

# Introducing Jesus

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Lessons from the  
Gospel of Mark

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## Leaders' Guide

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Scripture  
Union 读经会

SEMENANJUNG MALAYSIA

**Leaders' Notes - Lesson 1: Who is Jesus? Jesus, the Christ (Mark 1:1-11)**

**1. Opening prayer.**

**2. Opening song suggestion:** He is the King of kings (Song writer: Virgil Meares).

**3. Just for starters:**

Get the students into groups and ask them to discuss or share about a famous individual whom they know or admire and what it was that made this individual famous.

**4. Game: News, news, Gospel!**

(Similar to Duck, duck, goose)

Suitable for small groups (8-20 persons).

Instructions:

- Get everyone to sit in a circle.
- A person is chosen to start the game (Leader).
- The leader walks out of the circle and goes around tapping each person, whom he or she passes by, on the head.
- As the leader goes around, he or she says the word "News" as he or she touches each person on the head.
- If the leader touches the head of the person and says "Gospel", that person (the catcher) will have to get up and chase after the leader.
- The leader must attempt to escape from the catcher and sit in his or her seat before he or she is caught.

- If the leader is caught, he or she will have to repeat the round again, but if he or she manages to be seated without being caught, the catcher becomes the new leader for the next round.

### 5. Background to the book of Mark:

Extra notes:

- The Gospel of Mark was written by John Mark, who wrote an account about Jesus' life as he heard it from the Apostle Peter, who was one of Jesus' closest disciples.
- The Gospel of Mark is all about Jesus: who He is, what He came to do and what it means to follow Him.

### 6. Looking into the passage:

Get the students to read Mark 1:1-11 together.

Go through the questions in the passage.

**Q1.**What does the word, '**Gospel**', mean? (v1)

**Good News**

**Q2.**Who is the Gospel all about? (v1)

**Jesus**

**Q3.**How is Jesus described in this Bible passage?

- He is the **Christ**. He is God's chosen **King**. (v1)
- He is the **Son of God**. He is **God**. (v1, 11)
- He is the **Lord**. He is the God of His **people**. (v3)

**Q4.** What did John the Baptist do?

- He **prepared** the way for Jesus. (v2-3)
- He did this by baptising people with **water**, which is a sign of **repentance** and **forgiveness** of sins. (v3-5)

**Q5.** What would Jesus do?

He was much **greater** than John the Baptist and will baptise the people with the **Holy Spirit**. (v7-8)

### 7. Extra notes:

- “Christ” or “Messiah” was the King the people of Israel were waiting for, the One God promised to send to save His people.
- Repentance means going back and starting right from the beginning. To put it simply, it is being sorry for past sins and wanting to start off right again.
- The Bible tells us that the baptism of the Holy Spirit happens when a person puts his or her trust in Jesus as Saviour and Lord. The Holy Spirit lives inside the hearts of those who trust in Jesus and helps them to grow to be more and more like Jesus.

### 8. Thinking it through:

Get the students into groups to discuss the questions.

- The people of Israel had long awaited the coming of the Messiah, the Christ, God’s chosen King, who would come and bring restoration to the nation of Israel.
- The King they were awaiting was One who would save them from their enemies and bring them political liberty (the Romans were the “superpowers” during those times.)

- However, Jesus turned out to be a very different kind of King - to find out how He was different, come back next week to find out!
- If Jesus is the true and rightful King and if He is indeed God's King, then this demands a response from all of us.
- How will you respond to God's King? – Will you accept His Kingship? Or will you ignore and reject Him and continue to regard someone or something else as King?
- How would your life look like if Jesus was your King? – Would it be different from the life you are living now?

**9. Responding to God's Word:** Group prayer time.

### **10. Digging deeper:**

Get the students to read Mark 1:9-11 again.

- Baptism was a sign of repentance and forgiveness of sins, but Jesus who had no sin was baptised at the start of His ministry. This was to show that Jesus would be a representative of God's people. He would be the One who would enable them to go back to the beginning and start off right again.
- Later we will find out that Jesus did that by dying on the cross, in the place of His people, taking the punishment for their sins so that they could be right with God again.
- Isn't it marvellous that the King of glory would come down to earth to identify with and represent people like us to save us?
- How does that make you feel?

- 11. Closing song suggestion:** Jesus Christ is the Lord of all (Song writer: Kirchienlider).
  
- 12. Closing prayer.**

### Leaders' Notes - Lesson 2: Who is Jesus? Jesus' authority over people and authority to teach (Mark 1:16-22)

#### 1. Opening prayer.

#### 2. Opening song suggestion: The B-I-B-L-E (© PC Treasures) or Jesus, name above all names (Naida Hearn).

#### 3. Just for starters:

Get the students into groups and ask them to discuss or share about their favourite superheroes and what powers these superheroes have.

#### 4. Game: Jesus says (similar to "Simon says").

- Suitable for small, medium and large groups.
- Instructions:
  - a) Instruct the students to perform a certain action.
  - b) The students should only perform the action if you say "Jesus says" and not any other person's name, i.e. Jesus says touch your nose. Jesus says stand up.
  - c) Give a continuous sequence of instructions to test the students' concentration.
  - d) You can play this for a few rounds and encourage the students to concentrate on getting the actions right.
  - e) Further suggestions: For the subsequent rounds, you could increase the game's difficulty level by asking them to perform the actions when they hear "Jesus says", "Christ says", "God says", etc.

**5. Recap on Lesson 1 - Mark 1:1-11**

Go through the questions with the students to help them to remember what they have learnt the previous week.

**6. Looking into the passage:**

Get the students to read Mark 1:16-22 together.

Go through the questions in the passage.

**Q1.** Who did Jesus meet as He passed along the Sea of Galilee and what did they work as? (v16, 19)

He met **Simon, Andrew, James and John** who worked as **fishermen**.

**Q2.** What did Jesus ask them to do? (v17, 20)

He **called** them and asked them to **follow** Him.

**Q3.** How did they respond? What does this show us? (v18, 19)

- They left their nets and **followed** Him.
- This shows that Jesus has power over **people**.

**Q4.** What did Jesus do in the synagogue in Capernaum? What was the difference in the way Jesus did this? (v21-22)

- He was **teaching** the people in the synagogue.
- He taught with **authority**, unlike the scribes (religious teachers).

**7. Thinking it through:**

- Get the students into groups to discuss the questions.
- We often have people who have “authority” over our lives - be it our parents, our teachers, our older siblings, the government, etc.



- We often view being under someone's authority a negative thing, as we think we might get "bossed" around and asked to do things (or not do things) we might not want to do (or want to do).
- However, it is good to have authorities placed over us - to safeguard and care for us.
- The sad truth is, human authorities are imperfect and therefore, do not act rightly all the time and we suffer the consequences.
- But the difference with having Jesus as the ultimate One who holds the authority over our lives is that He is perfect and will always act rightly.
- We can entrust our lives entirely under His care and His Kingship.
- That goes the same to listening to the words of those who are in authority over us.
- Whilst human authorities may falter and make mistakes, Jesus' Word is perfect, and we should, therefore, hold it with the highest regard.
- His Word is indeed a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. (Psalm 119:105)

### **8. Responding to God's Word:** Group prayer time

### **9. Digging deeper:**

- Get the students to read Mark 1:21-22 again.
- In Jesus' time, the scribes (Jewish religious teachers) always taught in the synagogue (Jewish meeting place) by quoting the name (authority) of another religious teacher whom they had previously learned under.
- However, Jesus taught in His own name and authority, as He is God himself.

- This made Jesus' teaching different from that of the other religious teachers of His time.
- Isn't that amazing! Imagine sitting at the feet of God Himself and learning from Him!
- In a way, it is possible for God to speak to us, even today!
- Whenever we open up the Bible and read it, God speaks to us and teaches us - with power and authority!

