



EVANGELISTIC
PRAYER
TEAMS

2025
QUARTER 2



EVANGELISTIC
PRAYER
TEAMS

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QUARTER 2

EPTs gather Christian workers across Australia to encourage one another in our **CONVICTION**, **CHARACTER**, **COMPETENCE**, and **COURAGE** in helping our friends and colleagues meet Jesus. We also pray for each other that God may work in each other's lives so that Jesus may be known.

Vision: To reach the world through workers with the good news about Jesus.

Aim: 1000 people across Australia meeting Jesus in the pages of the Bible.

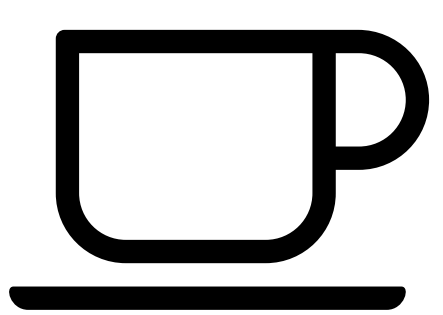


EVANGELISTIC
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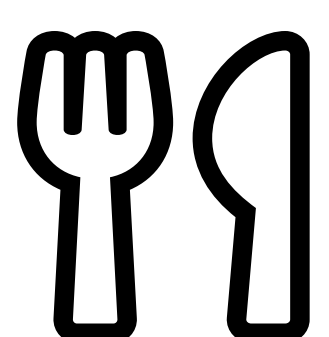
TAKE THE NEXT RELATIONAL STEP

COFFEE



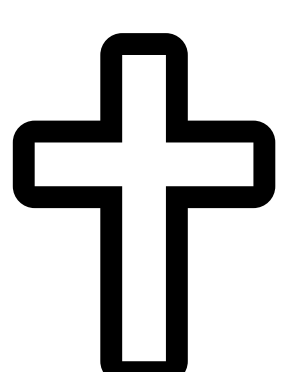
Shared a personal conversation
Knows I'm Christian
Spent social time together

DINNER



I understand their values and worldview
I've shared the Bible's worldview

GOSPEL



Made a clear gospel presentation
Reading the Bible
Become a Christian
Joined a good church



EVANGELISTIC
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OVERVIEW

MEETING JESUS IN MARK

A GENEROUS MEASURE

MEETING JESUS IN MARK (CONTINUED)

AFTER THE WORD 121, WHAT NEXT?



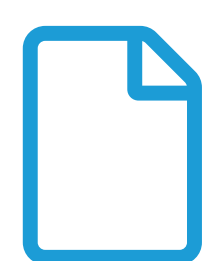
MEETING JESUS IN THE PAGES OF MARK



EVANGELISTIC
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MEETING JESUS IN THE PAGES OF MARK

Overview

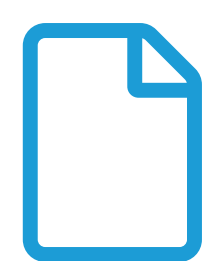


Summary

Many of us feel ill-equipped to help unbelievers meet Jesus by reading through a Gospel with us, and so The Word 121 (theword121.com) has been so helpful. But perhaps just using another Gospel isn't that far from each one of us. These studies aim to help us practice helping a colleague to meet Jesus using Mark's Gospel.



Keep an eye out for tips on how to read with an unbeliever throughout the studies.



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 RULE FOR GOD

7: THE GREAT EXCHANGE

8: AN EMPTY TOMB



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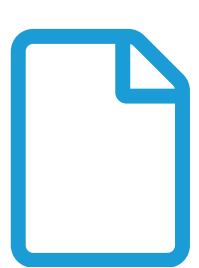
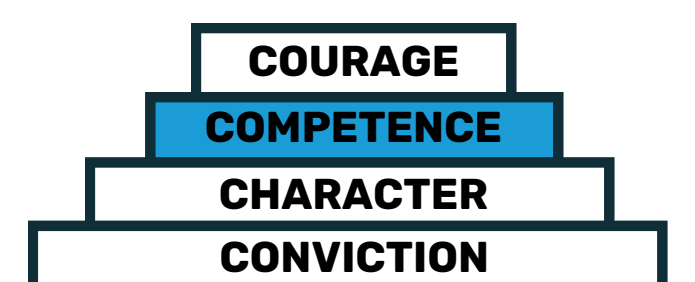
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MEETING JESUS IN THE PAGES OF MARK

1. JESUS THINKS HE CAN FORGIVE SINS



INTRODUCTION

These studies are about learning how to read the Bible one-to-one with an unbeliever. Each week take it in a turn to lead the rest of the team through the passage.



HANDY TIP

When meeting up with a friend, it's a good idea to have printed off a copy of the passage for them. (Or help them find an app). Just remember not to read aloud.



BIBLE PASSAGE

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. 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. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

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

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? Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." 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

1. When Jesus sees the faith (or *trust*) of the friends of the paralysed man, he responds by announcing the forgiveness of the man's sins.
2. The religious leaders reject that Jesus has the power to forgive sins because they do not think he is God.
3. It is easier to say 'your sins are forgiven' than it is to say 'get up and walk' to a paralysed man. So Jesus proves he can forgive sins by healing the man.



QUESTIONS YOU COULD ASK

(How would your unbelieving co-workers answer these questions?)

Jesus seems to think he can forgive sins. What do you think about that?

(Do you think he can forgive wrong done against you?)

All wrong is ultimately done against God, the creator of all things. And so only God can forgive sins. So who does Jesus think he is?

Those who trust in Jesus have their sins forgiven. What do you think about that?



Prayer

If you haven't already done so - make a list of 3 people you could invite to read through a part of a Gospel with you.

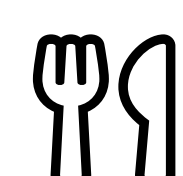
Pray for opportunities for inviting a colleague to meet Jesus in the pages of the Bible.

Remember

COFFEE



DINNER

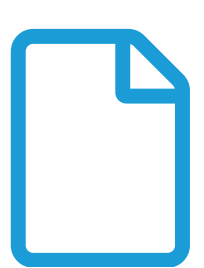
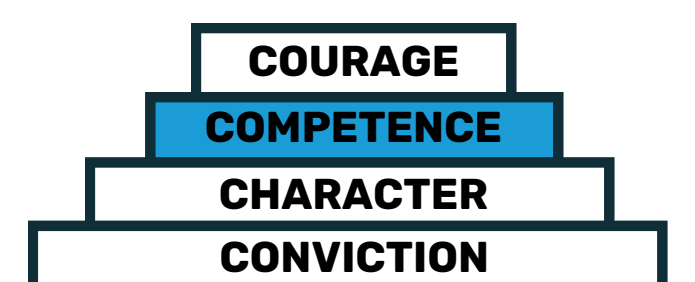


GOSPEL



MEETING JESUS IN THE PAGES OF MARK

2. JESUS IS AGAINST RELIGION



INTRODUCTION

These studies are about learning how to read the Bible one-to-one with an unbeliever. Each week take it in turn to lead the rest of the team through the passage.



