

**MEET
JESUS**

Uncover Mark: Evangelism Training

Five, one hour studies that introduce the basic concepts of Uncover, but also lays foundational principles for evangelism from Mark's gospel.

Evangelism Training Resource

Meeting Jesus in Conversation

A Gospel Framework for any Discussion

1. How do you feel about the idea of talking to people about Jesus?

- **Nervous:** I'm worried I won't know what to say.
- **Embarrassed:** People hate Bible bashers. I don't want to be one of those Christians.
- **Busy:** I don't have any time for evangelism.
- **Failure:** I've tried but it hasn't gone well.
- **Excited:** Telling people about Jesus sounds great! When can I start?

2. Getting the foundations right.

Read 1 Peter 3:14-15

1. **Heads:** In talking to people about Jesus, what's helpful about "honouring Christ the Lord as holy"?

2. **Hands:** Do you feel "prepared to make a defence to anyone who asks"?

1	2	3	4	5
No.				Yes.

3. **Hearts:** Why is it important to speak of Jesus with "gentleness and respect"?

Summarise: How does 1 Peter 3 help us relax in our efforts to speak about Jesus?

Course Content

Week 1: Intro to Mark's gospel - Why evangelise?

Week 2: Who is the best evangelist - Evangelism expectations

Week 3: Evangelism in Mark's gospel - How to evangelise?

Week 4: Uncover Mark - the 5 R's

Week 5: ABC's - Meeting as threes

Our Purpose & Prayer

How do you feel about evangelism? Nervous about what to say? Unsure how people might respond? Guilty you don't do enough?

Whether you're excited or scared, thanks for joining this course.

Our hope is that after five weeks you'll be better equipped from God's Word about how to think about these questions, and you'll know how and why we're encouraging everyone to read Uncover Mark with their friends.

There's very little homework and prep for this. But hopefully in this hour each week, we'll be refreshed in God's Word and excited by his sublime goodness that'll we'll just be bursting with excitement to share of Christ's excellent Kingship with the whole world!

Get ready!

WK1: Why evangelise?

Intro into Mark's gospel

Uncover Mark is often praised as a wonderful evangelistic tool. Why is this? Do you see people becoming Christians after every study? Should we expect this? Have we failed if no one becomes a Christian? What place does Uncover Mark have in evangelism? We're going to spend the next few weeks thinking through some of these questions.

So let's get the juices flowing in the brains and play a true / false game. If you agree with the statement, stand up; if you disagree with the statement, sit down...

True or false...

- There'll be people evangelising in heaven.
- If no one becomes a Christian through me, I must be doing something wrong.
- The gospel is good news for everyone.
- When it comes to sharing Christ, actions are more important than words.
- Being a Christian is knowing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
- God wants all people to be saved.

Hopefully this has got you thinking a bit. To find out the answers, we need to read the Bible!

Jesus' Gospel

Read through Mark 1:1-15 then answer the following questions.

i) What do we learn about the gospel in this passage?

ii) Who is John preparing the way for? Be sure to get the answer from the passage!

iii) Why does John need to prepare the way?

Old Testament Background

To better answer this question (about why John needed to prepare the way), we need to understand the Old Testament background of the passage. Split into three groups (each looking at a different column), then share your findings.

<p>Malachi 2:10-12 Malachi is written around the time of the Exile. How is Judah treating God?</p>	<p>Isaiah 40:1-5 Is the coming of the Lord a good thing or a bad thing?</p>	<p>Psalm 2:1-3 Who is against who, and why?</p> <p>Psalm 2:4-6 How does God respond?</p>
<p>Malachi 3:1-5 What will God do in response to Judah's sinfulness?</p> <p>Who is coming?</p> <p>Where will they come?</p> <p>When will they come?</p>	<p>Isaiah 40:9-11 Is the coming of the Lord a good thing or a bad thing?</p>	<p>Psalm 2:7-9 Noting the language of these verses, who is God speaking to?</p> <p>What does God promise him?</p>
<p>Malachi 4:1-6 Is "the day" a good day or a bad day?</p> <p>What must happen before "the day"?</p>	<p>Isaiah 40:6-8 How does Isaiah assure the Israelites that God's coming is certain?</p> <p>How do we compare with God?</p>	<p>Psalm 2:10-12 Why is the "therefore" concluding this Psalm?</p>

Summarise: Draw a picture of what the Jews were expecting from these OT promises.