**10. Closing song suggestion:** I have decided to follow Jesus (Song writer: Sadhu Sundar Singh).

**11. Closing Prayer.**

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**Leaders' Notes – Lesson 3: Who is Jesus? Jesus' authority over evil spirits and sicknesses (Mark 1:23-31)**

**1. Opening prayer.**

**2. Opening song suggestion:** I'm so glad Jesus set me free (Song writer: Billy Funk and Martin J. Nyström)

**3. Just for starters:**

Get the students into groups and ask them to discuss or share about what they are most afraid of and why.

**4. Game: Guess who is the leader?**

Suitable for small or medium-sized groups (8-20 students).

Instructions:

- Get the students to sit in a circle.
- One student is chosen to be a guesser at the start of the game and has to leave the room.
- After the guesser has left the room, choose another student to be the secret "leader" of the group.
- The leader will have to perform an action (e.g. clap his or her hands) and the rest will follow suit.
- The guesser will be asked to enter the room again.
- The leader will have to discreetly change his or her actions from time to time and the rest will follow suit.
- The guesser will have two guesses to figure out who is the leader.
- A few rounds of this game can be played with different students taking turns to be guessers and leaders.

**5. Recap on Mark 1:16-22:**

Go through the questions with the students to get them to remember what they have learnt the previous week.

**6. Looking into the passage:**

Get the students to read Mark 1:23-31.

Go through the questions in the passage.

**Q1.** Jesus was teaching in the synagogue when a man suddenly cried out. What was wrong with the man? (v23)

The man had an unclean or evil spirit in him.

**Q2.** Who did the unclean spirit in the man recognise Jesus as? (v24)

He recognised Jesus as God's Holy One.

**Q3.** How did the unclean spirit respond to Jesus' command and what does this show us? (v25-26)

- The unclean spirit obeyed Jesus' command and came out of the man.
- This shows us that Jesus has power over unclean or evil spirits.

**Q4.** When Jesus went to Simon Peter's mother-in-law's house, what was wrong with her? (v29-30)

She was sick with a fever.

**Q5.** What did Jesus do and what does this show us? (v31)

- Jesus healed her.
- This shows us that Jesus has power over sickness.

### 7. Thinking it through:

- Get the students into groups to discuss this question.
- People often fear evil spirits - that's why some of us are afraid of watching horror movies!
- Evil spirits, ghosts or demons are often portrayed as being much more powerful than us and the characters in these movies are defenceless against them.
- We might fear them because we feel that they have the power to hurt or harm us.
- However, Jesus is much more powerful than these evil spirits - they tremble and are afraid of Him!
- And therefore, if we are under His Kingship, we need not fear them at all because we have Jesus who is much greater than any of them.
- The same goes for sicknesses - many of us are afraid of the thought of falling ill, especially when illnesses affect our capacity to study, play and do our normal activities.
- Perhaps you know of a loved one who is suffering from a serious sickness and suffering is not a pleasant thing at all.
- Jesus showed his power and his authority over sickness.
- He healed many who were sick and suffering, including Peter's mother-in-law.
- He is compassionate and merciful to all who are in pain.
- So, do not hesitate to pray for your loved ones when they are ill and even for yourself!
- Know that Jesus hears you when you pray and trust in His kindness to work out what is best for you and your loved ones.
- He will never leave and forsake us even when we are sick.

### 8. Responding to God's Word: Group prayer time

### 9. Digging deeper:

- Get the students to read Mark 1:32-34 again.
- Why did Jesus not allow the unclean spirits to reveal His identity as the Christ?
- This is because Jesus had just started out His ministry and was on His way to fulfil God's plan to save humanity.
- His identity as the Christ who would suffer, die and rise again would only be revealed step by step as He continued on with His ministry.
- This is often known by certain Bible scholars to be the "Messianic Secret" (Jesus not revealing His identity initially).
- Isn't it amazing that we now know Jesus as the Christ - and that we are able to proclaim His identity in all the world?

**10. Closing song suggestion:** I have decided to follow Jesus (Song writer: Sadhu Sundar Singh) or O let the Son of God enfold you (John Wimber)

**11. Closing Prayer.**

**Leaders' Notes – Lesson 4: Who is Jesus? Jesus' authority to forgive sins (Mark 2:1-12)**

**1. Opening prayer.**

**2. Opening song suggestion:** God is so good (traditional children song).

**3. Just for starters:**

Get the students into groups and ask them to discuss or share about what they think is their biggest need in life and why.

**4. Recap on Mark 1:23-31:**

Go through the questions with the students to get them to remember what they have learnt the previous week.

**5. Activity (Drama):**

Get the students to act out the Bible story from Mark 2:1-12.

**6. Looking into the passage:**

Get the students to read Mark 2:1-12.

Go through the questions in the passage.

**Q1.** Jesus was teaching in a house full of people in Capernaum. 4 men brought a man to see Jesus. What was wrong with this man? (v1-3)

He was a **paralytic (a person who cannot move physically)**.

**Q2.** How did they manage to get the man into the home since it was full of people? (v4)

They made an **opening** in the **roof** of the house and let down the **bed** on which the man laid in front of Jesus.

**Q3.** What did Jesus say to the man? (v5)

Jesus told him that his **sins were forgiven.**

**Q4.** Why were the scribes (Jewish religious leaders) displeased when Jesus said this? (v7)

They thought that Jesus was **blaspheming** because only **God** can forgive sins.

**Q5.** Jesus challenged the scribes with what they were thinking. Which statement do you think would be easier to say? (v9)

- Your sins are forgiven.
- Rise, take up your mat and walk.

**Q6.** What did Jesus do and why did He do so? (v10-11)

- Jesus **healed** the paralysed man by telling him to rise, take up his mat and walk.
- Jesus did this to **prove** that He has the power to **forgive** sins.

**Q7.** What does this tell us about Jesus?

He is **God.**



### 7. Extra notes:

- “Blaspheming” means saying bad and degrading things about or against God.
- The scribes accused Jesus of blasphemy when He told the paralytic that his sins were forgiven because in saying so, Jesus was claiming Himself to be God.
- It would have been easier for Jesus to say, “Your sins are forgiven,” as compared to, “Take up your mat and walk,” as the former statement could not be proven.
- However, Jesus proves that He has the power to forgive sins by healing the paralysed man as well.
- This shows us that He is God.

### 8. Thinking it through:

- Get the students into groups to discuss this question and realise that everyone needs to come to Jesus for forgiveness that only He as God can offer.
- Imagine if you were that paralysed man, what would your greatest hope be when you meet Jesus?
- Of course, you would be hoping that He would heal you and that you would be able to stand and walk again!
- However, if you heard Jesus' words, “Your sins are forgiven”- how would you have felt?
- Confused - because that is not what you expected?
- Angry - because Jesus is implying that you are a sinner?
- Disappointed - because Jesus isn't giving you the healing you truly desired?
- The wonderful news is that Jesus proved His ability to forgive sins, by healing the man!
- But that points out that the biggest problem in life for the man wasn't his illness.
- And the biggest problem for him and all of us is the need to be forgiven of our sins.

- To find out more about sin, do come back next week to find out more!
- At this moment, do think about this story, and ask yourself - have you come to Jesus and acknowledge that you need to be forgiven of your sins?

### 9. Responding to God's Word: Group prayer time

### 10. Digging deeper:

Get the students to read Mark 2:13-17.

- Jesus ate and mingled with people who were considered outcasts or “sinners”- those who were shunned or looked down upon by society during that time.
- However, Jesus’ ministry was to call and save sinners (those who realised their need for a Saviour) and not the righteous (those who thought that they were holy and right with God based on their own religious or moral performance).
- Would Jesus share a meal with someone like you and me? - He definitely would have, for sure!
- But this leaves us with a deeper question, for those of us who are following Jesus; - will we be willing also to reach out to those whom society considers to be outcasts, rejects and “sinners”?
- We would, if we realised that at the end of the day, all of us stand as sinners who need to be forgiven.