HANDY TIP

When meeting up with a friend, be prepared for moments of silence. People need space to think, especially if this is the first time they've read the Bible.



BIBLE PASSAGE

Remember, don't read aloud

Another time Jesus went into the synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there. Some of them were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath. Jesus said to the man with the shriveled hand, "Stand up in front of everyone."

Then Jesus asked them, "Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they remained silent.

He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored. Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.

Mark 3:1-6



KEY TRUTHS

1. The Sabbath is about restoration and healing – so trying to stop Jesus from healing on the Sabbath completely misses the whole point of the Sabbath.
2. Religion gets a bad name – and here’s an example of why. These religious leaders have taken God’s laws that were for the good of his people and applied them so strictly that they crushed those they were meant to help. The laws of the Sabbath were meant to give people a rest and an opportunity to praise God and be thankful; they are not meant to be a rod for their back.
3. The result of Jesus’ kindness to this poor man? The religious and political leaders want to kill Jesus.



QUESTIONS YOU COULD ASK

(How would your unbelieving co-workers answer these questions?)

Do you think Jesus is for or against people?

How does Jesus feel about religious people?

What do you think of Jesus’ attitude towards religious people?

What do you think of the plot to kill Jesus?

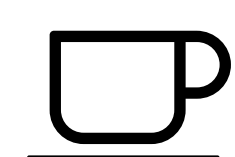


Prayer

Pray for courage to invite someone to read through a Gospel with you.

Remember

COFFEE



DINNER

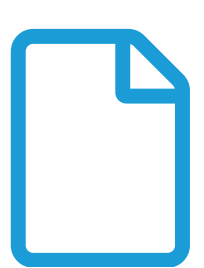
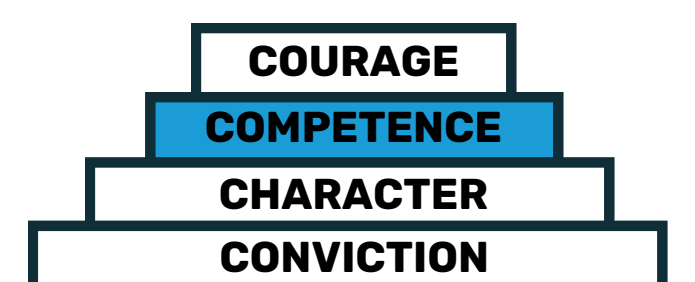


GOSPEL



MEETING JESUS IN THE PAGES OF MARK

3. JESUS ACTS LIKE GOD



INTRODUCTION

These studies are about learning how to read the Bible one-to-one with an unbeliever. Each week take it in turn to lead the rest of the team through the passage.



HANDY TIP

When meeting up with a friend, it's not an information download, but an encounter with Jesus. Pray, pray, pray - before, during, after (in your head and don't expect them to pray - yet)



BIBLE PASSAGE

Remember, don't read aloud

That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

Mark 4:35-41



KEY TRUTHS

1. The Old Testament portrays God as commanding the wind and the waves (Psalm 65:7); Jesus is acting like God.
2. Jesus is stunned that the disciples doubt his love for them. They believe he can help, which is why they wake him, but does Jesus care?
3. The disciples' question - who is this man? - is our question. Who is Jesus? The disciples have to come to terms with this man who does what only God can do.



QUESTIONS YOU COULD ASK

(How would your unbelieving co-workers answer these questions?)

In the rest of the Bible, only God controls the wind and the waves. What do you think this says about Jesus?

Why do you think the disciples are now terrified of Jesus?

Who is this man who even the wind and the waves obey?



Prayer

Pray for an opportunity this week to invite a colleague to read a Gospel with you.

Remember

COFFEE



DINNER

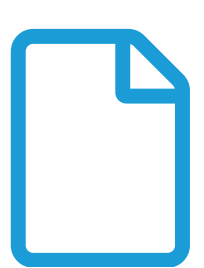
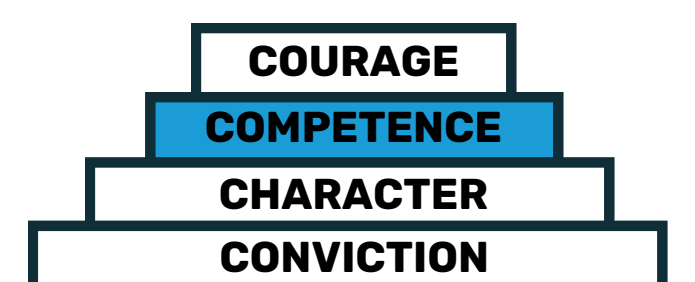


GOSPEL



MEETING JESUS IN THE PAGES OF MARK

4. JESUS RESCUES FROM DEATH



INTRODUCTION

These studies are about learning how to read the Bible one-to-one with an unbeliever. Each week take it in turn to lead the rest of the team through the passage.



HANDY TIP

When meeting up with a friend, eating together is a powerful way of developing a relationship. Meeting over coffee is great, meeting over a meal is better!



BIBLE PASSAGE

Remember, don't read aloud

They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet him. This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.

When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God's name don't torture me!" For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you impure spirit!"

Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

"My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many." And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area.



BIBLE PASSAGE (cont)

A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. The demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them." He gave them permission, and the impure spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man—and told about the pigs as well. Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.

As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

Mark 5:1-20



KEY TRUTHS

1. Death has this man in its clutches; he is the living dead. He lives in the tombs, dominated by the evil spiritual forces. But Jesus' power over the demons is absolute; he commands them to come out – they fear him.
2. The demons destroy the 2000 pigs they are sent into. Imagine the deadly destruction they were doing to the poor man.
3. Jesus commands them; dismissing them and bringing life to the man. The man is saved and now has a new purpose in life – to speak about Jesus.
4. The Bible portrays a spiritual realm that has power and evil. However, the evil spiritual reality should cause Jesus' followers no fear – they follow a greater power!
5. It is interesting that where Christianity has flourished, superstition and fear of the spiritual realm tend to subside.



QUESTIONS YOU COULD ASK

(How would your unbelieving co-workers answer these questions?)

What do you think of the idea of a spiritual realm?

Why do you think there's evil in our world?

What do you think of Jesus' power over spiritual evil?

