



Growth Groups Material
(6 studies on Mark 9-10)
Aug-Sep 2025

Teaching Schedule

<i>In our gatherings we will work through a 6 part series:</i>	21-24 Aug	Mark 9:30-37
	28-31 Aug	Mark 9:38-50
	4-7 Sep	Mark 10:1-16
	11-14 Sep	Mark 10:13-31
	18-21 Sep	Mark 10:32-45
	25-28 Sep	Mark 10:46-52

Booklet Contents

Introduction	p.3
Study 1 (Mark 9:30-37)	p.4
Study 2 (Mark 9:38-50)	p.6
Study 3 (Mark 10:1-16)	p.8
Study 4 (Mark 10:13-31)	p.11
Study 5 (Mark 10:32-45)	p.13
Study 6 (Mark 10:46-52)	p.15
Life boat list activity	p.17

Additional Resources

We've put together some additional resources that might help you as you make your way through this series:

<https://jannalianglican.org.au/following-jesus-mark-9-10>



Introduction

If we've come to recognize Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, we want to follow him properly. What does an authentic life of *following Jesus* really look like? Mark 9-10 will help us with that question.

The Gospel of Mark is the shortest and most action-packed of the four Gospels, offering a fast-paced account of Jesus' life, ministry, death, and resurrection. Likely written between A.D. 50–70, Mark's Gospel is believed to be based on the eyewitness testimony of the Apostle Peter and was recorded by Mark, who was a companion of both Peter and Paul. Broadly speaking, the book has two halves, all aimed at the one purpose of showing that Jesus is the Christ (c.f Mark 1:1), who suffers for our sin. In the first half (1:1-8:26), Mark is intent on showing Jesus' identity as the Christ (God's promised King). In the second half (8:27-16:8), the book focuses on Jesus' mission: the need for Jesus to suffer and be rejected for our sin.

In these studies we hone-in on a few chapters in the middle, which are deliberately structured by Mark to teach us how to follow Jesus rightly. Jesus own suffering and death, smashes our expectations about naively optimistic visions of the Christian life. There's no place for entitlement, pride, or the pursuit of glory. On the contrary, in God's Kingdom, the last will be first, and the first will be last. This principle runs counter to worldly common sense and calls us to examine ourselves. Will I be a servant like Jesus?

We pray that God would use this part of his Word to shape us into the likeness of Jesus.

Study 1 | Mark 9:30-37

Introduction

1. What would you include as being 'essential' features of a life following Jesus?

Read and Discuss

2. Skim over **Mark 8:27-9:29**. Where are we up to in Mark's biography of Jesus? What key instruction did God give the disciples during the transfiguration? Why was this necessary?
3. **Read Mark 9:30-37**. Why do you think the disciples found it hard to understand Jesus' prediction of his death?
4. How do the disciples go wrong in their thinking about following Jesus?
5. How does Jesus correct their error?

Read and Apply

6. How does the world define greatness? How is Jesus' approach different?

7. What would be the signs in our life, of a Christ-like attitude of humble service? Perhaps consider this question in the context of your home life, workplaces or a church setting.

8. What are some subtle ways pride can creep into service? How can we guard against it?

Study 2 | Mark 9:38-50

Introduction

1. In children's and youth ministry there is a get-to-know-you game called 'Would you rather?' The contestant is asked trivial, silly or serious questions like:

- *Would you rather drink Coke or Pepsi?;*
- *Would you rather have spaghetti for hair or sweat maple syrup?;*
- *Would you rather always know the truth, even if it hurts, or live in blissful ignorance?*

Come up with a few 'Would you rather' questions to ask each other.

Read and Discuss

2. **Read Mark 9:38-41.** Do you think the disciples have learnt the lesson of Mark 9:35-37 yet? Why or why not?

3. What is Jesus' response to John's comment? What can we learn from Jesus' comments about how to identify genuine Christian ministry?

4. What are the serious 'would you rather' questions that Jesus poses here? What point is he impressing upon his disciples (and us)?

5. If you only had this passage to learn from, what would you conclude about the nature of hell?

Reflect and Apply

6. Do you find yourself thinking competitively about different churches or different ministries (e.g. of our church vs others, or ministries you are involved in vs others)? What would Jesus say to you about this? When, if ever, is it right to highlight differences between churches?
7. Mark hasn't yet assured his readers that we'll be ok. For now, he wants us to feel the sharp edges of Jesus' words: failure to deny yourself is very serious. Do you find yourself going easy on sin in your life because you're confident in Jesus' forgiveness?
8. Think of an area of sin in your life, what radical things could you do to put that behaviour to death?

Study 3 | Mark 10:1-16

Introduction

1. Have you ever found yourself interpreting a biblical passage in a particular way, in order to avoid it imposing costly responsibilities on yourself. Why might we be tempted to do this?

Read and Discuss

2. **Read Mark 10:1-12.** What is the attitude of the Pharisees as they approach Jesus? How does Jesus expose their poor attitude
3. What can we learn from this section about God's intention for human sexuality?
4. How does this teaching on divorce fit in with what Jesus is saying about the sacrificial way of following Jesus?
5. **Read Mark 10:13-16.** Why do you think Mark chooses to include this section here, alongside the interaction with the Pharisees?