**11. Closing song suggestion:** For God so loved the world (John 3:16) (Song writer: John Harwick)

**12. Closing Prayer.**

**Leaders' Notes – Lesson 5: Who is Jesus? Jesus' authority over nature (Mark 4:31-35)**

**1. Opening prayer.**

**2. Opening song suggestion:** With Christ in the vessel (well-known Christian children song).

**3. Just for starters:**

Get the students into groups and ask them to discuss or share about what they do when they feel afraid or nervous.

**4. Recap on Mark 2:1-12:**

Go through the questions with the students to get them to remember what they have learnt the previous week.

**5. Game: Boat race!**

(Things needed: Paper boats ("*sampan*") - these can be made beforehand following instructions from any origami website online).

- Divide the students into groups.
- Each group is given a paper boat.
- The paper boats are lined up at one end of the room.
- Mark a finishing line some distance away.
- A representative is chosen from each group and they are to kneel down (or go on all fours) behind each boat at the start of the race.
- When the race begins, each representative has to blow the boats continuously to move them forward until the boat reaches the finishing line.

- The first representative who reaches the finishing line first wins the race and the group scores a point.
- This race can be repeated for one or two more rounds, with several representatives from the groups taking turns.

### 6. Looking into the passage:

Get the students to read Mark 4:35-41.

Go through the questions in the passage.

**Q1.** What did Jesus and His disciples do in this Bible passage?  
(v35-36)

They got into a **boat** to go across to the other side of the lake.

**Q2.** What happened while they were in the boat? (v37)

There was a terrible **windstorm** and the boat was about to **sink**.

**Q3.** Jesus was asleep in the boat. Why did His disciples wake Him? (v38)

They were afraid that they were going to **drown**.

**Q4.** What did Jesus do and what happened after that? (v39)

Jesus **rebuked** the wind and the waves and everything became **calm**.

**Q5.** Jesus' disciples were afraid and they said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?" How would you answer this question? (v41)  
Jesus is **God**.

### 7. Thinking it through:

- Get the students into groups to discuss the questions, go through the previous lessons and ask them to think about who Jesus is to them.
- So far, the disciples of Jesus have seen the marvellous works He had done - healing the sick, casting out demons, teaching with great authority, and today, they witness Him calm a raging storm to a whisper, just with a command!
- However, the disciples' response was one of fear, they were in fact, afraid twice in the same event.
- They failed to recognise Jesus as God and King and hence, they were afraid when faced with the storms and winds which threatened their lives.
- If they knew who Jesus was, their response wouldn't be one of fear, but faith and confidence.
- Secondly, they failed, even after Jesus had calmed the storm, to see who He was, and this resulted in them being afraid of Him.
- Their question, "Who then is this, that even the winds and waves obey Him?" has an obvious answer - only God can.
- How about you? Are you faced with a situation that seems difficult and scary?
- The question would be, do you realise that Jesus is with you? – And that all things are under His control?
- Everything in creation is under Him

- The more important question would be, do you recognise who He is? If you do, what then keeps you from entrusting all things into His hands?

### 8. Responding to God's Word: Group prayer time

### 9. Digging deeper: Mark 3:31-35

- When the crowd told Jesus that His earthly mother and brothers were seeking Him, He responded by saying that everyone who does the will of God is part of His family.
- What do you think Jesus was referring to when He talked about doing God's will in the passage? John 6:29 tells us that doing the work of God is believing in the One whom God has sent - Jesus.
- Hence, anyone who trusts in Jesus is part of His family.
- Isn't it wonderful to be part of Jesus' family? It is indeed a privilege!
- Imagine the day where all believers in Christ from different nations, languages and tribes, come together as one big family to live under His rule! That day will come when Jesus finally returns!

### 10. Closing song suggestion: Dalam Yesus Kita Bersaudara (Song writer: Rico Desrianto)

### 11. Closing Prayer.

**Leaders' Notes – Lesson 6: Who is Jesus? Jesus' authority over death (Mark 5:21-43)**

**1. Opening prayer.**

**2. Opening song suggestion:** John 3:16 (Song writer: John Harwick) or Majesty (Jack Hayford).

**3. Just for starters:**

Get the students into groups and ask them to discuss or share about their fears of losing someone they loved and how far they would go to save the life of someone they love.

**4. Recap on Mark 4:31-35:**

Go through the questions with the students to get them to remember what they have learnt the previous week.

**5. Game: "Splat"**

- Ask the students in the room to form a circle (If the number is large, several groups of circles can be formed.)
- In each circle, one person does not join the circle. He or she is the "shooter" and stands in the middle of the circle.
- Each remaining player holds an imaginary gun in his or her hands, pointed upwards.
- The shooter will aim at a person (let's call him or her, person 1) with his or her imaginary gun and shout "splat!"
- The players on either side of person 1 must "shoot" each other and shout "splat!" while person 1 must squat down.
- One of the following then may occur:



- Person 1 fails to duck in time, gets shot and is out;
- One of the players says "splat" later than the other and has, therefore, been shot and is out;
- Person 1 ducks in time and the other players on his or her left and right say "splat" simultaneously. No one is out and the game continues.
- If someone accidentally ducks or shoots when they were not supposed to, then they are also out.
- The last 2 students standing are the winners of the game.
- This is a fun game where the players “struggle” to “stay alive”. This helps to set the students thinking about the issue of “death” that we will be looking at in our Bible passage.

### 6. Looking into the passage:

Get the students to read Mark 5:21-43.

Go through the questions in the passage.

**Q1.** A man called Jairus came to see Jesus. What did he do and why? (v21-24)

- He **fell** at Jesus' feet and told Jesus that his little daughter was at the point of **death**.
- He asked Jesus to come with him and lay His **hand** on her so that she may be made **well** and **live**.

**Q2.** What happened while they were on their way to Jairus' house? (v35)

Some of the people came from Jairus' house telling him that his daughter was **dead**.

**Q3.**What did Jesus say to Jairus? (v36)

Jesus told him not to fear, only believe in Him.

**Q4.**What did Jesus say when He saw the people in Jairus' house weeping? (v39)

Jesus told them that the girl was not dead but sleeping.

**Q5.**What did Jesus do in the end? (v41-43)

- Jesus took the little girl by the hand and asked her to arise. The little girl got up and started to walk.
- Jesus had raised her to life.
- This shows that Jesus has power over death.

**7. Thinking it through:**

- Jairus was desperately seeking Jesus' help. His daughter was dying.
- Even though he was a respected religious leader, he fell at Jesus' feet and pleaded with Jesus to come and heal his daughter. So Jesus followed him to his home.
- But halfway, Jairus received bad news, his daughter had died.
- However, Jesus told him not to fear, but to believe.
- Could Jairus actually believe that Jesus could be of any help to his daughter, now that she was dead?
- Interestingly, Jesus told the people in the house that Jairus' daughter wasn't dead, but that she was only sleeping.
- Of course, Jairus' daughter had died, but to Jesus, even her physical death was to him, just her sleeping, as she would awaken soon!

- Then Jesus did something amazing!
- He raised her to life again!
- What does this tell us about Jesus?
- He has the power, even over death!
- And this reminds us again that He is God!
- This story is just a small picture of the bigger and better truth that Jesus had come to bring to all mankind.
- What is this truth? - All who trust in Jesus do not need to fear death, because the Bible tells us that whoever who believes in Jesus will not perish, but have eternal life (John 3:16).
- Death is no longer a scary thing to us, because we know that Jesus has power over death!
- Are you trusting in Jesus? – If you are, then thank Him for the promise of eternal life He has given you!
- If you haven't trusted in Jesus, then think about what it would mean for you to do so.