Coming back to Mark 1

Now that we understand the OT expectations about the coming of the Lord, let's see how it helps us understand the preparation that was required for his arrival. What was the preparation? Why was this necessary?

NB: The word 'baptize' is actually a Greek word ('baptizo'). Bible translators haven't actually translated it for us! 'Baptizo' simply means 'to wash' (see Mark 7:3-4). Re-read Mark 1:4-11, substituting the word 'baptize' for 'wash'. Does this help answer the question?

Drawing the threads together

By yourself, write three sentences explaining the gospel.

Now write the gospel in three words.

Returning to one of our T/F statement:

Do you think the gospel is good news for everyone?

From what we've read today, what are the reasons to evangelise?

Pray for yourself - that you'll better understand what it means for Jesus to be the Christ, the Son of God.

Pray for your friends - that they'll humbly ask Jesus to wash them with his Spirit and protect them from his coming wrath.

WK 2: Responses to the Gospel

Why use Uncover Mark to evangelise?

Recap:

1. In our time together last week studying Mark 1:1-15, I learnt that...

- the gospel =
- we share this with people because...

Intro: We assume that one of the reasons you may be doing this course, is that you want more people to hear the gospel, turn to Jesus and join his Kingdom. But why do you think we're using Mark's Gospel to do this?

- It's got interesting stories about Jesus.
- I actually think it'd be better to keep chatting with them and answer their specific questions about Christianity.
- I'm not sure.

The Four Calls

Peter Bolt (author of *Cross from a Distance*) identifies four structural markers in the beginning of Mark's gospel – four times Jesus goes by the Sea of Galilee and calls people to follow him. Have a look at the first three calls, noting down your findings in the table below.

	Call 1: Mark 1:16-20	Call 2:Mark 2:13-17	Call 3:Mark 3:7-19
Who is called?			
Who follows Jesus?			
Why do they follow?			
Who recognises Jesus as the Son of God?			

From what we've looked at, would you agree or disagree with the below statements?

- If no one becomes a Christian through me, I must be doing something wrong.
- When it comes to sharing Christ, actions are more important than words.
- God wants all people to be saved.
- Being a Christian is knowing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
- If you follow Jesus, you're a Christian.

The Call to Everyone with Listening Ears

Read Mark 4:1-20. In small groups, draw the four soils and their corresponding meaning in the table below. Note the repeated words and phrases.

Soil 1	Soil 2
Meaning 1	Meaning 2
Soil 3	Soil 4
Meaning 3	Meaning 4

Understanding the sower

1. Why does Jesus tell this parable? What's his main instruction?
2. What is the setting of 4:1-20? Who is involved? Why does the audience change? (4:1-2, 10)
3. What is Jesus' preferred genre of teaching? Why does he choose this genre? (read Mark 4:33-34 and also Isaiah 6:8-13 for context)

Bonus Q: How does this help us understand the next few parables?

Mark 4:21-23	How is the metaphor of light used in these verses? What secret has Jesus just revealed (see 4:11)?
Mark 4:24-25	This promise might seem unfair. But what word(s) can we replace "measure" with to understand what's going on? How does 4:11-12 help us understand 4:25?
Mark 4:26-29	What's the main point of this little story? How does this complement the main point of the sower story?

Summarise

Return to the T/F statements from last week and the start of today's study. Are your answers still the same to the following statements?

- If no one becomes a Christian through me, I must be doing something wrong.
- When it comes to sharing Christ, actions are more important than words.
- God wants all people to be saved.
- Being a Christian is knowing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
- If you follow Jesus, you're a Christian.

Consolidate

Spend a moment alone answering this question: Why do we encourage people to use Uncover Mark for evangelism?

