

Mark Bible Study Study 1 (week of Sept. 15th - 17th)

Leader's Preparation

Purpose of this First meeting: To introduce Core members to one another and to what Core will look like for the rest of the Term.

You will need:

- to contact everyone in advance and be sure they all know how to get to the venue.
- Food and 'Ice Breakers' to facilitate people getting to know each other
- collect everyone's contact information if you don't already have it before they Leave at the end of the meeting.

This is the first Core of the Term. Be sure you take time to get to know the people in your Core. There are a number of Ice Breakers you can use to do this (take a look at Appendix 7 "Ice Breakers" in the UCM Leader's Guide).

Be sure to refer to your leader's Guide pp. 14-15 "Preparing For Your Core Meeting" and Appendix 5 "The First Meeting" and "A Checklist for Your First Group". These will give you a good outline of what your first Core could look like and how to prepare for it.

Once you have had time to get to know one another, discussed the purpose of Core and invited students to share their past experiences in a small group, share a short devotion from the gospel of Mark. This devotion is meant to 'wet people's appetite' for the rest of the Term as we meet for Core.

Short Devotion

This Term we will be going through the Gospel of Mark. One question that Mark wanted to answer in his gospel was, "Who is Jesus?"

Who do you think Jesus Christ was or is?
(Give time for people to answer)

Jesus asked this same question of his closest friends. In Chapter 8:27, 29 Jesus asked his friends,

'Who do people say I am?' (8:27)

He then asked, 'But what about you? Who do you say I am?' (8:29)

This is the question Jesus asks all of us today. 'Who am I?'

Was Jesus a man? Was he a great world religious teacher? Was he a prophet sent from God? Is he the Son of God, God in the flesh?

Mark believed Jesus was *God*. He believed *God* had come to earth to reconcile, to restore people, to Himself. Our answer to Jesus' question will determine what each of us do with our lives. If Jesus is who he claimed to be, and who Mark believed him to be, then what we do with the rest of our lives matters.

What we do this Term at UBC matters. Mark in his gospel argues that Jesus Christ is the living *God*, the promised *Messiah*, the *Saviour* of the world, *Lord* over all the earth, *God* in the flesh.

For the rest of this Term in Core we will explore and discuss the *Gospel* according to Mark. Come with your questions. What we study may challenge us at times. Perhaps even some of our assumptions about Jesus will change as we read Mark's gospel. Come with a desire to experience *God*.