

NCACHURCH Bible Studies

2009

**MARK:
Jesus the
Christ**

9 Studies on Mark 8-16

Mark 8 - LEADERS

Introductory Questions

What are some of the perceptions that people have about Jesus today? Who do people think he is?

Analytical Questions

Read Mark 8:1-21

1. Why did Jesus want to feed those people? What problem did he have? How did he feed them all in the end?
2. Who else fed the people of Israel in the wilderness for 40 years?
(God fed the people of Israel in the desert for 40 years with manna. Jesus was doing what God was doing.)
3. What was the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod? cf v11-13
(The yeast of the Pharisees and Herod is that of hypocrisy. They wanted to be known as the teachers of God's word, and yet they blindly refused to accept Jesus. They have just seen a miraculous sign from Jesus and yet they still demanded a sign from Jesus)

Read Mark 8:27-38

4. Who did the people around Jesus say he was? Who did Peter say he was?
5. What would happen to this Christ? How was this different to Peter's understanding of the Christ?
6. What does it mean to follow this Christ? What does it mean to deny oneself? What does it mean to lose one's life?
(To follow this Christ means to deny oneself, to take up your cross and to follow him. To deny oneself is to give up self-rule, self-want and self-fulfillment. It is to follow Jesus as Lord and Master, to do what he wants rather than what I want)
7. What is the paradox in v35? How did Jesus explain this paradox in v36-37?
(The paradox is this: If you save your life, you will lose it in the end i.e. judgement day. however if you follow Jesus and lose your life, you will end up gaining eternal life with Him)

Read Mark 8:22-25

8. What is so unusual in this healing story? Did Peter identify who Jesus was? Did Peter understand what was Jesus' mission?
(This two stage healing signifies the two stage revelation of Jesus. His disciples now knew him as the Christ. However they did not know what sort of Christ he was going to be.)

Application Question

9. What does it mean to follow Jesus? Is it worth the cost? What does it mean personally to deny myself?

Mark 8

Introductory Questions

What are some of the perceptions that people have about Jesus today? Who do people think he is?

Analytical Questions

Read Mark 8:1-21

1. Why did Jesus want to feed those people? What problem did he have? How did he feed them all in the end?
2. Who else fed the people of Israel in the wilderness for 40 years?
3. What was the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod? cf v11-13

Read Mark 8:27-38

4. Who did the people around Jesus say he was? Who did Peter say he was?
5. What would happen to this Christ? How was this different to Peter's understanding of the Christ?
6. What does it mean to follow this Christ? What does it mean to deny oneself? What does it mean to lose one's life?
7. What is the paradox in v35? How did Jesus explain this paradox in v36-37?

Read Mark 8:22-25

8. What is so unusual in this healing story? Did Peter identify who Jesus was? Did Peter understand what was Jesus' mission?

Application Question

9. What does it mean to follow Jesus? Is it worth the cost? What does it mean personally to deny myself?

Mark 9- LEADERS

Introductory Question

Who is the greatest Christian leader of our time? Which Christian leader do you look up to?

Analytical Question

Read Mark 9:1-13

1. Who appeared with Jesus in the transfiguration? Why was it Moses and Elijah?
(Moses represented the law, Elijah represented the prophets. So the Law and the Prophets testified to Jesus)

2. Who did God single out as the greatest? How should we to respond to him?

Read Mark 9:14-32

3. How did Jesus show his ability? How did Jesus show his willingness?

4. Did the man believe in Jesus? How did his belief and his unbelief co-exist together?
(The man believed in Jesus even though it was mingled with doubt. Belief and doubt can co-exist together. The opposite of belief is not doubt, the opposite of belief is an unwillingness and refusal to believe.)

Read Mark 9:33-50

5. What were they quarreling about? Have they understood Jesus' mission in v30-32?

6. Who is the greatest according to Jesus? How is this greatness modeled in Jesus?

7. How does God view the little ones? How are we to view the little ones? What will happen to those who cause these little ones to stumble?