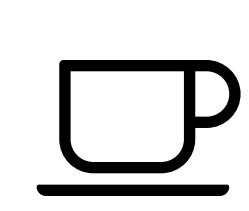


Prayer

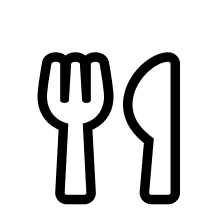
Pray for God to work in the hearts of your colleagues; that they might agree to read a Gospel with you.

Remember

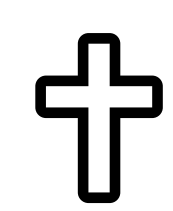
COFFEE



DINNER

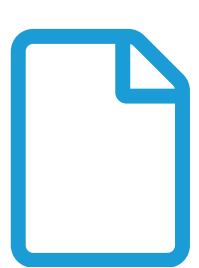
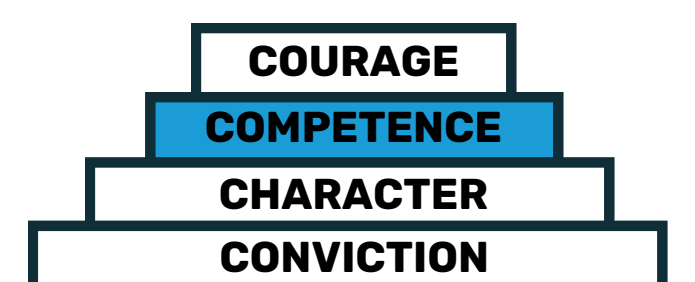


GOSPEL



MEETING JESUS IN THE PAGES OF MARK

5. JESUS IS GOD'S GREAT KING



INTRODUCTION

These studies are about learning how to read the Bible one-to-one with an unbeliever. Each week take it in turn to lead the rest of the team through the passage.



HANDY TIP

When meeting up with a friend, remember that while for you it may be eternally significant - for them it's probably not that big of a deal (at least not yet). Graciously expect and respond to cancellations and don't expect they will automatically want to meet up again.



BIBLE PASSAGE

Remember, don't read aloud

Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?"

They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Peter answered, "You are the Messiah."

Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.

He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."



BIBLE PASSAGE (cont)

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

Mark 8:27-38



KEY TRUTHS

1. This is the turning point in Mark's Gospel. The disciples finally understand who Jesus is, and Peter declares him to be the king of Israel – the Messiah.
2. Now that the disciples understand who Jesus is, he begins to tell them what he plans to do – that he must suffer, be rejected by Israel's rulers, die, and rise again.
3. Jesus' news is not well received by his disciples – least of all by Peter.
4. This is the first of three times that Jesus announces his death and resurrection. The Old Testament and Jesus have promised the coming death and rising of Jesus; it is not a shock twist – it has been carefully orchestrated by God to save his people.



QUESTIONS YOU COULD ASK

(How would your unbelieving co-workers answer these questions?)

Jesus as Messiah could have claimed the rule of Israel, but instead he outlines a path of rejection and suffering. Why do you think Jesus makes this choice?

Mark 10:45 might be helpful at this point - "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

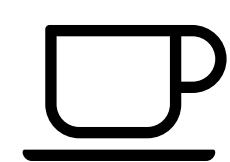


Prayer

Pray for a greater desire to save the lost, even if it means loss to you.

Remember

COFFEE

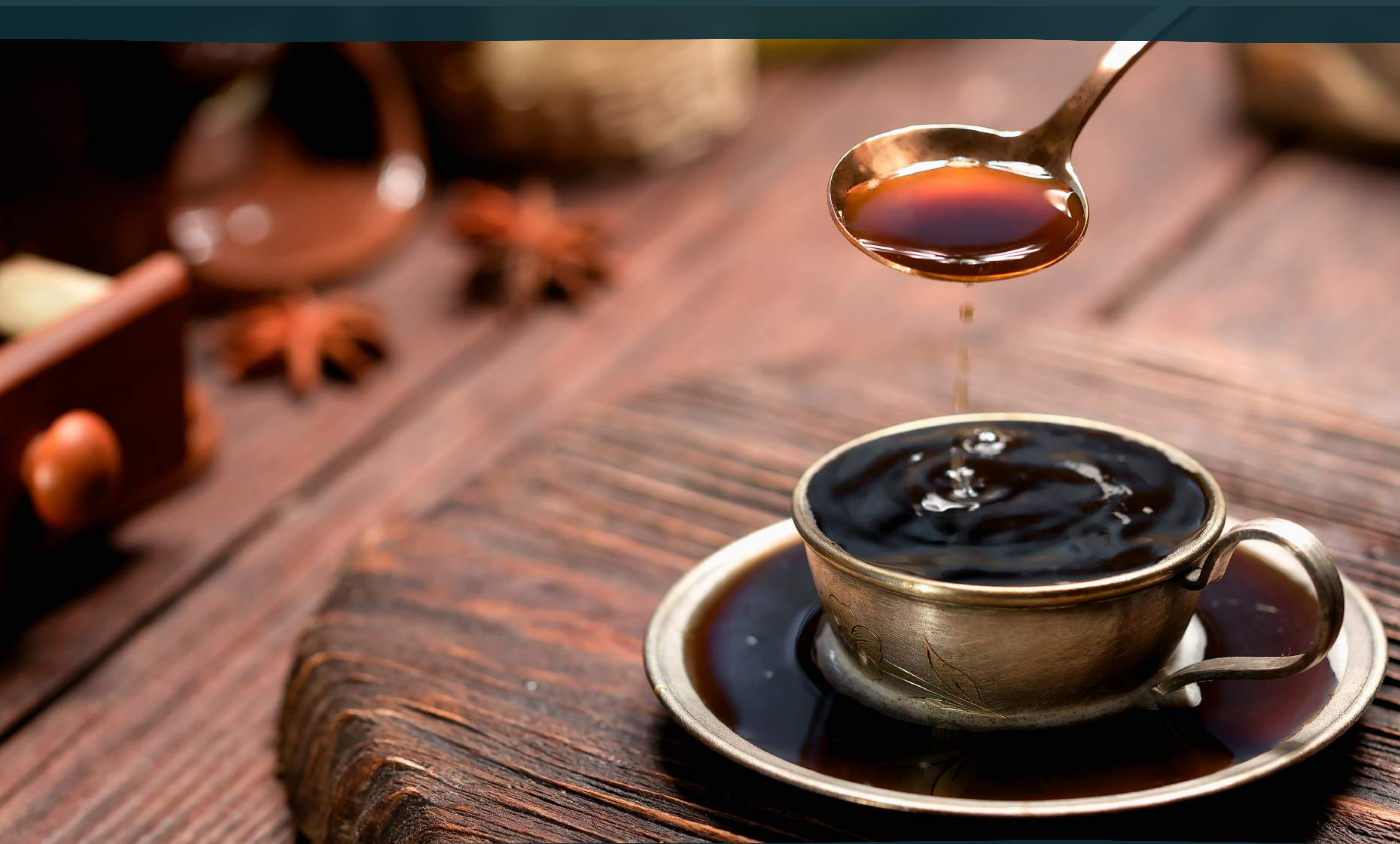


DINNER



GOSPEL





A GENEROUS MEASURE

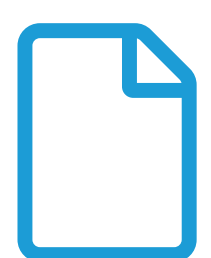


EVANGELISTIC
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A GENEROUS MEASURE

Overview



Summary

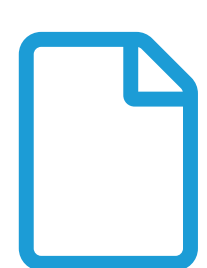
This study is a break in our studies Meeting Jesus in the pages of Mark to look at how our generosity to others is our response to our generous God.