### 8. **Responding to God's Word:** Group prayer time

### 9. **Digging deeper:** Mark 5:25-34

- As Jesus was on His way to Jairus' house, a woman was seeking to come near Him.
- She had a serious illness and had been bleeding for 12 years.
- Not only was she ill, but during those days in the Jewish community, a sickness like hers made her "unclean".
- She wasn't allowed to go to the temple or mix with the community without letting people know she was "unclean".
- But after touching Jesus' garment, she miraculously recovered!
- Her faith in Jesus had made her well.

- More than that, she was no longer “unclean” but could live as part of her community.
- This story shows us that Jesus has power over sickness, but actually, it tells us even more than that, Jesus has the power to make an “unclean” person “clean”, restoring them to God’s community.
- We’ll find out more about this in the lessons to come.

10. **Closing song suggestion:** Because He lives (song writer: Bill Gaither).

11. **Closing Prayer.**

**Leaders' Notes – Lesson 7: Who is Jesus? The One who suffers rejection (Mark 6:1-6)**

**1. Opening prayer.**

**2. Opening song suggestion:** He is the King (Song writer: Virgil Meares).

**3. Just for starters:**

Get the students into groups and ask them to discuss or share about why they like visiting their hometown, how their relatives and friends treat them and what they usually do when they are back there.

**4. Recap on Mark 5:21-43:**

Go through the questions with the students to get them to remember what they have learnt the previous week.

**5. Looking into the passage:**

Get the students to read Mark 6:1-6.

Go through the questions in the passage.

**Q1.** Where did Jesus go to in this story? (v1)

He went to His **hometown**, Nazareth.

**Q2.** What did Jesus do there? (v2)

He began to **teach** in the synagogue on the Sabbath.

**Q3.** How did the many who heard Jesus respond to Him? (v2-4)

They looked down on Jesus and took offense at Him.

**Q4.** What did Jesus say about this? (v4-6)

He said that a prophet is not honoured in his own hometown and amongst his relatives and in his household.

## **6. Thinking it through:**

- The people in Jesus' hometown thought they had Jesus all figured out.
- To them He was just a carpenter's son, and they looked down on Him and took offense at Him.
- In short, they actually rejected Him.
- Jesus' response tells us that, just like in the past, prophets (those who spoke God's words to the people) were rejected by those who would be considered to be "closest" to them.
- The people from Jesus' hometown failed to see Him for who He truly is.
- How about us?
- After all we've learned about Jesus so far, what is your perception about Jesus?
- Is He just an ordinary man or a false prophet who can't be trusted?
- Or is He truly who He claims to be? – The Christ, God's Chosen King, Saviour of the World, and God himself!
- What do you think about Jesus?

### 7. Activity: Origami paper crown.

Materials needed: paper

Give each student a piece of paper.

- Follow the instructions given in the origami website below and teach it to the students.

<http://www.origami-instructions.com/easy-origami-crown.html>

- When the crown is done, ask each student to reflect on who Jesus is to them.

### 8. Responding to God's Word: Group prayer time

### 9. Digging deeper: Isaiah 53:1-6

- The prophet Isaiah prophesied about a suffering servant who would come with a mission many years before Jesus came to earth.
- His mission would be to save God's people.
- But this servant would not be someone everyone would look up to and respect.
- There was nothing special about his appearance.
- He would be despised and rejected.
- And he would suffer death. Why? – To bear the chastisement (punishment) for the sins of others.
- This suffering servant would carry the sins of those He came to save and would bear their punishment for them so that they may be saved.
- Who is this suffering servant? – It is none other than Jesus Himself.

**10. Closing song suggestion:** The Servant King (Song writer: Graham Kendrick)

**11. Closing Prayer.**



**Leaders' Notes – Lesson 8: What is the problem? Sin, a problem of the heart (Mark 7:14-23)**

1. **Opening prayer.**
2. **Opening song suggestion:** Jesus loves me (Song writer: Anna Bartlett Warner)
3. **Just for starters:**  
Get the students into groups and ask them to discuss or share about what makes a person “bad”.
4. **Recap on Mark 4:35-41:**  
Go through the questions with the students to get them to remember what they have learnt the previous week.
5. **Looking into the passage:**  
Get the students to read Mark 7:14-23.  
Go through the questions in the passage.

**Q1.**What does NOT defile a person (make a person unclean or sinful) according to Jesus? (v14-16)

Nothing **outside** a person which goes **into** him can defile him.

**Q2.**What defiles a person (make a person unclean or sinful) according to Jesus? (v17-20)

It is what comes **out** of a person which defiles him.

**Q3.** What does Jesus mean when He says this? (v21-22)

- Sin is not caused by things or people who are on the **outside**.
- Sin comes from **within** a person.
- (The symptoms of sin such as immorality, murder, adultery come from within a person.)

**Q4.** What then is the true nature of sin?

Sin is a **heart** problem. We are sinful by nature.

**6. Thinking it through:**

- Get the students into groups to discuss the questions and ask them to think about personal sinful habits they struggle with, and the real root problem of sin.
- Everyone has a sinful habit(s) that they struggle with.
- How do some people deal with the problem?
- For some people, they may try to conceal or hide it and pretend that it isn't there.
- Others may try to do good things to make up for the bad that they can't seem to stop doing.
- Still others might live in denial, and refuse to see the problem they are faced with.
- And some basically take on an "I can't care less" attitude - they are happy to keep going the way they are in as long as no one finds out.
- How about you - how do you deal with the sinful habits you struggle with?
- Which response can you identify with most?
- Jesus has told us that sin is an internal problem - it's a problem of the heart, and hence, nothing we do externally can truly deal with the problem of sin.

- It is only in coming to Jesus, and recognising our helplessness that He is able to change our hearts and make us more like Him.
7. **Activity: Origami paper heart**  
Materials needed: paper.  
Give each student a piece of paper.
- Follow the instructions given in the origami website below and teach it to the students  
<http://www.origami-instructions.com/easy-origami-heart.html>
  - When the paper heart is completed, ask them to write phrases such as: “Sin is a heart problem” – Mark 7:14-23- on the paper heart.
8. **Responding to God’s Word:** Group prayer time
9. **Digging deeper:** Romans 3:10-12
- The Apostle Paul stated in these verses that there is no one who can be considered a “good” person as everyone has ultimately rejected and turned away from God.
  - Everyone is by nature, a sinner.
  - That includes you and me. That includes criminals and even respectable people who do a lot of good for society.
  - What does this mean? - This means that everyone isn’t good at all, we are all sinners in need of God’s forgiveness.
10. **Closing song suggestion:** Change my heart, O God (Song writer: Eddie Espinosa)

### 11. Closing Prayer.

#### **\*\*Errata**

Kindly take note that the questions for the “**Thinking it through**” section for **Lesson 9** should be as below and not as printed in the participant’s copy.

#### **Thinking it through:**

- a) Why do you think Peter responded to Jesus in that way?
- b) What kind of a king did Peter think Jesus would be?
- c) What kind of a king do you think Jesus is?

**Leaders' Notes – Lesson 9: Who is Jesus? Jesus, the suffering Christ (Mark 8:27-33)**

**1. Opening prayer.**

**2. Opening song suggestion:** King of kings and Lord of lords  
(Song writers: Conty, Sophie/Yah, Nomi).

**3. Just for starters:**

Get the students into groups and ask them to discuss or share about what kind of a ruler (king or queen) they think they would make and what they would do as a ruler.

**4. Recap on Mark 7:14-23:**

Go through the questions with the students to get them to remember what they have learnt the previous week.