Application Question

8. How must we treat this person Jesus? What does it mean to obey him?

9. How do we welcome the little ones in our church?

10. How seriously do we treat sin? What sin must we get rid of in our lives?

Mark 9

Introductory Question

Who is the greatest Christian leader of our time? Which Christian leader do you look up to?

Analytical Question

Read Mark 9:1-13

1. Who appeared with Jesus in the transfiguration? Why was it Moses and Elijah?

2. Who did God single out as the greatest? How should we respond to him?

Read Mark 9:14-32

3. How did Jesus show his ability? How did Jesus show his willingness?

4. Did the man believe in Jesus? How did his belief and his unbelief co-exist together?

Read Mark 9:33-50

5. What were they quarreling about? Have they understood Jesus' mission in v30-32?

6. Who is the greatest according to Jesus? How is this greatness modeled in Jesus?

7. How does God view the little ones? How are we to view the little ones? What will happen to those who cause these little ones to stumble?

Application Question

8. How must we treat this person Jesus? What does it mean to obey him?

9. How do we welcome the little ones in our church?

10. How seriously do we treat sin? What sin must we get rid of in our lives?

Mark 10 - LEADERS

Introductory Questions

Who is someone you admire? Who is someone you look up to? Who is someone you try to emulate?

Analytical Questions

Read Mark 10:13-16

1. Why did the disciples prevent the children from coming to Jesus? Why was Jesus indignant?

2. What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God like a little child?

(There are many theories about what this means: What is it about the little children that Jesus commended? Was it their innocence? Was it their purity? It is helpful to read this verses with what follows: the story of the Rich Young Ruler. The problem with the Rich Young Ruler was that he did not and he could not depend on God entirely, whereas the disciples left everything to follow Jesus. Children are utterly dependent on their parents. Therefore to be like a little child is to have an attitude of humble dependence on God. You don't have to answer the question here, but hopefully you can draw the whole thing together at the end of the study.)

Read Mark 10:17-30

3. What was the young man's question? How did Jesus answer it? How did the young man measure up?

4. What did Jesus demand from him? What was his response? And why could he not follow Jesus?

5. Why was it so hard for the rich to enter the kingdom of God? Why were the disciples so surprised?

(It is hard for the rich to enter the kingdom of God, because it is hard for the rich not to depend on their wealth but to depend on God. It is hard for them to let it go. The disciples were so surprised because they thought that wealth was a sign of blessing from God. If the person who has been blessed by God could not enter the kingdom of God, then who can?)

6. How were the disciples different to the rich young ruler? Whom did they depend on? How were they like the little children?

(The disciples depended on God entirely, they had forsaken everything else. They were like the little children, because they only looked to their heavenly father for their future.)

Read Mark 10:35-45

7. What did James and John ask for? What gives the indication that the other 10 disciples were thinking the same thing?

8. What is the real sign of greatness according to Jesus? What sort of examples did Jesus give? How is that like a little child?

(The real sign of greatness is to serve, the greatest example is Jesus himself. He was the one who came and served and gave his life as a ransom for many. It is a very child-like attitude to be humble and serve others. And it is a very child-like attitude to accept that God's way is right.)

Application questions

9. Whom or what do we depend on? Who or what do we trust? How do we show this trust?

10. How can we serve others at our bible study group and our church?

Mark 10

Introductory Questions

Who is someone you admire? Who is someone you look up to? Who is someone you try to emulate?

Analytical Questions

Read Mark 10:13-16

1. Why did the disciples prevent the children from coming to Jesus? Why was Jesus indignant?
2. What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God like a little child?

Read Mark 10:17-30

3. What was the young man's question? How did Jesus answer it? How did the young man measure up?
4. What did Jesus demand from him? What was his response? And why could he not follow Jesus?
5. Why was it so hard for the rich to enter the kingdom of God? Why were the disciples so surprised?
6. How were the disciples different to the rich young ruler? Whom did they depend on? How were they like the little children?

Read Mark 10:35-45

7. What did James and John ask for? What gives the indication that the other 10 disciples were thinking the same thing?
8. What is the real sign of greatness according to Jesus? What sort of examples did Jesus give? How is that like a little child?