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A GENEROUS MEASURE



Introduction

When it comes time to give to someone in need or to a cause you believe in, how do you feel? Are you full of joy? Or do you feel the pain of the loss of your money?



Big Picture

God's people give generously to the work of God in the world.



Bible Passage

Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the Lord Almighty.

"But you ask, 'How are we to return?'

"Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me.

"But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?'

"In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe," says the Lord Almighty. "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the Lord Almighty.

Malachi 3:7-12



Key Truths

1. God's promises in his law are for his people to live his way, that it may go well for them in the land. The flipside was that God would curse his people and exile them if they disobeyed.
2. In today's passage, God's people have now returned from that exile, but they haven't returned to him spiritually – evidenced by not bringing in the full tithe to the temple.
3. God yearns to bless his people once again in the land, but their hearts are hard to his generosity.
4. The tithe was a law God had given Israel to bring a tenth of their harvest to the temple as a mark of their thankfulness for God's generosity and provision. But it was also for the Levites to live off, so they could serve the temple rather than grow their own food.
5. Israel dragged their feet to obey him; not trusting him enough to give generously. They did not yet have the law written on their hearts. (Jeremiah 31:33)
6. On this side of the death and resurrection of Jesus, we have experienced ultimate generosity from God in the gift of his Son. So, a tenth is no longer our law; rather giving generously is now our measure. (Romans 12:8)

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

Our calling is to give generously. We are the ones who have been given much, and so we respond by giving generously to others.

What principles guide you giving generously?

The Levite Perspective

The Levites devoted themselves to the service of God and his people. They relied on the generosity of God through his people for their livelihood. City Bible Forum and other mission organisations likewise rely on the generosity of God through his people.

Have you considered partnering with City Bible Forum through regular financial support?

If you are a supporter, have you reviewed your giving recently?

To become a supporter or to change your giving, go to citybibleforum.org/support



Prayer

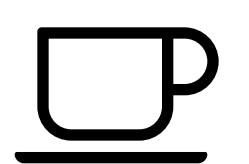
Praise God for his generosity to us in giving Jesus for us.

Pray for a generous heart and a cheerful attitude towards giving for God's work.

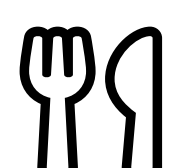
Pray that God would supply all the needs for City Bible Forum so more people can continue to meet Jesus in the pages of the Bible.

Remember

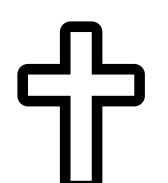
COFFEE



DINNER



GOSPEL





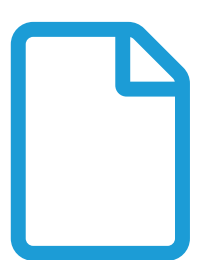
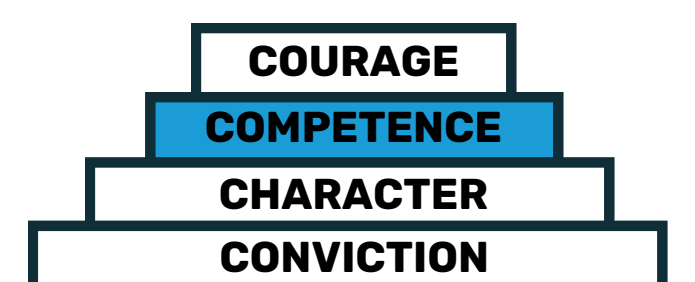
MEETING JESUS IN THE PAGES OF MARK



EVANGELISTIC
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TEAMS

MEETING JESUS IN THE PAGES OF MARK

6. JESUS CLAIMS TO RULE FOR GOD



INTRODUCTION

These studies are about learning how to read the Bible one-to-one with an unbeliever. Each week take it in turn to lead the rest of the team through the passage.



HANDY TIP

When meeting up with a friend, you are hoping to get them interested for the next meeting - not necessarily that they repent on their knees this time. At least for the first few times, keep your expectations set on helping them understand one thing about Jesus. Keep your hopes up! When the Spirit moves, Jesus is irresistible.



BIBLE PASSAGE

Remember, don't read aloud

They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders and the teachers of the law came together. Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire.

The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree.

Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with human hands and in three days will build another, not made with hands.'" Yet even then their testimony did not agree.

Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer.



BIBLE PASSAGE (cont)

Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?"

"I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

The high priest tore his clothes. "Why do we need any more witnesses?" he asked. "You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?"

They all condemned him as worthy of death. Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, "Prophecy!" And the guards took him and beat him.

Mark 14:53-65



KEY TRUTHS

1. Jesus makes two claims here - he is the Christ, and he is the Son of Man.
2. The Christ is the promised king of Israel who will rule the world on God's behalf. ('Son of the Blessed One' refers to Psalm 2, where the king is the Son of God.)
3. The Son of Man is a figure from Daniel 7 who judges the world with God's power and authority. This figure is human-like, but divine in power and authority.



QUESTIONS YOU COULD ASK

(How would your unbelieving co-workers answer these questions?)

Jesus has an unambiguous view of who he is. How would you summarise who he is claiming to be?

Many people like to think of Jesus as a good moral teacher, a powerful religious guru, an innocent victim. Is this accurate? What do you think about Jesus?

6. JESUS CLAIMS
TO RULE FOR GOD

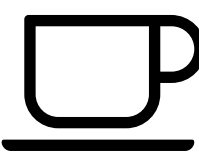


Prayer

Pray for patience as you seek to meet with your unbelieving colleague.