**5. Game: The “King” and the “punishment”**

Materials needed:

- a) A piece of paper rolled up into a king's “sceptre”.
  - b) Pieces of paper with different penalties written on them.
  - c) Radio or hand phone (that can play music)
- Get the students to sit in one big circle.
  - At the start of the game, the “sceptre” is passed to one of the students.
  - The music is played from the radio or hand phone and the sceptre is passed from one person to the next person. (The person controlling the music must have his or her back facing the students so that he or she can't see who the sceptre is being passed to).
  - When the music is stopped, the person holding the “sceptre” is “king”.

- He or she will pick a piece of paper that contains a penalty that you have written beforehand. He or she has the “authority” to choose anyone from the circle to perform that penalty.
- The game is repeated for a few more rounds.

### 6. Looking into the passage:

Get the students to read Mark 8:27-33.

Go through the questions in the passage.

**Q1.** Who did some of the people think Jesus was? (v27-28)

Some thought He was John the Baptist, Elijah or one of the prophets.

**Q2.** Who did Peter say Jesus was? (v29-30)

Peter said that Jesus was the Christ, God's Chosen King.

**Q3.** What kind of Christ would Jesus be? (v31-32)

- Jesus would have to suffer and be rejected by the Jewish leaders.
- He would be killed and after 3 days, rise again.

**Q4.** How did Peter respond to Jesus' teaching? Why did Jesus rebuke him? Did he really understand who Jesus was? (v32-33)

Peter tried to rebuke Jesus. Jesus rebuked him because Peter did/didn't (underline the correct answer) understand the kind of Christ/King that Jesus was supposed to be.

### **\*\*Errata**

Kindly take note that the questions for the “Thinking it through” section for this lesson should be as below and not as printed in the participant’s copy.

#### **Thinking it through:**

- a) Why do you think Peter responded to Jesus in that way?
- b) What kind of a king did Peter think Jesus would be?
- c) What kind of a king do you think Jesus is?

#### **7. Thinking it through:**

- Get the students into groups to discuss the questions, and ultimately find out what kind of a King they think Jesus is.
- Peter (like many of the Jews during his time) expected Jesus, who is the Christ, to be a powerful King who would defeat the Romans (who were in power during this time) and establish a kingdom on earth.
- He did not understand the true nature of Jesus’ Kingship that was different from the world’s expectations.
- Very often, we have the wrong expectations of Jesus’ Kingship too.
- Some of us view Jesus as a “Santa Claus” King - who gives us everything that we want, otherwise, we won’t follow Him.
- Some of us view Jesus as a tyrannical King who sets up rules and expect us to follow them or else we will be punished.
- Some of us have trouble understanding that Jesus is actually a suffering Servant King. A King who wasn’t popular with the leaders of His day, a King who would be

rejected, killed for our sake but would rise triumphantly in the end.

- Jesus is truly the Servant King - aren't we blessed to live under His Kingship then?
- To be able to call Him our King - One who isn't self-seeking or self-serving- but willing giving up His life for our sake!

### 8. **Responding to God's Word:** Group prayer time

### 9. **Digging deeper:** Mark 10:45

- Jesus stated very clearly that He would be the Servant King.
- This was the reason why He came to earth, not to be served but to serve. We have seen that in the previous lessons - how Jesus served those whom He came in contact with.
- His greatest service to all of mankind would be to give up His life and die for us, to be our ransom (the price that is paid so that a person can be set free) to free us from slavery to sin, so that we can be children of God.
- How does this affect the way we act then?
- If we are servants of this Servant King, we should live our lives in active service to Him and to others too!
- We live not to serve ourselves and our needs, but to prioritise our resources to serve Him and glorify Him by reaching out to a world that is lost, a world that is broken, a world that needs to know and trust in the Saviour.
- As children of God, we should not be self-centred.



10. **Closing song suggestion:** The Servant King (Song writer: Graham Kendrick)

11. **Closing Prayer.**

**Leaders' Notes – Lesson 10: What does it mean to follow Jesus?**  
**The cost of discipleship (Mark 8:34-38)**

**1. Opening prayer.**

**2. Opening song suggestion:** Walking with Jesus (Song writer: Robert G. Savage).

**3. Just for starters:**

Get the students into groups and ask them to discuss or share about who they like to follow around and what they usually do when they are following them.

**4. Recap on Mark 8:27-33:**

Go through the questions with the students to get them to remember what they have learnt the previous week.

**5. Game: Follow the leader** (Similar to blind man's buff)

Materials needed:

- a) A piece of cloth (to use as a blind fold)
  - b) Any object (e.g. water bottle, pen, etc.)
- Choose someone to be the "blind man" and one person to be his "guide/leader".
  - The blind man will be blind-folded and led to one end of the room.
  - An object will be placed as the "goal/prize" that the blind man must try to reach at another end of the room.

- The guide/leader must verbally give instructions to the blind man to lead him to the goal/prize. There must be no physical interaction, only verbal instructions.
- At the same time, everyone else in the room will try to confuse the blind man by giving him wrong instructions.
- The blind man must listen carefully to his leader's/guide's voice and instructions until he reaches the goal/prize.

### 6. Looking into the passage:

Get the students to read Mark 8:34-38.

Go through the questions in the passage.

**Q1.**What are the 3 things Jesus said that those who want to be his followers must do? (v34)

They must **deny** themselves, take up their **cross(es)** and **follow** Jesus.

**Q2.**What do you think Jesus meant when he said this?

- To deny yourself is to recognise that you are no longer the **king** of your own life, **Jesus** is.
- To take up your cross is to be prepared to give up even your **life** for Jesus.
- To follow Jesus is to live under His rule as **King** and to become more and more like **Him**.

**Q3.**What would be the result of those who reject and do not follow Jesus? (v35-38)

- They will ultimately **lose** their souls.
- They will be **rejected** by Jesus on the day when He returns and will have to face **judgment**.

**Q4.** What about those who follow Jesus? (v35)

- They may suffer or lose their lives for His sake but will gain it in the end.
- They will be accepted by Jesus on the day when He returns and will inherit eternal life.

**7. Thinking it through:**

- Get the students into groups to discuss the questions, and at the end, ask them if they think they are prepared to follow Jesus.
- Following Jesus isn't easy at all.
- Denying ourselves, being ready to carry our crosses and following Him can seem like such a challenging, almost impossible task indeed!
- However, we must realise that being a Christian is the greatest privilege that one could ever have - for this leads to the wonderful and certain promise of eternal life with Christ!
- And the fact that Jesus has given up His very life to pay the punishment for our sins should be a great motivation for us to follow Him!
- The only way that leads to life is through Him!
- But after all that has been said, following Jesus is costly, so the question is, are you prepared to do so?
- This may lead to your family being upset (if they are non-Christians), being misunderstood by your friends, giving up your time that you could spend doing other things, to serve in school Christian Fellowships (CFs), church, Boys Brigade (BB) or Girls Brigade(GB). It might involve you saying "NO" to certain things you love but you know are not pleasing to Him.

- Are you prepared to follow Jesus? Not to follow Him out of duty but because we love Jesus (He first loves us!) which is a natural response. When you love someone, you will learn to serve and love sacrificially.

**8. Responding to God's Word:** Group prayer time.

**9. Digging deeper:** Mark 10:35-45

- James and John wanted to be given the places of highest honour (sitting at Jesus' right and left hand in His glory) beside Jesus.
- Jesus responded by asking them if they are prepared to drink the cup He was going to drink and be baptised in the baptism that Jesus was going to be baptised in.
- What did Jesus mean? – Jesus' questions were meant to ask them if they were prepared to suffer and die, just as He would suffer and die.
- Jesus ultimately told them that greatness in His kingdom is not about being the boss or ruler over everyone, but being a willing servant.
- We read last week, that Jesus Himself too, came to be a servant and to give up His life to save many.
- Do you want to be great?
- Greatness in Jesus' terms is being willing to serve others, and to suffer for Jesus' sake.
- Can you think of ways that you can be serving Christ by serving others?
- How would that look like in your life?