Application questions

9. Whom or what do we depend on? Who or what do we trust? How do we show this trust?
10. How can we serve others at our bible study group and our church?

Mark 11 - LEADERS

Introductory questions

When was the last time you had high hopes for something, only to have them dashed?

Analytical Questions

Read Mark 11:1-11

1. Just from your reading of Mark, what are some of your expectations of Jesus at this point of his career? How did the crowd respond?
(At this point of Jesus' career, you expected him to come triumphantly as a Savior. The crowd's response was indicative of this hope. However Jesus gave a different expectation. cf. Mark 8:31-32, 9:31, 10:32-34)
2. What was this significance of him coming to Jerusalem, riding on a donkey? What sort of king did he represent? cf Zechariah 9:9f
(Jesus came as a king, who was gentle and humble, who brought peace rather than war. He was the Son of Man who came to serve cf Mark 10:45. At the same time, in fulfillment of Zechariah 9:9f, he was also a king who would destroy the chariots and the war horses, he would break the battle bow, and he would rule from sea to sea)

Read Mark 11:15-18

3. What do you expect to see from God's people and God's temple? What do you get instead?
4. What was Jesus' response? And in turn how did the chief priests of God react?
(Coming to God's city and God's temple, you expected to find purity, faithfulness, prayerfulness, and godliness. However the temple was just a place for making money. Instead of being sorrowful for their sins, the chief priests plotted to kill God's King)

Read Mark 11:12-14, 20-25

5. What was Jesus expecting from the fig tree? Why did he curse the fig tree?
6. How does this cursing of the fig tree explain the narratives in Chapter 11?
(The fig tree represents Israel. Israel was the people of God, they should have been producing fruit, but all Jesus found was greed and idolatry. The people of God did not meet up to God's expectations, and so in the end they were cursed by God)
7. What did Jesus ask the disciples to do instead? (Note that they were standing on the Mount of Olives and compare this to Zechariah 14:3-5). What would be the response to their prayer?
(Jesus was asking them to pray for the deliverance prophesied in Zechariah 14. This mountain was the Mount of Olives, which Zechariah prophesied would be split into two, and God would provide a pathway of deliverance for his people. The disciples needed to trust God. Even though God's people and God's temple was corrupt, all was not lost. God would surely come and save his people one day)

Read Mark 11:27-33

8. How did the chief priests and the teachers of the law show their attitude to God's king?
9. How did Jesus prove their hypocrisy and their rejection of God?

Read Mark 12:1-12

10. How does the theme of God's expectation of them and their rejection of Jesus play out in this parable?
(The people of God repeatedly failed to meet God's expectations. Instead they persecuted God's prophets and planned to kill his Son. What would God do? He was going to condemn Israel as God's people and give the kingdom to others)

Application Questions

11. Would we as the people of God meet God's expectations when he comes again?
12. In what ways do we keep challenging God's rule in our lives?

Mark 11

Introductory questions

When was the last time you had high hopes for something, only to have them dashed?

Analytical Questions

Read Mark 11:1-11

1. Just from your reading of Mark, what are some of your expectations of Jesus at this point of his career? How did the crowd respond?
2. What was this significance of him coming to Jerusalem, riding on a donkey? What sort of king did he represent? cf Zechariah 9:9f

Read Mark 11:15-18

3. What do you expect to see from God's people and God's temple? What do you get instead?
4. What was Jesus' response? And in turn how did the chief priests of God react?

Read Mark 11:12-14, 20-25

5. What was Jesus expecting from the fig tree? Why did he curse the fig tree?
6. How does this cursing of the fig tree explain the narratives in Chapter 11?
7. What did Jesus ask the disciples to do instead? (Note that they were standing on the Mount of Olives and compare this to Zechariah 14:3-5). What would be the response to their prayer?

Read Mark 11:27-33

8. How did the chief priests and the teachers of the law show their attitude to God's king?
9. How did Jesus prove their hypocrisy and their rejection of God?

