



MEETING JESUS IN THE PAGES OF MARK

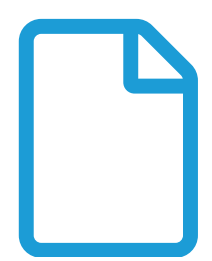


EVANGELISTIC
PRAYER
TEAMS



MEETING JESUS IN THE PAGES OF MARK

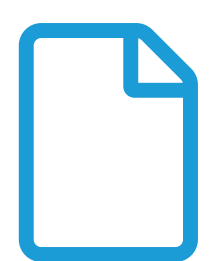
Course Overview



Course Summary

These studies look at a way to read the Bible one-to-one by doing studies with an unbeliever. You can use these studies as a practice for reading the Bible one-to-one.

There are some significant differences between a Bible study, an EPT, and reading the Bible one-to-one with an unbeliever. A Bible study is a meeting of people with similar levels of understanding and knowledge of God. But reading with an unbeliever is a different dynamic and there are some things that need to happen differently. Tips for how to do this are given throughout the studies.



Course Structure

1: JESUS THINKS HE CAN FORGIVE SINS

2: JESUS IS AGAINST RELIGION

3: JESUS ACTS LIKE GOD

4: JESUS RESCUES FROM DEATH

5: JESUS IS GOD'S GREAT KING

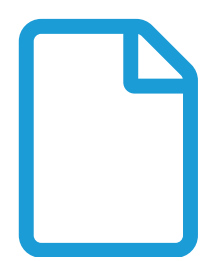
6: JESUS CLAIMS TO BE THE MESSIAH

7: THE GREAT EXCHANGE

8: AN EMPTY TOMB



MEETING JESUS IN THE PAGES OF MARK



READING THE BIBLE ONE-TO-ONE

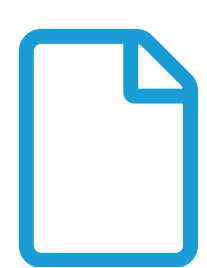
Here are a few ideas for reading the Bible one-to-one:

- The Bible is a strange book to many unbelievers, so why not provide them with a print out of the passage rather than bring along a Bible?
- Don't ask your friend to read the Bible out loud, in fact it might be better to let them read the passage in their own time. Christians love to read the Bible aloud, but it is a bit strange culturally
- Find somewhere unobtrusive, where your friend will feel comfortable, and won't have to fear being overheard. A cafe a short distance from your office might work. (try to avoid cafes in your foyer, it might cause undue discomfort)
- Don't assume your friend is reading the Bible because they're interested or keen, they might be here because they trust you.
- It's less important what you say, and more important that they deal with who Jesus is.
- If your friend enjoyed themselves, offer to meet again (don't assume they will want to). Maybe offer to meet up again in a few weeks time
- Hopefully this is a long term prospect, so you don't have to cover the whole counsel of God in this sitting. If you can convey one point from the passage about Jesus, or better yet pose a really good question for them to ponder – even if they go off on a wild goose chase – that's a victory! Trust God is working by his word.
- Pray before, during, and after – God is at work!



MEETING JESUS IN THE PAGES OF MARK

1: JESUS THINKS HE CAN FORGIVE SINS



INTRODUCTION

These studies are about learning how to read the Bible one-to-one with an unbeliever. Perhaps this week the leader could demonstrate what this can look like this week.



HANDY TIP

When meeting up with a friend, it's a good idea to have printed off a copy of the passage for them.



Bible Passage

Remember, don't read aloud

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. 2 They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. 3 Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. 4 Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. 5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

6 Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, 7 "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

8 Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? 9 Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? 10 But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the man, 11 "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." 12 He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Mark 2:1-12



Key Truths

GOD IS WORTHY OF OUR WORSHIP

1. God is the creator of all – including us. As his creatures, we were made with a purpose and therefore we have meaning. We are not by-products of a mindless, cosmic accident. What we do matters.
2. As our creator, God is our rightful ruler, deserving of our worship, glory, honour, and obedience.

GOD WANTS GOOD FOR US AND HIS CREATION

1. God lovingly cares for and sustains his creation.
2. Humanity holds a special place in God's affections, we are meant to curate the world under God's loving rule. This is how things should be.
3. The flourishing of creation under humanity is part of God's plan for creation.