**10. Closing song suggestion:** I have decided to follow Jesus (Song writer: Sadhu Sundar Singh)

**11. Closing Prayer**

**Leaders' Notes – Lesson 11: What does it mean to follow Jesus?  
Entering God's Kingdom (Mark 10:13-16)**

**1. Opening prayer.**

**2. Opening song suggestion:** We are His people (EMU music)  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sWeXu8IZ\\_T8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sWeXu8IZ_T8)

**3. Just for starters:**

Get the students into groups and ask them to discuss or share about whether they like or dislike children and why.

**4. Recap on Mark 8:34-38:**

Go through the questions with the students to get them to remember what they have learnt the previous week.

**5. Game: The “-est”**

Material needed: A long ruler

- Divide the students into groups.
- At the start of the game, mention a phrase related to something weak or small, such as “The shortest.”
- In your mind, when you mention the phrase “**The shortest**”, you must decide what you are looking for, e.g. “The shortest little finger.” But you must NOT mention what you are looking for to the students who are in groups.
- The students must try to guess what is “The shortest” thing you are looking for and send a representative from

their group whom they think fits what you are looking for.

- After each group has sent a representative, you then reveal what was “The shortest” thing you were looking for e.g. “The shortest little finger”.
- Each of the representatives’ little finger is then measured and the one who has the shortest finger wins. A point is given to the group.
- The game can be repeated a few rounds with phrases such as “The shortest” (e.g. in height, ear, arm, leg), “The smallest” (e.g. eyes, hand), “The latest” (e.g. birth month).
- Note: In choosing the littlest, the smallest, the latest, this sets the mood for the next story about children who are considered the weakest and most unimportant, when they are brought before Jesus.

### 6. Looking into the passage:

Get the students to read Mark 10:13-16.

Go through the questions in the passage.

**Q1.** What was the crowd doing? (v13)

They were bringing **children** to Jesus that He might touch them.

**Q2.** What did the disciples do? (v13)

They **rebuked** the crowd for doing that.

**Q3.** What was Jesus’ response when He saw that? (v14, 16)



- Jesus asked the disciples to let the children **come** to Him and not to **hinder** them.
- He also took them in His arms and **blessed** them.

**Q4.** What lesson did Jesus teach His disciples from that? (v14-15)

If anyone wants to enter the **kingdom** of God, they must be like **children**, who recognise they are **helpless** and fully **dependent** on God.

### 7. Thinking it through:

- Get the students into groups to discuss the questions.
- When the crowd brought their children to be blessed by Jesus, the disciples were angry.
- In Jesus' days, children were not seen as adorable or worth spending time with. In fact, children were seen as unimportant and were even looked down on.
- The disciples must have thought Jesus had better things to do than waste His time with children!
- But Jesus saw things very differently from the disciples. He told the disciples to let the children come to Him and He blessed and touched them.
- Jesus went on to teach the disciples a lesson!
- He said that anyone who wants to enter God's kingdom, that is, anyone who want to be part of God's people in His place and living under Him as King must come like children!
- Now, Jesus isn't saying that children are perfect.
- What He is saying is our attitude must be like that of a child.

- We come before God recognising that we are weak, helpless and totally dependent on Him to save us.
- Think through some of the things you are tempted to depend on to make yourself feel accepted by God.
- Why are you tempted to depend on these things?
- We can't come before God and expect Him to accept us based on our talents, abilities or even the good things that we do for others.
- We come before God saying to Him, "I come like a child, knowing that I have nothing to depend on, except Jesus alone."

### 8. **Responding to God's Word:** Group prayer time

### 9. **Digging deeper:** Ephesians 2:8-9

- The Bible teaches us that we are saved by grace through faith. What does this mean?
- That simply means that we are saved by God who shows His undeserved kindness towards us (that's what grace means!) when we trust in Jesus!
- And notice what else these verses say: our salvation is a gift from God!
- We cannot earn it or pay for it or work for it!
- God has given salvation to us freely as a gift!
- So can we boast about anything? - Not at all!
- It is only through God's goodness and kindness alone that we can be His people.
- Isn't this wonderful? - Let us thank Him for this!

10. Closing song suggestion: We are His people (Re sing this song).
11. Closing Prayer.

**Leaders' Notes – Lesson 12: What does it mean to follow Jesus?  
Putting God first (Mark 10:17-27)**

**1. Opening prayer.**

**2. Opening song suggestion:** We are His People (re-sing) or All That I Am (Claire Cloninger/ Don Moen)

**3. Just for starters:**

Get the students into groups and ask them to discuss or share about what or who they regard as most important to them in life (other than God) and why.

**4. Recap on Mark 10:13-16:**

Go through the questions with the students to get them to remember what they have learnt the previous week.

**5. Game: Adding up “money”.**

- Divide the students into groups.
- Each group is assigned a “monetary value”, e.g. each student in group number one is “worth” 10 cents, each student in group number two is “worth” 20 cents, etc.
- After each student has been assigned a monetary value, they are asked to go and mix themselves up in the room.
- Then, proceed to call out a certain amount of money, e.g. 1 dollar and 20 cents.
- The students, who have different monetary values, must try to find other students to make up the amount that was mentioned.

- When they have succeeded in doing so, the group raises their hands and they are the winners for that round.
- You can play several rounds, each time mentioning different amounts of “money” that you are looking for.
- Note: This game sets the mood for the Bible story they will be reading next about a rich man’s encounter with Jesus.

### 6. Looking into the passage:

Get the students to read Mark 10:17-27.

Go through the questions in the passage.

**Q1.**A man ran up and knelt before Jesus. What did he ask Jesus? (v17)

He asked Jesus what he must do to inherit **eternal life**

**Q2.**What was Jesus’ first answer to him and what was the man’s response? (v18-19)

- Jesus reminded the man about a few of God’s **commandments**.
- The man said he had **kept** all of the commandments from his youth.

**Q3.** What did Jesus ask the man to do? Could the man do so? (vv21-22)

- Jesus asked the man to sell **all** he had and give to the poor (so that he will have treasures in heaven) and **come** and **follow** Him.
- The man could **not** do so because he had great **possessions**. He went away **sorrowfully**.
- That shows that in the man's heart, the most important thing to him was his **wealth**.

**Q4.** Jesus said it was very difficult for the rich to enter God's kingdom. The disciples then asked him: Who can be saved? What was Jesus' answer? (v27)

With man it is **impossible** but not with **God** for all things are possible with God.

**7. Thinking it through:**

- Get the students into groups to discuss the questions.
- The man who came and knelt before Jesus seemed very sincere!
- Although he was a rich man, he knelt before Jesus (a sign of great respect) and called Jesus, "Good Teacher."
- He then asked Jesus what he needed to do to inherit eternal life. Another way of putting the question was, "What must I do to be saved?"
- Jesus responded at first with a very interesting comment by asking the man why he would call Jesus good since no one is good but God alone. In other words, Jesus was questioning the man's understanding of who Jesus was.