Read Mark 12:1-12

10. How does the theme of God's expectation of them and their rejection of Jesus play out in this parable?

Application Questions

11. Would we as the people of God meet God's expectations when he comes again?
12. In what ways do we keep challenging God's rule in our lives?

Mark 12 - LEADERS

Introductory Questions

How do you distinguish genuine enquiry and challenges to your authority?

Analytical Questions

Read Mark 12:13-17

1. The scene now is set for a struggle between God's true king, Jesus, and the established authority in Jerusalem. This struggle is set up in a series of questions and answers. How did the Pharisees and the Herodians plan to trap Jesus? Why was it such a good plan?

2. How did Jesus reply? Whose portrait was on the coin? To whom did they belong? Who is created in God's image? To whom do we belong?
(The Pharisees' question was ingenious. They were not asking a real question, they wanted to trap Jesus. If Jesus said that they should pay taxes, they would accuse him of being disloyal to God's temple. If Jesus said that they should not pay taxes, they would accuse him of causing a rebellion against the Roman rulers. Jesus showed up their hypocrisy. If the coin bore the mark of Caesar, it should go back to Caesar. Furthermore, whoever carried the image of God should go back to God. Human beings bear the image of God. It is not just money that God demands from us, but our whole lives.)

Read Mark 12:18-27

3. The Sadducees were the aristocratic group in Jerusalem, who only believed in the first 5 books of the bible, and therefore did not believe in the resurrection. How did they challenge Jesus?

4. How did Jesus meet their challenge? Why was their vision of God too small?

Read Mark 12:28-34

5. How was the tone of this question different? What did this teacher of the law want to find out?

6. What was Jesus' answer? How did these two commandments sum up all the law and the prophets?

Read Mark 12:35-37

7. After exhausting all their questions, Jesus went on the attack with his own question. How could David call his son, his lord?

(Jesus was trying to show his superiority even over David. Jesus was not just another king on David's line, Jesus was God the Son, the one whom David acknowledged as his Lord)

Read Mark 12:38-44

8. Contrast the Pharisees and the widow. Who obeyed Jesus command to love God?

Application Questions

9. To whom do we belong? Who owns us? In what ways do we challenge God's authority over our lives? How should we submit to him in those areas?

10. How do we love the Lord with all our heart, soul mind and strength? Are we like the widow who invested all she had in God and his ministry, or are we more like the Pharisee who just wanted recognition from others?

Mark 12

Introductory Questions

How do you distinguish genuine enquiry and challenges to your authority?

Analytical Questions

Read Mark 12:13-17

1. The scene now is set for a struggle between God's true king, Jesus, and the established authority in Jerusalem. This struggle is set up in a series of questions and answers. How did the Pharisees and the Herodians plan to trap Jesus? Why was it such a good plan?
2. How did Jesus reply? Whose portrait was on the coin? To whom did they belong? Who is created in God's image? To whom do we belong?

Read Mark 12:18-27

3. The Sadducees were the aristocratic group in Jerusalem, who only believed in the first 5 books of the bible, and therefore did not believe in the resurrection. How did they challenge Jesus?
4. How did Jesus meet their challenge? Why was their vision of God too small?

Read Mark 12:28-34

5. How was the tone of this question different? What did this teacher of the law want to find out?
6. What was Jesus' answer? How did these two commandments sum up all the law and the prophets?

Read Mark 12:35-37

7. After exhausting all their questions, Jesus went on the attack with his own question. How could David call his son, his lord?

Read Mark 12:38-44

8. Contrast the Pharisees and the widow. Who obeyed Jesus command to love God?

Application Questions

9. To whom do we belong? Who owns us? In what ways do we challenge God's authority over our lives? How should we submit to him in those areas?
10. How do we love the Lord with all our heart, soul mind and strength? Are we like the widow who invested all she had in God and his ministry, or are we more like the Pharisee who just wanted recognition from others?

Mark 13 - LEADERS

Introductory Question

How do people expect things will happen at the End of Times? How do you expect your Christian life to play out in the future?