Remember

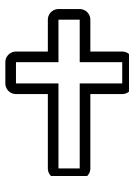
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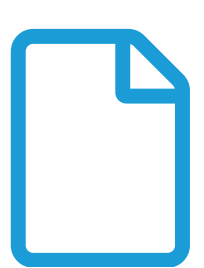
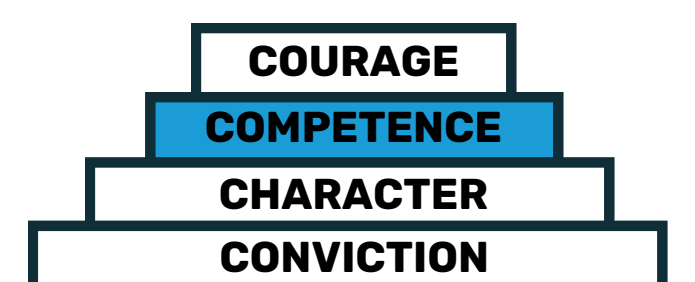


GOSPEL



MEETING JESUS IN THE PAGES OF MARK

7. THE GREAT EXCHANGE



INTRODUCTION

These studies are about learning how to read the Bible one-to-one with an unbeliever. Each week take it in a turn to lead the rest of the team through the passage.



HANDY TIP

When meeting up with a friend, remember it's not your job to prove them wrong, but to help them meet Jesus. Listen to their comments, questions and don't be afraid to say "I don't know, but I can find out."



BIBLE PASSAGE

It's a long one today. Remember, don't read aloud

Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans. So they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate.

"Are you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate.

"You have said so," Jesus replied.

The chief priests accused him of many things. So again Pilate asked him, "Aren't you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of."

But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed.

Now it was the custom at the festival to release a prisoner whom the people requested. A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did.

**BIBLE PASSAGE (cont)**

"Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate, knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead.

"What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?" Pilate asked them.

"Crucify him!" they shouted.

"Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!"

Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. And they began to call out to him, "Hail, king of the Jews!" Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means "the place of the skull"). Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.

It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. The written notice of the charge against him read: the king of the jews.

They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, come down from the cross and save yourself!" In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").

When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah."

Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink.

"Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said.

With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

**BIBLE PASSAGE (cont)**

The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!" Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome. In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.

It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid.

Mark 15:1-47

**KEY TRUTHS**

1. There's a lot going on here, but the most important idea is the innocent king dies in the place of the guilty to save them. Consider:
 - a. Barabbas is guilty. He is guilty of murder. Jesus is innocent – they can't find a charge against him. Yet the murderer goes free and the innocent one dies.
 - b. Jesus is the true king and yet he is mocked repeatedly as a (false) king.
 - c. Jesus is mocked for being unable to save himself. The irony is this is the only way he can save – by dying.
 - d. Jesus dies with the guilty thieves on the cross, the contrast underscoring his innocence.
2. Jesus could come down from the cross and save himself but he chose to die so he could save others (remember 10:45 – Jesus came to give his life as a ransom for many)
3. 'My God, My God, Why have you forsaken me?' can seem a confusing thing for Jesus to say, but it's actually the first line from Psalm 22. This Psalm starts with despair but ends in praise for God. The last line ends with, "It is done", sound familiar?



QUESTIONS YOU COULD ASK

(How would your unbelieving co-workers answer these questions?)

What do you think of the exchange of Jesus dying in the place of Barabbas?

Why do you think Jesus died?



Prayer

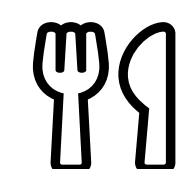
Pray for revelation for your colleague; that God would reveal himself to them.

Remember

COFFEE



DINNER

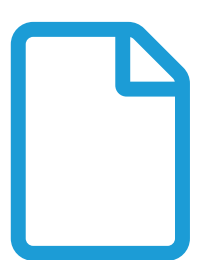
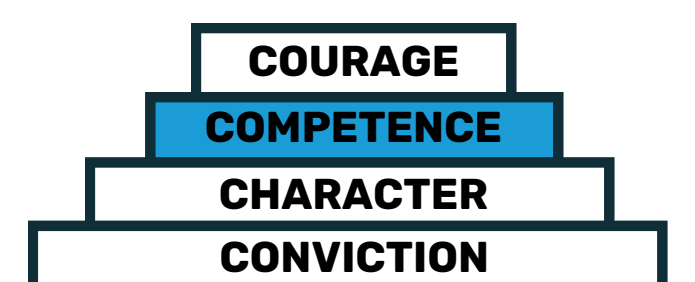


GOSPEL



MEETING JESUS IN THE PAGES OF MARK

8. THE EMPTY TOMB



INTRODUCTION

These studies are about learning how to read the Bible one-to-one with an unbeliever. Each week take it in a turn to lead the rest of the team through the passage.



HANDY TIP

Reading a Gospel with an unbeliever is a long-term prospect. There may be weeks where it seems nothing is sinking in, there may be weeks where things seem to go backwards. Do not fret; trust God is working. Pray that God would be merciful. A little time in the word, as the Spirit works, our friends can meet Jesus.



BIBLE PASSAGE

Remember, don't read aloud

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"

Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

Mark 16:1-8



KEY TRUTHS

1. Jesus' death was public and well-witnessed. The women who were with Jesus during his ministry stay, even while the rest of his followers flee.
2. The Roman centurion confirms that Jesus was dead. Joseph of Arimathea ensured Jesus' body was entombed.
3. The women, Joseph, and even the centurion were people who could attest to these events when Mark was written.
4. Mark's Gospel seems to end abruptly, but there is no confusing what happens. Jesus was dead, but now he is risen.



QUESTIONS YOU COULD ASK

(How would your unbelieving co-workers answer these questions?)

What do you make of Jesus' tomb being found empty?

If Jesus has risen from the dead, how does this change your thoughts on life and death?



Prayer

Pray that God might grant your colleagues new life.

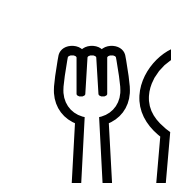
Pray that God would intervene powerfully in their lives.

Remember

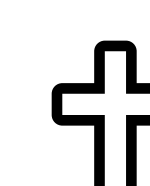
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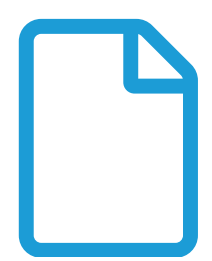


GOSPEL





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:

- Don't bring along the big family Bible. A Bible app or print-out of the passage is so much less intimidating.
- No one reads things out loud once we leave school, except for Christians. Most people can read perfectly fine by themselves, so let them.
- A cafe a short walk from your office is much better than the foyer – you're less likely to be interrupted.
- Your friend is probably much less keen about the Bible than you – and may only be there because they trust you. Don't expect too much! (But expect God to work).
- It's less important what you say, and more important that they deal with Jesus.
- 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 everything this time. What is the one clear point you think is important from this passage?
- Pray before, during, and after – God is at work!
- Words can help or distract. 'Sin' can be a confusing concept – for some it's a religious term, for others its marketing slang for really tasty – can you explain it better (eg 'evil'). 'Gospel', likewise can be a religious word. Can you think of a better term? Biography of Jesus? Account of Jesus' life?