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

Think about your work colleagues, how many of them believe they have a purpose in life?

Tim Keller has said that the human heart is an idol factory, we are made to worship. But only God is worthy of all our worship. What do you think your colleagues think about worship and idolatry? How might you introduce this concept to them?

Do your colleagues believe humans have a unique responsibility for the creation?



Prayer

Praise God that we are made with a purpose and a unique role in creation.

Pray for opportunities to explore these gospel ideas with a colleague

Remember

COFFEE



DINNER



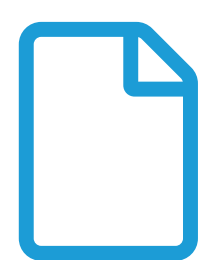
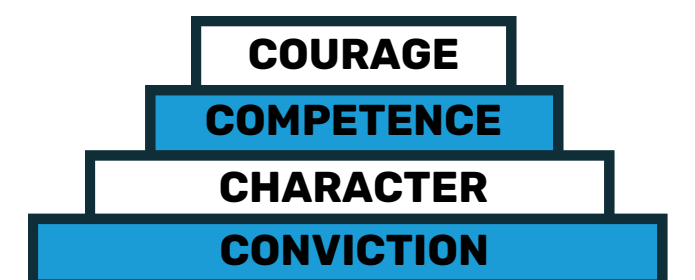
GOSPEL





THE LOGIC OF THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS

2: ORIGIN OF EVIL & JUSTICE FOR ALL



Introduction

Andrew Denton used to sign off his program by saying "And remember, society is to blame."

Where do your friends and colleagues believe evil comes from?



Big Picture

Evil is the result of human rejection of God and their desire to worship anything (and everything) else which breaks our relationship with God, each other, and creation.



Bible Passage

While you read – Who is responsible for evil?

*“There is no one righteous, not even one;
there is no one who understands;
there is no one who seeks God.*

Romans 3:10-11

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 3:23

the wages of sin is death,

Romans 6:23



Key Truths

ORIGIN OF EVIL

1. Despite our privileged position, we reject God, refusing to worship him, or obey him. We instead seek to live however we see fit – millions of tiny dictators in a hostile world set off-kilter.
2. Our rejection of God breaks our relationship with him, each other, and creation. All of life's pain and suffering stems from our rejection of our creator – and our worship of unworthy things in creation.

GOD ESTABLISHES JUSTICE

1. God is the true Lord of all creation and can not ignore our affront to his rule and justice.
2. God will re-establish his justice with his creation – he will vindicate the just and punish the guilty. We yearn for justice, we hate it when the guilty go free and the innocent are trampled underfoot.
3. But, we're all guilty and so can only wait in expectation that the judge of all the earth will prosecute his case – eternal death.
4. A weak jumped up rebel hasn't a hope to stand before the righteous, all-powerful judge of all.

Thoughts? Questions?



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Application

Most people acknowledge the evil in the world - but why do they think it is there?

What role do they think they play in that evil?

In which circumstances have you heard people say they want to see justice done?

When you consider the holiness of God, and the affront to him our rejection represents, do you think God's judgment is fair?

What do you think your unbelieving friends and colleagues think?



Prayer

We all sin and fall short of the glory of God, spend some time confessing our sin before God.

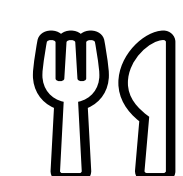
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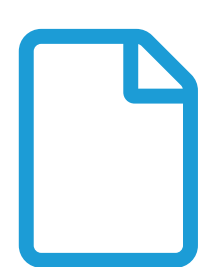
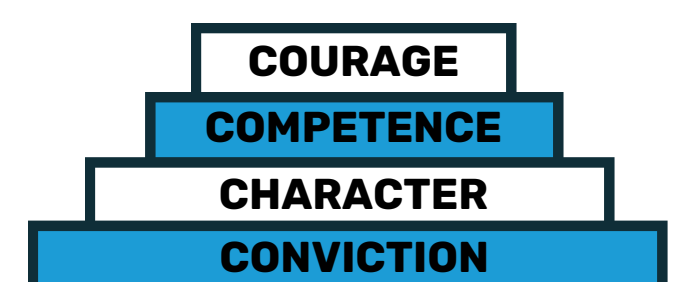
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THE LOGIC OF THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS

3: GOD'S SOLUTION



Introduction

God alone is rightly worshipped, but we have rejected him as our creator and king. As a result, we have run ourselves and our world into the ground – shipwrecking our relationship with God in the process. The evil in our world begins in our own hearts.