Analytical Question

Read Mark 13:1-12

1. What were the disciples asking about? What was so significant about the destruction of the temple of God?

(The temple of God was the place where man meets God. This was the place of worship and sacrifices. The destruction of the temple of God was a catastrophic judgment on the people of God.)

2. What events would happen before the end time? How would the disciples be affected? How do we see this in our world?

(There would be many deceptions, wars, earthquakes. The disciples would be persecuted, and all men would hate Christians because of Jesus. We see this in our world. There are many churches who bear the name of Christ, but are actually deceiving people. And many Christians in the world are constantly under attack. We have to understand that this is the norm for Christianity. Just as they hated the master, they will hate us also.)

Read Mark 13:14-23

3. What is this 'abomination that causes desolation'?

(The most probable explanation for this 'abomination that causes desolation' is the destruction of the temple of God. This was the question that the disciples asked Jesus in v4. However Peter Bolt also argued that this 'abomination that causes desolation' was the death of Jesus. There was nothing that was so sacrilegious as putting to death the Son of God. Moreover, Jesus was the true temple of God. Therefore the true destruction of the temple of God could easily be the death of Jesus)

4. What should we do when we see this 'abomination that causes desolation'?

(Flee! Pray! Do not be deceived! Be on your guard! The temptation when persecution comes is to look for relief, or to look for a Savior, like Barack Obama, rather than trusting in the Lord Jesus.)

Read Mark 13:24-35

5. What would happen after those days of distress?

(There would be a cosmic event, Jesus would come back, and he would send his angels to gather his elect from all around the world. If you go with Peter Bolt's theory, the coming of the Son of Man, was not the second coming, but Jesus' ascension. In a reference to Daniel 7, the coming of the Son of Man was Jesus approaching God the Father. And after that, Jesus would send his messengers to preach the gospel all around the world. Peter Bolt's theory also made more sense of v30, 'this generation will not pass away until all these things have happened')

6. What is our duty?

(To keep watch because we don't know the day or the hour. If you go with Peter Bolt's theory, Jesus was calling the disciples to keep watch, because the hour of his death was approaching. In fact the time indicator in v35, evening, midnight, rooster crows or at dawn, was picked up later in the narrative 14:17- evening, 14:72- Rooster crows, 15:1 – dawn.)

Application

7. What should we expect from our Christian life on this earth? How then should we act then in those times?

8. How can we guard ourselves from false Christs and false saviours?

Mark 13

Introductory Question

How do people expect things will happen at the End of Times? How do you expect your Christian life to play out in the future?

Analytical Question

Read Mark 13:1-12

1. What were the disciples asking about? What was so significant about the destruction of the temple of God?

2. What events would happen before the end time? How would the disciples be affected? How do we see this in our world?

Read Mark 13:14-23

3. What is this 'abomination that causes desolation'?

4. What should we do when we see this 'abomination that causes desolation'?

Read Mark 13:24-35

5. What would happen after those days of distress?

6. What is our duty?

Application

7. What should we expect from our Christian life on this earth? How then should we act then in those times?

8. How can we guard ourselves from false Christs and false saviours?

Mark 14 - LEADERS

Introductory Question

Can you remember the last time you were abandoned by your friends? Or can you remember the last time you were betrayed by your friends?

Analytical Questions

Read Mark 14:1-11

1. What were the chief priests and the teachers of the law planning? What was their timing going to be?

(The chief priests and the teachers of the law were then ready to kill Jesus. However they wanted to wait till the Feast of the Unleavened Bread was over. The subsequent events showed how quickly everything developed)

2. What did the woman do for Jesus? Why was she commended? What was the reaction of Judas? Can you think why?

(She had done a beautiful thing for Jesus in preparation for his burial, even though she did not know it. Judas was probably disillusioned with Jesus. He thought Jesus was going to be the great king, the Messiah, but now he was just wasting his money and his life. He did not understand the sort of Messiah, Jesus was going to be)

Read Mark 14:12-26

3. What is the Passover? Read Ex 12 for reference. How did Jesus reinterpret the Passover? Who was the sacrificial lamb?

4. Having a meal is a sign of intimacy and fellowship. Why was this meal full of sadness? How would Jesus feel at this time?