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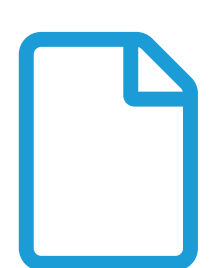
AFTER THE WORD 121, WHAT NEXT?



EVANGELISTIC
PRAYER
TEAMS



AFTER THE WORD 121, WHAT NEXT?



Introduction

Many Christian workers have been experiencing the joy of seeing their friends and colleagues start to meet Jesus in the pages of the Gospel. Many have been using the Word 121 to do this, and some have reached the end of John's Gospel and have been asking - "What should I do next?"

This study explores some options for the next step.



Big Picture

There are many resources to consider to help your friends and colleagues meet Jesus; it's a matter of what works best for them.



RESOURCE OPTIONS



JUST FOR STARTERS

Just for starters is a set of 7 foundational Bible studies that help people who have just become Christians, or are interested in finding out more about what it might look like to be a Christian.

It covers being saved by God, trusting in God, living as a Christian, reading the Bible, prayer, church, and evangelism.

PROs

- Good grounding in basics of Christianity,
- Strong emphasis on grace,
- Teaches a method of reading and memorising the Bible.
- Introduces the importance of church.

CONs

- Jumps around different parts of the Bible rather than systematic Bible reading

THE WORD 121 - ACTS

Same familiar format, but takes us through Acts rather than John.

Acts follows the growth of the church following Jesus' resurrection, as the church spreads to the ends of the earth. Shows how the early church understood the message from Jesus.

PROs

- Same familiar format as Word121 - John,
- Still lets the word of God do the work,
- Demonstrates the importance of reading systematically through the Bible,
- Simple and straightforward,

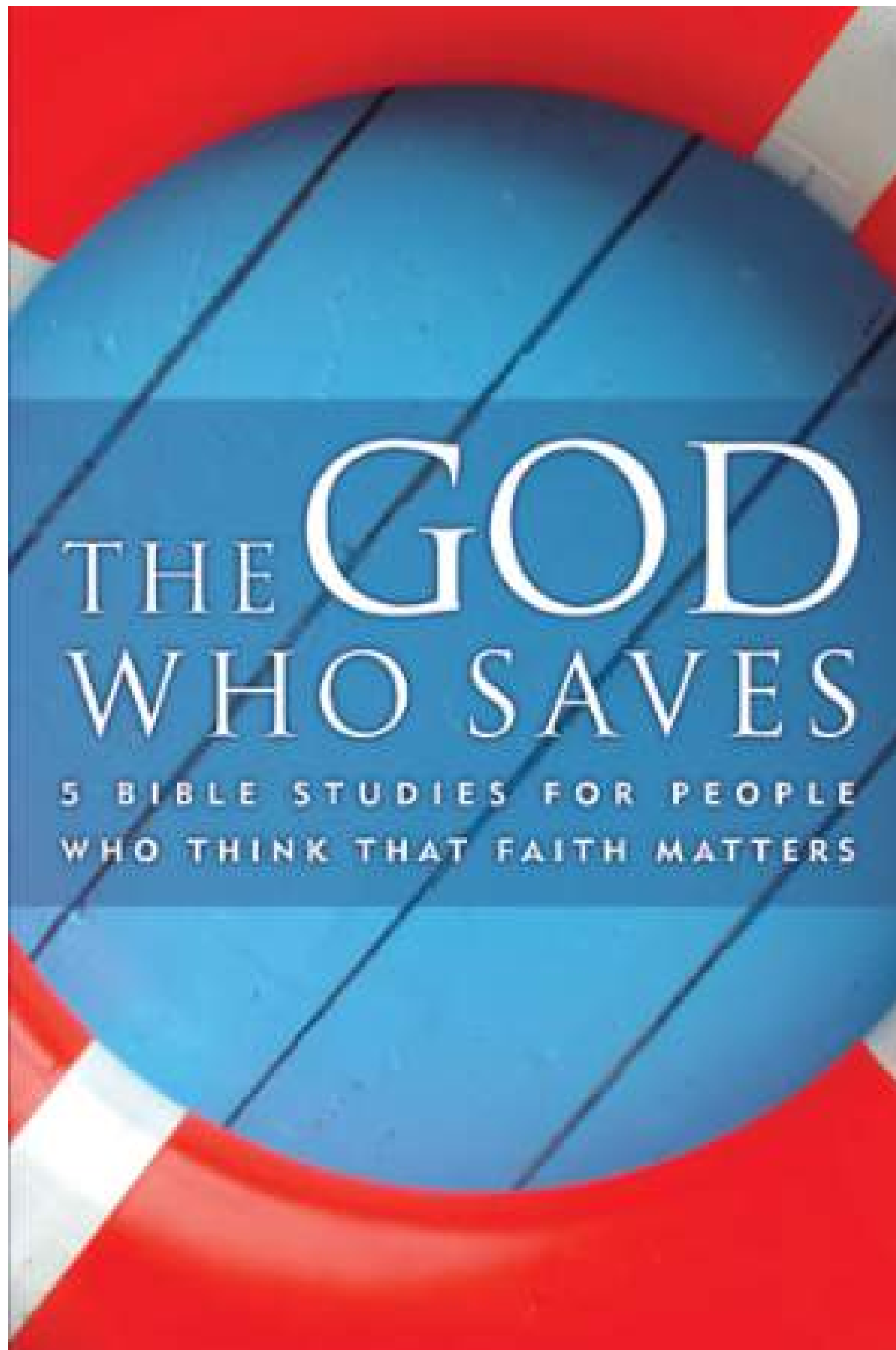
CONs

- A slightly more obtuse look at Jesus than John's Gospel, but articulates the great news of Jesus as powerfully preached by the apostles





RESOURCE OPTIONS



THE GOD WHO SAVES

These are studies designed with Roman Catholic (and to some extent Orthodox) people in mind. They cover issues of faith that particularly impact Roman Catholic people, including how God saves us, what we are saved from, and with an emphasis on the grace of God expressed in the cross of Jesus.