- All humans are sinful, none are good, so in that sense, for Jesus to be good, He would have to be none other than God Himself!
- Jesus then went on to remind the man about some of the commandments God had given to the Israelites long ago.
- Do you notice something interesting about the commandments that Jesus mentioned? – Well, they relate to how God's people are to treat one another but Jesus seemed to have left out the first few that talked about how God's people were to relate to God himself! (We will see why in a bit).
- The man was confident - he said he had kept those commandments from youth.
- But Jesus asked the man to do something drastic - sell everything he had and come and follow Jesus!
- Jesus told him if he did that, he would gain treasures in heaven.
- The man was sad, he could not give up his riches and he went away.
- Although the man may have seemed outwardly religious and "good", Jesus' question revealed the true state of his heart.
- In his heart, the man treasured his wealth above all else, even above God.
- Wealth was his "idol" – something that takes the place of God.
- Jesus said it was hard for people with wealth to enter the kingdom of God, for wealth could be hard to give up.
- Can anyone then be saved?
- Yes! Jesus concluded to say that even though it was not possible for humans to change a person's heart, God could - for nothing is impossible with God.

- For us, there may be many things we find hard to give up. They may be our achievements, our hobbies and even our loved ones. These things seek to take first place in our hearts before God himself.
- Only God can change our hearts so we can respond to Him rightly, and to put him first as King of our lives.

### 8. **Responding to God's Word:** Group prayer time

### 9. **Digging deeper:** Ephesians 5:1-5

- In this Bible passage, we are told to be imitators of God, walking in love just as Jesus loved us when He died for our sins sacrificially on the cross!
- And there are certain sinful habits we are to get rid of too in order to live out our identity as children of God.
- There are sins listed out like sexual immorality, impurity or covetousness (greed) which can be termed as “idols” – things that take the place of God in a person's heart.
- E.g. the “idol” of greed can be wealth and riches.
- As sinful people, our hearts are “idol-making factories”, we don't put God as the King of our hearts.
- Only God alone can change our hearts and bring us to faith and repentance in Christ.

### 10. **Closing song suggestion:** Change my heart, O God

### 11. **Closing Prayer.**



**Leaders' Notes – Lesson 13: What did Jesus come to do?**

**The Lord's Supper: Remembering Jesus' death (Mark 14:12-25)**

**1. Opening prayer.**

**2. Opening song suggestion:** John 3:16 (Song writer: John Harwick).

**3. Just for starters:**

Get the students into groups and ask them to discuss or share about what they usually do to help them remember certain dates, events or chores that they have to do.

**4. Recap on Mark 10:17-27:**

Go through the questions with the students to get them to remember what they have learnt the previous week.

**5. Game: Remembering actions.**

- Divide the students to sit in one or more circle(s) (depending on the number of students).
- In each circle, one student is chosen as the "leader".
- He or she will start off with 1 action, e.g. clapping hands.
- After he or she does the action, the person to his or her right will follow the action he or she has just seen, e.g. clapping hands, followed by the next person and the next.
- But the leader must continue to come up with new actions, until there is a long action sequence,

e.g. clapping hands → touching nose → pulling ears → patting his or her head, etc.

- The others must try to remember the actions and follow the leader. Each person is always one action behind the person who is to his or her left.
- Note: This game requires concentration and memory work that links to the concept of remembering Jesus' death in the Bible passage.

### 6. Looking into the passage:

Get the students to read Mark 14:12-25.

Go through the questions in the passage.

**Q1.** What were Jesus and His disciples going to celebrate? (v12)

They were going to celebrate the **Passover**.

**Q2.** Where did the disciples go to prepare for the Passover?

(v13-16)

- The disciples listened to Jesus' **instruction** and followed a man carrying a water **jar** in the city. The man showed them a large upper **room** all furnished and ready.
- Everything happened just as Jesus had **told** them.

**Q3.** What disturbing news did Jesus tell His disciples during the Passover meal? (v18)

Jesus told them that one of them will **betray** Him.

**Q4.** What did Jesus do during the Passover meal? (v22-24)

- He took **bread** and after blessing it, He **broke** it and gave it to His disciples.
- He also took a **cup** and when He had given thanks He gave it to His disciples to **drink** from it.

**Q5.** What did Jesus say was the new significance of this meal He was sharing with them? (v22-25)

- The **bread** signified Jesus' **body** and the **cup** signified Jesus' **blood**.
- This meal was meant to remember Jesus' **death** for sins.

### 7. Extra notes:

- The Passover was a Jewish festival that the Jews celebrated every year.
- They would share a meal after sunset to remember the beginning of their deliverance from slavery in Egypt when the Lord brought judgment by killing the firstborn in every Egyptian house but “passed over” the Israelite houses where the blood of the Passover lamb had been applied.
- That happened many, many years ago in the time of Moses.

### 8. Thinking it through:

- Get the students into groups to discuss the questions.
- The Passover Meal that Jesus shared with His disciples was to be His last meal with them.
- This would be the meal He would share with them before He went to face death on the cross

- How would you have felt if you were one of Jesus' disciples?
- Would you have been sad, confused or afraid?
- The Passover was celebrated to remember God's wonderful work in saving the Israelites from slavery in Egypt by bringing judgment and killing every firstborn in Egypt but "passing over" the Israelites' houses where a Passover lamb had been killed, sacrificed and the blood applied on various parts of the house.
- But the celebration was actually pointing forward to a greater deliverance and salvation that was to come.
- When Jesus shared this meal with His disciples, He took bread, broke it and took the cup of wine and told His disciples that they represented His body and blood that would be broken and poured out for them
- In other words, the meal would be one that will be celebrated to remember Jesus' death.
- Jesus will bring salvation to all people who trust in Him by becoming the sacrifice for their sins. God's judgment would fall on Jesus, so that all who believe in Him will be saved.
- Till today, Christians share this meal, also known as the Lord's Supper, to remember what Jesus has done for us on the cross

### 9. **Responding to God's Word:** Group prayer time

**10. Digging deeper: Mark 14:32-42**

- Before Jesus was arrested, He and His disciples went to the garden of Gethsemane where He told them to pray.
- His disciples fell asleep, but Jesus prayed in anguish and desperation.
- He knew from the beginning that He would die on the cross. He told His disciples about that again and again.
- But the agony and suffering that He knew He would face brought Him to His knees; He prayed to the Father that if it were at all possible for the cup of suffering to be removed from Him.
- But at the end, Jesus was fully obedient to the Father's will, not His own.
- We will never understand the depth of pain and suffering Jesus went through when He carried the sins of the world upon Himself.
- But that should make us very thankful for Jesus' sacrifice!

**11. Closing song suggestion: Worthy is the Lamb (song writer: Darlene Zschech, Hillsong).**

**12. Closing Prayer.**

### Leaders' Notes – Lesson 14: What did Jesus come to do? Jesus' death (Mark 15:33-41)

**1. Opening prayer.**

**2. Opening song suggestion:** Lord, I lift your name on high  
(Song writer: Rick Founds)

**3. Just for starters:**

Get the students into groups and ask them to discuss or share about whether they fear death or not and why. What makes death so scary?

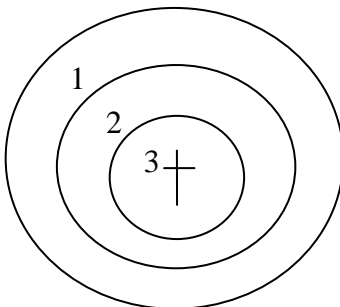
**4. Recap on Mark 14:12-25:**

Go through the questions with the students to get them to remember what they have learnt the previous week.

**5. Game: The Cross (Aim and throw)**

Materials needed: A piece of cloth, duster or anything that can be used as an object to aim and throw at a target.

- Mahjong paper or White board with the diagram below drawn on it:



- The above diagram serves as a target practice.
- Select students who will use the object to aim and throw at the target.
- Their aim is to score 3 points by hitting the target right in the middle (where the cross is).
- Note: the objective of the game is to help students to realise that Jesus' ultimate mission when He came to earth was to die on the cross to save us from our sins.

### 6. Looking into the passage:

Get the students to read Mark 15:33-41.

Go through the questions in the passage.