(The chief priests and the teachers of the law were always out to get Jesus. But at the last supper, you get the first indication that even his close friends were falling away, first Judas, then the other disciples, and then even Peter)

Read Mark 14:32-42

5. What was Jesus feeling at the moment? What did he do? What did he ask for? What did he want more than anything else?

6. In contrast, what were the disciples like? What did they fail to do? What happened to them subsequently?

(The disciples failed to watch and pray, and as a consequence, all of them fell away, when the time of temptation came)

Read Mark 14:43-65

7. How were the actions of Judas perceived? What about the armed guards? What about the disciples? How did the actions of Jesus stand in contrast to all of them?

8. Were they trying to give Jesus a fair trial? How was the high priest perceived? How did they manage to condemn Jesus in the end? What was Jesus like in the midst of it all? (It was not a fair trial at all. They had already condemned him to death, they just could not find charges against him. And in the end it was only by Jesus' own admission that they could condemn him. Jesus stood calm in the midst of it all. He was not perturbed, he was not afraid, the battle had been won in the Garden of Gethsemane)

Read Mark 14:27-31, 50, 66-72

9. What did Jesus prophesy? What did Peter promise to do? What did the disciples promise to do?

10. What happened to all the disciples? What happened to Peter? How do you think Peter felt? How do you think Jesus felt?

Application questions

11. What was Jesus going through in this chapter? What has he done for us?

12. Even though the failures of the disciples had been prophesied, how did they contribute to their own failures. What lessons can we learn? (They did not watch and pray. They all fell asleep. Therefore when the hour of temptation came, they were not prepared.)

Mark 14

Introductory Question

Can you remember the last time you were abandoned by your friends? Or can you remember the last time you were betrayed by your friends?

Analytical Questions

Read Mark 14:1-11

1. What were the chief priests and the teachers of the law planning? What was their timing going to be?

2. What did the woman do for Jesus? Why was she commended? What was the reaction of Judas? Can you think why?

Read Mark 14:12-26

3. What is the Passover? Read Ex 12 for reference. How did Jesus reinterpret the Passover? Who was the sacrificial lamb?

4. Having a meal is a sign of intimacy and fellowship. Why was this meal full of sadness? How would Jesus feel at this time?

Read Mark 14:32-42

5. What was Jesus feeling at the moment? What did he do? What did he ask for? What did he want more than anything else?

6. In contrast, what were the disciples like? What did they fail to do? What happened to them subsequently?

Read Mark 14:43-65

7. How were the actions of Judas perceived? What about the armed guards? What about the disciples? How did the actions of Jesus stand in contrast to all of them?

8. Were they trying to give Jesus a fair trial? How was the high priest perceived? How did they manage to condemn Jesus in the end? What was Jesus like in the midst of it all?

Read Mark 14:27-31, 50, 66-72

9. What did Jesus prophesy? What did Peter promise to do? What did the disciples promise to do?

10. What happened to all the disciples? What happened to Peter? How do you think Peter felt? How do you think Jesus felt?

Application questions

11. What was Jesus going through in this chapter? What has he done for us?

12. Even though the failures of the disciples had been prophesied, how did they contribute to their own failures. What lessons can we learn?

Mark 15 - LEADERS

Introductory Question

What are some of the ways in which the death of Jesus has been understood?

Analytical Question

Read Mark 15:1-15

1. What sort of person was Pilate? What did he find wrong in Jesus? What did he do with Jesus?

2. Compare what Barabbas had done and what Jesus had done. Compare the sentence they received. What does this tell us about the purpose of Jesus' death? (Jesus condemnation meant that Barabbas could go free. This is a great illustration of substitutionary atonement.)

Read Mark 15:16-32

3. Give details on how the soldiers treated Jesus.

4. Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me. We know that words can hurt more than physical assault. How was Jesus insulted and humiliated? Why was there such irony?