PROs

- While written with Roman Catholics in mind, these studies may be helpful for people with a Christianised background,
- Directed and focused studies that explain grace well,

CONs

- Jumps around the Bible a bit, will not demonstrate systematic Bible reading,

5 TOUGH QUESTIONS

These studies examine 5 questions Jesus asked through Mark's Gospel. These questions are:

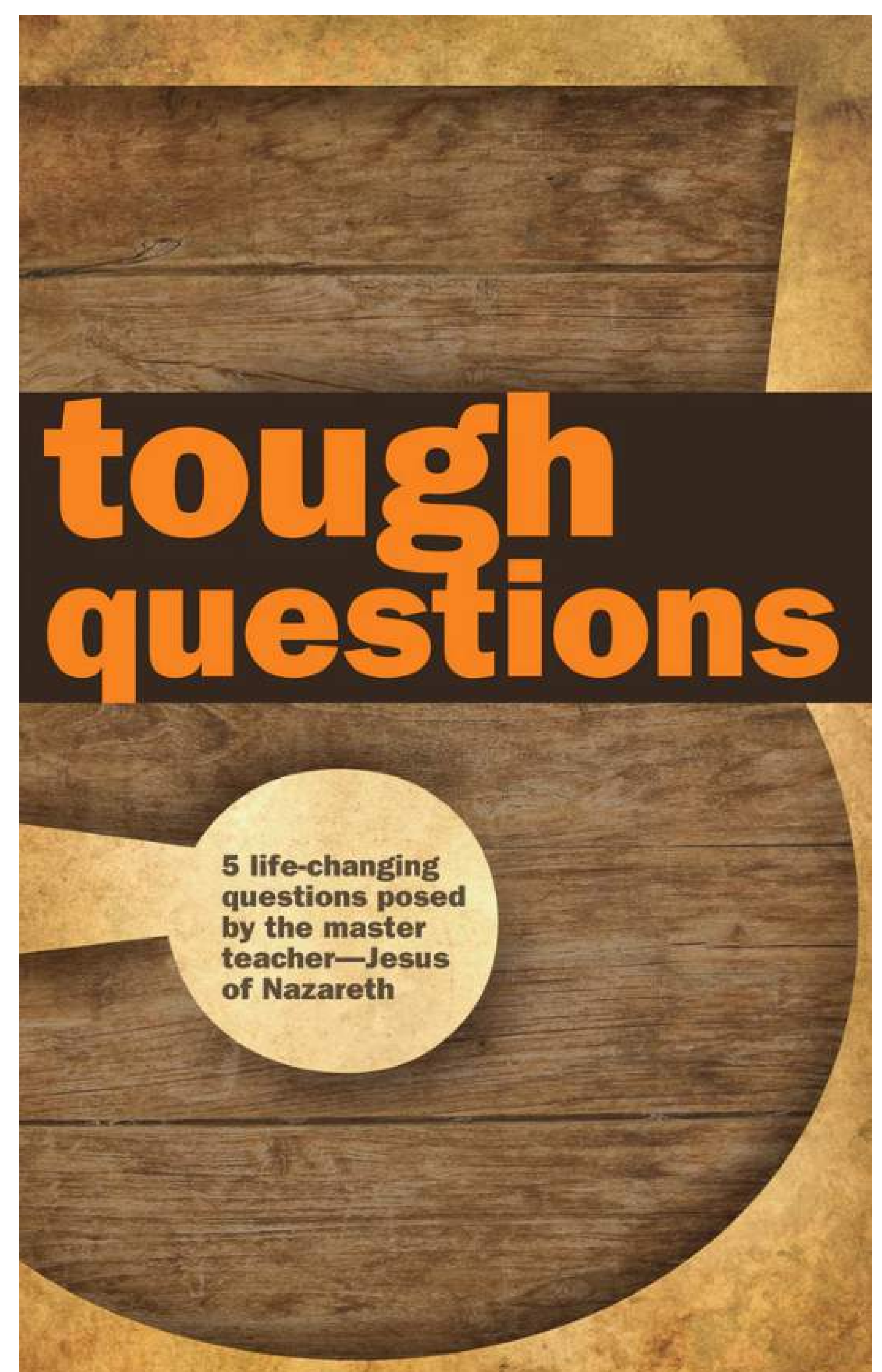
- Are you so dull? (Mark 7:1-23)
- Who can forgive sins? (Mark 2:1-12)
- Who do you say I am? (Mark 8:27-38)
- What must I do? (Mark 10:17-31)
- My God, my God, why? (Mark 14:53-65, 15:1-41)