Reflect and Apply

6. This whole section of Mark is about discipleship (i.e. following Jesus). One author has written: “Discipleship is so practical. You don’t show yourself a true disciple by shaving your head, taking a vow of silence, and retreating to a monastery. You show it in the day-to-day realities of family life and bank accounts.” What do you think about this quote? What version of the Christian life are they trying to correct?

7. What are our religious customs (like shaving your head, taking a vow of silence, or retreating to a monastery from the quote) that we wrongfully place at the centre of the Christian life? What is meant to be at the centre of following Jesus instead?

8. The disciples rebuked children for coming to Jesus (9:13-14), and Jesus was indignant toward them. Who are the ‘children’ figures in our society that we ought to welcome, but sometimes fail to do so?

Page left intentionally blank (use for notes, prayer points etc)

Study 4 | Mark 10:13-31

Introduction

1. Would you say it's easy or hard to enter the kingdom of God? What makes it easy? What makes it hard?

Read and Discuss

2. **Read Mark 10:13-22.** What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God like a child?
3. Why do you think Mark puts the story of the children next to the story of the rich young ruler?
4. How does the young man illustrate what Jesus says in Mark 8:34-37?
5. **Read Mark 10:23-31.** What were the disciples astonished about in verse 26? Would you have been similarly surprised with Jesus' interaction with the rich young ruler?

6. What rewards does Jesus promise to his followers (in this age, and the next age)?

Reflect and Apply

7. Is it necessary for rich people to give all their possessions to the poor to be saved? What practical steps could we take to use our possessions to love other people?
8. Why is it hard (even impossible apart from God's help) for us to enter the kingdom of God?
9. How does this example teach us about the connection (of lack thereof) between keeping moral and religious rules and truly following Jesus.

Study 5 | Mark 10:32-45

Introduction

1. In the busyness of modern life, we are often counselled to take care of ourselves. Have you become too accustomed to saying 'No' to opportunities/needs to serve?

Read and Discuss

2. **Read Mark 10:32-45.** Why does Jesus speak of his death and resurrection for a third time?
3. Jesus has used the title 'Son of Man' several times in these chapters, referring to himself. **Read Daniel 7:13-14.** Who is this Son of Man figure? What's ironic about Jesus using this particular title for himself in this section?
4. James and John ask a familiar question of Jesus. Where have we seen a question like this before? What do they get right in their question? What do they get wrong?

5. What is the principle Jesus teaches in verses 42-45. What is his supporting argument?

6. We learnt earlier that it was impossible for man to enter the kingdom of God. How is God's solution disclosed here?

Reflect and Apply

7. In what ways do Christians today seek power and glory without the service, suffering, sacrifice of the cross?

8. Verses 42-45 speak of a deep correspondence between Jesus sacrificial life (which ended in death) and the sacrificial life of his followers. If a non-Christian was watching your life, would they see any similarity between your life and that of Jesus? In what ways?

9. Should Christians be pursuing a balanced life of service and self-care? How should Jesus' example inform our approach to navigating this balancing act? What else is relevant to our deliberations?

Study 6 | Mark 10:46-52 (members book page 4)

Introduction

1. How is physical blindness often used as a metaphor for our spiritual condition?

Read and Discuss

2. **Read Mark 10:46-52.** What features of this passage stand out to you?
3. The question Jesus asks Bartimaeus in verse 51, “What do you want me to do for you?” is the same question Jesus asked James and John in verse 36. What is Mark encouraging his readers to do by including this parallel?
4. What has Bartimaeus ‘got it right’ about Jesus compared to the disciples?

Reflect and Apply

5. Reflect on the different characters our groups of characters we've meet over the last few chapters? How do they serve as positive or negative examples to us, when it comes to responding to Jesus and in what sense:
 - Disciples
 - Pharisees
 - Children
 - Rich young ruler
 - Blind Bartimaeus

6. Reflect on the six studies of this series. What has stood out to you as being most essential to truly following Jesus?

7. What do you find hinders you most in truly following Jesus in the life of sacrificial servanthood? Pray for God's help to overcome these hindrances.

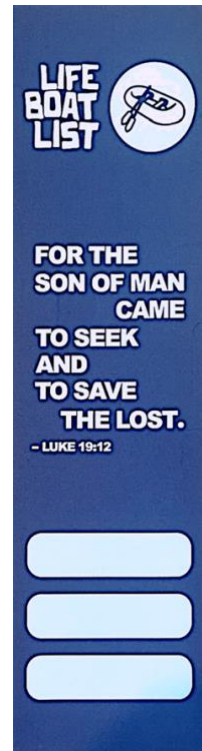
Praying for our *lifeboat lists*

We know that everyone's greatest need in life is to be reconciled with God through Jesus so that their sins can be forgiven. We want lost people to be saved, and know the eternal hope of salvation, rather than perish under God's judgment.

A tool we use to help us pray regularly is our *lifeboat list*. These are bookmarks upon which we can list three people that we're deliberately praying for and actively working towards sharing Jesus with.

In our groups, it would be excellent to share with each other who is on our lifeboat lists, and pray together for each of these people, and our efforts to reach them.

You might like to use the next page record the name of the people you are praying for.



Praying for our *lifeboat lists*

Group Member	Lifeboat list

Page left intentionally blank (use for notes, prayer points etc)