'Hail, King of the Jews' v18

(The soldiers mocked him and hailed him as the King of the Jews. They spoke more truly than they know)

'So, You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, come down from the cross and save yourself' v29-v30

(Jesus body was the temple of God. It was precisely in his death that the temple of God was destroyed. He was doing what he said he would do. And three days later, he would also rise again)

'He saved others, but he can't save himself' v31

(It was precisely because he saved others, he can't save himself. If he saved himself, he could not save others. His death was a death for them)

Read Mark 15:33-47

5. How did the darkness in the land, and the cry of Jesus show God's attitude towards Him?

(The darkness in the land showed that God the Father had turned his face away. Jesus cry reiterated what he felt: God had truly forsaken him. His people had turned against him, the leaders had plotted his death, even his closest disciples had abandoned him, now his Heavenly Father had turned his face away. This was the true sense of his suffering.)

6. What did the curtain in the temple symbolize? Why was it torn in two?

7. How can we be sure that Jesus was truly dead? How can we show the 'swoon' theory to be wrong?

(The 'Swoon' theory postulated that Jesus did not die. It only seemed that he died. He just fainted. And after 3 days, he recovered from his injury and walked out from the tomb)

Application Question

8. What has Jesus gone through for us? What should be our response?

9. What confidence can we have now as we approach God? cf Hebrews 10:19-25

Mark 15

Introductory Question

What are some of the ways in which the death of Jesus has been understood?

Analytical Question

Read Mark 15:1-15

1. What sort of person was Pilate? What did he find wrong in Jesus? What did he do with Jesus?
2. Compare what Barabbas had done and what Jesus had done. Compare the sentence they received. What does this tell us about the purpose of Jesus' death?

Read Mark 15:16-32

3. Give details on how the soldiers treated Jesus.
4. Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me. We know that words can hurt more than physical assault. How was Jesus insulted and humiliated? Why was there such irony?

'Hail, King of the Jews' v18

'So, You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, come down from the cross and save yourself' v29-v30

'He saved others, but he can't save himself' v31

Read Mark 15:33-47

5. How did the darkness in the land, and the cry of Jesus show God's attitude towards Him?
6. What did the curtain in the temple symbolize? Why was it torn in two?
7. How can we be sure that Jesus was truly dead? How can we show the 'swoon' theory to be wrong?

Application Question

8. What has Jesus gone through for us? What should be our response?
9. What confidence can we have now as we approach God? cf Hebrews 10:19-25

Mark 16 - LEADERS

Introductory Question

How would you respond if someone rose from the dead? How would you respond if an angel appeared in front of you?

Analytical Question

Read Mark 16:1-8

1. Where were the women going? What were they going to do? What were they expecting?
2. What happened at the tomb? What did the young man say to them?
3. What was their response?

We can be quite confident that Mark 16:9-20 was not in the original manuscript. We were not sure whether it was lost, or destroyed, or it was just the author's intention to finish at v 8.

4. What effect for the reader did it produce if the gospel of Mark just finished at v8? What questions did you have?

(This was an abrupt ending. There was no resolution. However it does pose a question to the reader. Jesus has risen from the grave, the women did not tell anyone because they were afraid. What are we 'the reader' going to do?)

Application Question

5. What does the resurrection of Jesus mean for us?
(We have new hope, we don't fear death, and we know that we also will be raised)
6. What are we going to do about such great and exciting news?

Mark 16

Introductory Question

How would you respond if someone rose from the dead? How would you respond if an angel appeared in front of you?

Analytical Question

Read Mark 16:1-8

1. Where were the women going? What were they going to do? What were they expecting?
2. What happened at the tomb? What did the young man say to them?
3. What was their response?

We can be quite confident that Mark 16:9-20 was not in the original manuscript. We were not sure whether it was lost, or destroyed, or it was just the author's intention to finish at v 8.

4. What effect for the reader did it produce if the gospel of Mark just finished at v8? What questions did you have?

Application Question

5. What does the resurrection of Jesus mean for us?
6. What are we going to do about such great and exciting news?