How would your colleagues expect God to react to this mess we have made?



Big Picture

God's solution for our rejection of him, and failure to curate the world under him is redemption through the death and resurrection of Jesus in our place.



Bible Passage

While you read – What is God's answer to our sin?

“the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23

Jesus was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

Romans 4:25



Key Truths

GOD'S SOLUTION

1. God could just let us off the hook, but that's a miscarriage of justice – God can have nothing to do with such corruption. There's nothing for it, we face God's anger.
2. Except God. God is love and out of his love he sent his Son, Jesus Christ into the world. Unlike us, he always lived as the perfect human under God's rule – he is truly innocent before God. Jesus did not deserve death.
3. However, Jesus did die. He willingly gave his life, stepping into our place, dying as our representative and substitute.
4. Jesus is no tragic hero. God doesn't just make the most of a bad situation. It was always God's plan to redeem a rebellious people to himself.
5. Jesus was raised to new life as the rightful ruler of the world – the position humanity was always meant to hold – the ruler of creation under God.
6. Jesus' resurrection shows that death as a punishment is over, it has been met for all who are in Christ, raised with him in new life. Now we can live as we were meant to – with God as our ruler.
7. Jesus is the ruler and will return to judge all who remain opposed to him.

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

What does it mean for Jesus to die in our place?

What difference does Jesus' resurrection make to our lives?

What does the death and resurrection of Jesus mean for our unbelieving colleague's lives?



Prayer

Praise God for sending Jesus for us, for his death for us, and his resurrection that means new life for us.

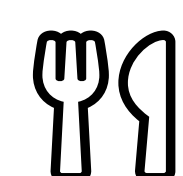
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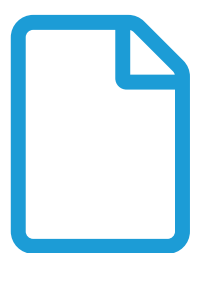


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THE LOGIC OF THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS

4: JESUS IS LORD & OUR RESPONSE



Introduction

The good news of Jesus makes sense. It's internally coherent and makes good sense of the world around us – the problem of evil, our desire for justice, our relationships with the world, with each other, and with God. But the good news of Jesus is not an abstract series of facts – it demands a response.



Big Picture

The good news of Jesus demands a response; to either continue to reject God and remain under condemnation, or to submit to Jesus' rule and be forgiven and have eternal life in him.



Bible Passage

While you read – Why is God worthy of our worship?

*God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.*

Philippians 2:9-11

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.

John 3:36



Key Truths

JESUS IS LORD

1. God has raised Jesus to the highest place - the judge of all the world.
2. God's proof that he has appointed Jesus to be our judge is his resurrection.

OUR RESPONSE

1. We can either continue rejecting God, waltzing on our merry way to destruction - or we can live God's way, trusting in Jesus' death and living our new resurrection life in him.
2. Our choice is repentance and faith, or continued rejection and condemnation.
3. As we share the great news of Jesus, we need to encourage our hearers to see how they are currently living opposed to God, and that they need to decide to either be reconciled to God through Jesus or remain under God's judgment.

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

As we share the good news of Jesus, sometimes we can be tempted to lay out the truth of the gospel of Jesus and leave it up to our hearers about what to do with it; we shy away from urging people to make a decision. Have you found yourself doing that?

Think about the people you regularly pray for - have you shared Jesus with them?
How have they responded?

Is it possible it may be time to challenge them to make a response?



Prayer

Pray for someone whom you need to challenge to make a decision.

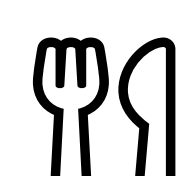
Pray for an opportunity to challenge them this week.

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