve alongside French Christians in the University Bible Group (GBU), involving the training of Uni students in evangelism, discipling, and teaching the Bible. The church planting work includes a coffee shop and teaching English to connect the church with people in the community.



Martin and Jen Shadwick - AFES Newcastle Uni

Martin and Jen (Hannah and Evie) work full time with AFES at Newcastle University discipling and training Christian students. Martin continues to lead the AFES staff team, who work with both local and overseas students including a ministry to Muslim students. Pray for wisdom in balancing ministry and family life, and for new partners to help them continue in this important ministry.



Jono and Grace Wright - AIM

Jono and Grace Wright, with their kids, are working amongst Aboriginals in Camooweal and the surrounding communities along the Sandover Highway. They are with Australian Indigenous Ministries (AIM). Their ministries include preaching at Sunday meetings, weekly Bible study groups, weekly prayer meetings, Sunday School, Scripture in the local primary school, weekend Bible schools and also an itinerant ministry.



The Geneva Push

Geneva Push is an Australian Church Planting Network aiming to inspire, equip and unleash a new generation of church planters dedicated to evangelising churches into existence. It has set in place a high quality assessment process and provides ongoing support and training through coaching structures, mentoring and ongoing conferences to ensure the biggest impact as planters.



Liam and Lucy Doyle - Lake Mac Church

Liam and Lucy Doyle head up the church plant in Lake Macquarie and are now mentored through the Geneva program. There is a great range of ages, and despite differences - like age, education and nationality - they enjoy a real sense of warmth, friendship and love as they hear God's word together and help each other follow Jesus. Pray for a good mentor relationship with Dave Sheath from Lakes Evangelical Church.



Jai and Jay-Ellen Wright - MAKE Church, Mackay

Jai and Jay with their four children (Amber, Ebony, Kade and Jett) have planted the MAKE church in Mackay. They are continuing to develop depth in the church through leadership development and have two new MTS workers to help with this task. They are longing to see a community of people who are permanently living in Mackay actively living out their faith as a witness to all who live there.