**Q1.** What time was it when Jesus hung on the cross? What happened then? What does this show? (v33)

- It was from the **sixth to the ninth hour (12-3pm)**.
- The sky turned **dark** for 3 hours.
- This shows that God's **judgment** was being carried out.
- Jesus was bearing God's judgment on behalf of us for our **sins**.

**Q2.** What did Jesus cry out? In which other Bible passage can you find that cry? What does that show? (v34, see also Psalm 22)

- Jesus cried out, **"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"**
- That cry comes from the **Old Testament**, Psalm 22 which was written by David.
- That shows that Jesus' death was a **fulfillment** of Old Testament prophecy and was part of God's **plan** to save mankind all along.

**Q3.**What happened right after Jesus died? What does that show? (v38)

- The **curtain** in the temple was torn in two.
- That shows that Jesus' death has made a way for sinful humans to have a **relationship** with God.

**Q4.**Who did the centurion say Jesus was? What does that mean? (v39)

- The centurion said that Jesus was the **Son of God.**
- He recognised Jesus as **God's King and God Himself.**

**Q5.**Who was there when Jesus died? What does that tell us? (v40-41)

- The **women** who had followed Jesus.
- That shows us that they were **witnesses** to Jesus' death.

### 7. Extra notes:

- Jewish time starts from 6am (1<sup>st</sup> hour). Hence, the 6<sup>th</sup> hour to the 9<sup>th</sup> hour would be 12-3pm.
- Darkness is usually used in the Old Testament to symbolise God's judgment.
- Jesus on the cross, was bearing God's judgment on our behalf as He carried our sins on Himself.
- Psalm 22 was written by David, Jesus' ancestor, about 1000 years before Jesus came. The whole Psalm is a prophecy that speaks of Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection as well.
- The curtain in the temple separated the "Holy of Holies" where God's presence was from the worshippers in the temple. That shows us that humans are separated from God because of sin.



- Jesus' death, which serves as a once for all perfect sacrifice for sins, enables humans to come to God, and that was shown when the curtain in the temple was torn in two. We now have access to God through Jesus.

### 8. Thinking it through:

- Get the students into groups to discuss the questions, and ask them how they should respond to Him.
- There were 3 groups of people featured in Mark's Gospel in the last 3 hours of Jesus' life.
  - a) The bystanders who mocked Him and were waiting to see if Elijah would take Jesus down from the cross.
  - b) The Roman centurion who recognised Jesus as the Son of God.
  - c) The women who had followed and ministered to Jesus while he was in Galilee.
- Which group of people can you identify most with?
  - a) The bystanders - who have seen who Jesus was, heard His words about who He claimed to be but responded by laughing the whole idea off. Have you decided that you will not trust in Jesus unless He does some big, unexpected miracle? If that is you, perhaps you are failing to see the biggest miracle of all – that God Himself would die on the cross to pay for the penalty of your sins and mine.
  - b) The Roman centurion - who recognised the significance of Jesus' death and acknowledged Him as God. Perhaps you have been following the lessons all this while and have come to see and believe that Jesus really is who He claims to be. If that is you, will you take the step to trust in Him and follow Him?
  - c) The women who followed Him - they had ministered to Jesus while he was in Galilee and trusted in Him.

Perhaps you are now a follower of Jesus, and have been trusting in Him for a long time. The question is, has the wonderful news of the Gospel that Jesus died for you and rose again lost its meaning and beauty to you?

### 9. Responding to God's Word: Group prayer time

#### 10. Digging deeper: 1 John 4:10

- God is indeed a loving God.
- He has shown us His love in so many ways!
- Can you think of some of the ways that God loves you?
- God loves us so much that He sent His Son Jesus, to be the propitiation (a sacrifice which takes away God's anger and judgment) for our sins.
- Jesus died, carrying our sins, and the full punishment for our sins so that we can be reconciled to God.
- We often desire to be loved, but sometimes, we fail to recognise love when it is shown.
- And most often, we tend to take God's love for us for granted.
- Let us come to remember His love for us, shown most clearly on the cross where Jesus died for you and me.

#### 11. Closing song suggestion: The Gospel Song (Song writers: Bob Kauflin and Drew Jones)

#### 12. Closing Prayer.

### Leaders' Notes – Lesson 15: What did Jesus come to do? Jesus' resurrection (Mark 16:1-8)

#### 1. Opening prayer.

#### 2. Opening song suggestion: Celebrate, Jesus Celebrate (Song writer: Gary Oliver).

#### 3. Just for starters:

Get the students into groups and ask them to discuss or share about the biggest surprise they have ever had in their lives and their responses.

#### 4. Recap on Mark 15:33-41:

Go through the questions with the students to get them to remember what they have learnt the previous week.

#### 5. Game: Resurrection!

Materials needed: Rolls of toilet paper.

- Divide the students into groups.
- Each group is given a roll of toilet paper.
- One student from the group is chosen to be “wrapped” up in toilet paper from head to toe (like how the dead were wrapped up during Jesus' days).
- The group must work together, using the whole roll of toilet paper to wrap their friend up.
- The fastest group with the neatest wrapping wins.
- After that, for round 2, get the groups to unwrap their friends as neatly and quickly as possible.

**6. Looking into the passage:**

Get the students to read Mark 15:33-41.

Go through the questions in the passage.

**Q1.** Who were the first people to go to the tomb where Jesus laid 3 days after His death? (v1-2)

- **Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome.**
- They went there bringing **spices** so they might anoint Him.

**Q2.** What were they worried about and what did they find when they reached the tomb? (v2-4)

They were worrying about who would roll away the **stone** from the entrance of the tomb but when they got there, they found that the stone had been **rolled back.**

**Q3.** Who did they see and what was did he tell them? (v5-7)

- They saw a **young man** dressed in a **white robe** who told them that **Jesus** who had been crucified had **risen.**
- He also told them to tell the **disciples and Peter** that Jesus would go before them to Galilee and they would **see** Him just as Jesus had said.

**Q4.** What were the women's initial reaction to these events? (v8)

- They **went out and fled** from the tomb as they were astonished and afraid.
- They said **nothing** to anyone because they were **afraid.**

### 7. Extra notes:

- The story of Jesus' resurrection is indeed credible and true.
- The first people to witness His resurrection were women. (During Jesus' time, women's testimonies were considered to be of no credibility or value. The fact that the Gospel writers tell of women being the first witnesses instead of respectable men shows that the story of Jesus' resurrection is true.)
- Note that the women's initial response was fear and surprise, so much so that they did not say anything to anyone. This further adds on to the fact that the writer was giving a true account of Jesus' resurrection story.

### 8. Thinking it through:

- Get the students into groups to discuss the questions, especially why Jesus' resurrection is so important, its implications and how they should respond to Him.
- Jesus is alive - He lives forever!
- Why is that so hard to believe?
- We have seen a few reasons why the story of Jesus' resurrection is credible and true.
- Jesus' resurrection shows that death could not hold or defeat Him!
- He is risen and is victorious!
- This means we do not need to fear death, if we trust in Him!
- Because Jesus Himself has conquered sin and death!
- If Jesus had not defeated death and lives and reigns forever, how could He possibly offer us the hope of eternal life?

- But because He is alive, we can say with full confidence that we will live with Him too!
- Death has lost its victory, the grave has been denied - because Jesus lives forever!

**9. Responding to God's Word:** Group prayer time.

**10. Digging deeper:** 1 Peter 1:3

- Peter writes that we should give thanks to God the Father for He has given us a living hope.
- Indeed, this hope is living because Jesus is alive and is risen.
- This hope is none other than the wonderful hope of eternal life that God promises to all who believe in Jesus.
- Jesus lives, and those who trust in Him will not die but live with Him!

**11. Closing song suggestion:** Alive, alive my Saviour is alive (popular Christian children's song) or Before the world began (Russel Fragar)

**12. Closing Prayer.**