PROs

- Focus on one Gospel,
- Good questions straight from Jesus,

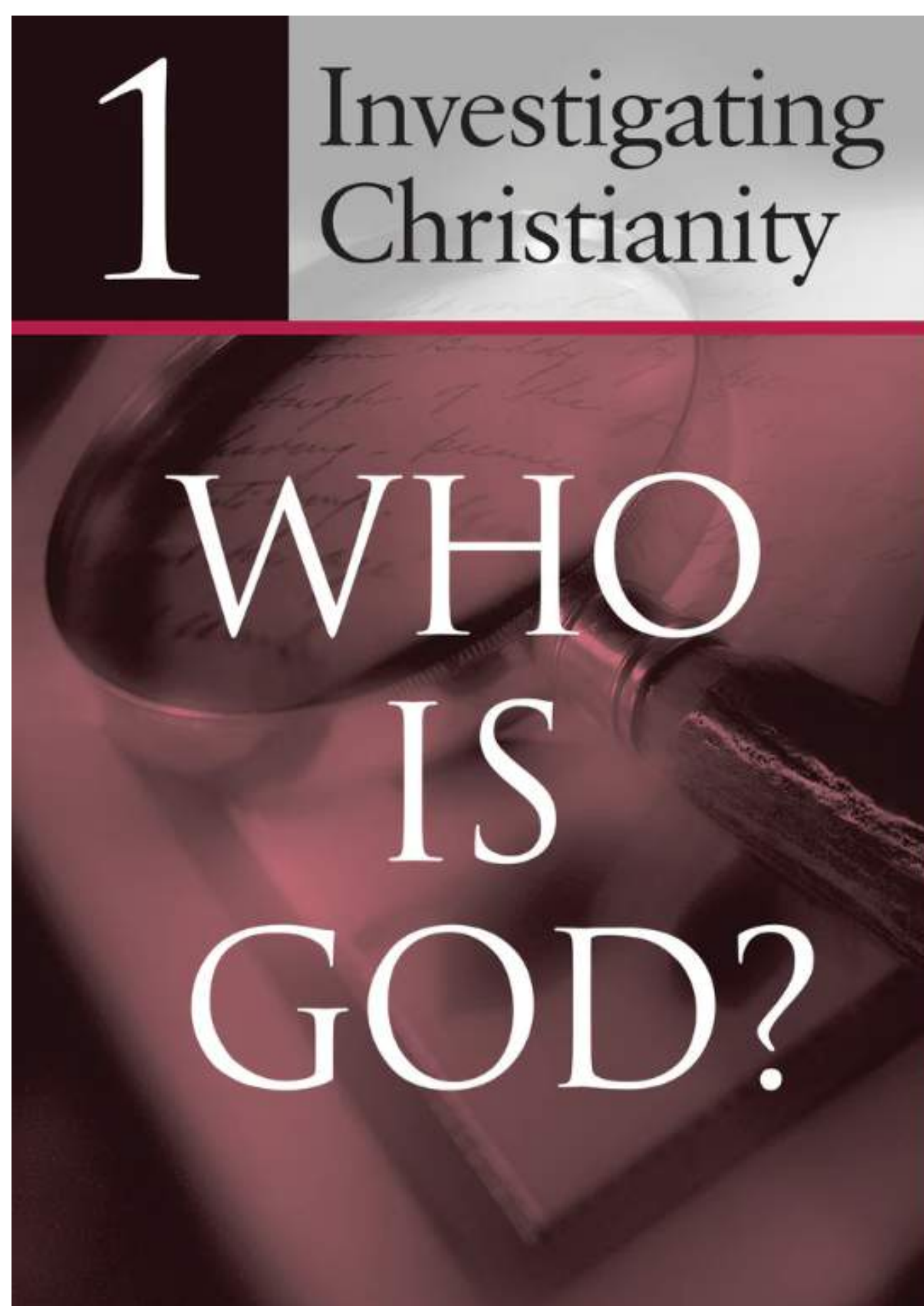
CONs

- Highlights of Mark's Gospel while not working systematically through it,





RESOURCE OPTIONS



INVESTIGATING CHRISTIANITY

These are 4 studies that look at Who is God? Who is Man? Who is Jesus? and Right with God.

Each study examines a couple of passages, asking a few open questions for exploration. The studies do not follow any particular book, jumping about the Bible.

PROs

- Clear questions that invite open discussion,
- Directed and focused studies that explain gospel clearly,

CONs

- The studies jump around the Bible a bit, will not demonstrate systematic Bible reading,

CHURCH COURSES

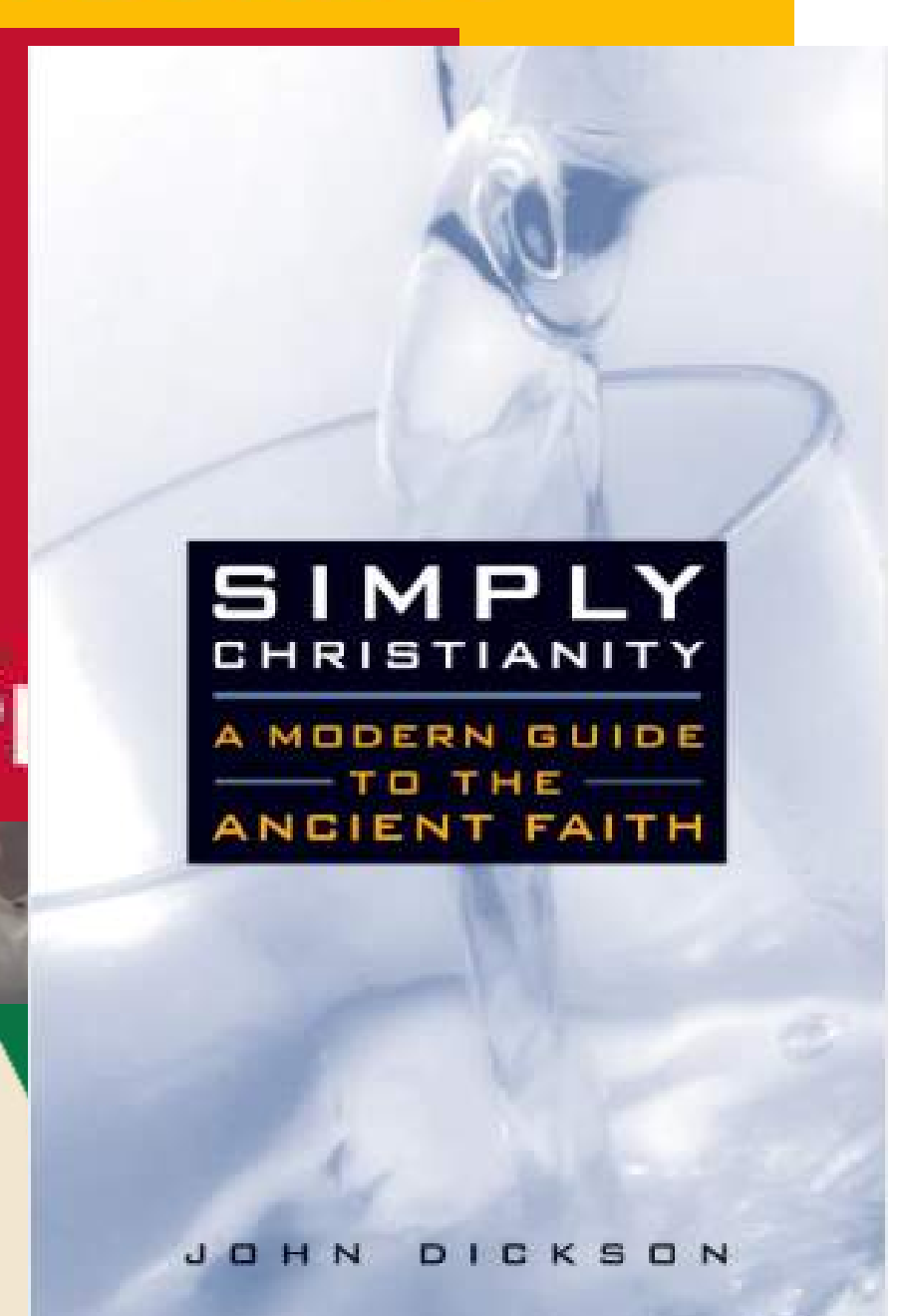
Many churches have been using evangelistic courses to help people explore who Jesus is. Done well, evangelistic courses can help enquirers integrate well into the local church. Courses vary in approach and length, with shorter courses more in vogue

PROs

- Can help people meet more Christians (other than you) and start to integrate them into the local church,

CONs

- When done poorly, church courses can make enquirers feel conspicuous,
- Great trust in the church members running the course is required.





Application

There are many more we could have also explored, but this is a good starting point.

The resource you choose to use with your friend will depend on who they are, their religious background, whether they feel confident in meeting more Christians, how much time they are willing to give to you, and what their questions may be.

Which of these resources do you think you could use with one of your friends or colleagues?



Prayer

Pray that God will allow our colleagues and friends to see Jesus truly.

Pray for three people whom you could invite to start to read through a Gospel or one of these resources with you soon.

Remember

COFFEE



DINNER



GOSPEL