Understanding Mark's Gospel

We've been reminded today that Jesus is the great evangelist - he is the one who calls people to himself through his Word. What are the implications of this? Firstly, it means that we can take great confidence in the Bible. If Jesus, the great evangelist, used the Word to evangelise, than maybe we should too! Afterall, opening up a gospel with an unbeliever means that they can meet Jesus in Jesus' own words! Secondly, today's study has also reminded us that even Jesus - the great evangelist - "failed" in his evangelising. Even though Jesus was as godly as can be and preached God's Word faithfully, people still rejected him. So even if we faithfully explain Jesus to our unbelieving friends and do all that we can do to graciously convince them to follow Jesus, if God doesn't call them, they won't follow. So as you introduce your friends to Jesus through Uncover Mark, relax. As Isaiah 55:10-11 promises, God's Word will either soften and save, or hinder and harden. The choice is theirs to 'have ears to hear.'

Pray

Pray for yourself - that you'll have confidence to use God's Word in evangelism.

Pray for your friends - that they'll have ears to hear.

WK 3: Intro to Uncover Mark

Using the “5R’s” to introduce people to Jesus

Recap: Try to finish this sentence: We use Mark’s gospel to introduce people to Jesus because...

Intro to Uncover Mark

Have a look at the *Uncover Mark* books.

- What do you notice about it?

- What do you like about it?

- What might your friends like?

Passages that are suggested in reading Uncover Mark:

- Mark 1:14-39
- Mark 1:40-2:12
- Mark 5:21-43
- Mark 8:27-9:1
- Mark 10:32-52
- Mark 14:32-42
- Mark 14:53-72
- Mark 15:16-41
- Mark 15:42-16:8

Uncover Mark resources:

- www.uncover.org.uk/mark/discuss/
- www.uncover.org.au/mark/

What's the purpose of the 5 R's?

One of the unique tools with *Uncover* are the five simple questions that you can ask and answer with any section of the narrative. The five questions are listed below. Conveniently, they all begin with the letter, R, so we tend to call them, "The 5 R's". But have a think - Why do we ask these questions? What is their purpose? What would be missed if we skipped one of the R's?

	Purpose
Retell: Retell the narrative. What actually happens?	
React: How are different people responding to Jesus here?	
Reveal: What is revealed about Jesus, through words and actions?	
Reason: What reason do I think Mark had for including this event?	
Response: How will I respond to what this part of Mark uncovers about Jesus?	

You have a go: Mark 1:40-2:12

Retell: Retell the narrative. What actually happens?

React: How are different people responding to Jesus here?

Reveal: What is revealed about Jesus, through words and actions?

Reason: What reason do you think Mark had for including this event?

Response: How will you respond to what this part of Mark uncovers about Jesus?

Debrief:

1. What was good about that?

2. What could have been better?

3. What is the main thing you want a non-believer to know from this passage?

Identify:

Think of one friend who might read Uncover Mark with you. Pray you'll have opportunity and courage to invite them to do this.

Pray

Homework

WK 4: Responses to the Gospel

Understanding evangelism in Mark's gospel

The Respondents

Read through all of Mark 8:11-33 as a big group then answer the following questions in smaller groups.

i) What happens just before this passage? (cf 8:1-10)

ii) How does the context help us understand the irony of the Pharisee's request in 8:11-13? What does this teach us about the place of miracles and good works in evangelism?

iii) What then do you think is the yeast / leaven of the Pharisees that Jesus warns the disciples of (8:15)?

iv) Do you think the disciples have heeded Jesus' warning so far?

v) Why is the blind man healed in two stages? To answer this question...

a. Consider why this healing occurs after Jesus' warning to the disciples and before Peter acknowledges Jesus as the Christ.

b. Compare the calling of Blind Bartimaeus (10:46-52) with the calling of the disciples (and others) that we've seen in Mark. What do you think we're meant to learn from Blind Bartimaeus?

Summarise and Apply (do this all together)

What do we learn about evangelism from the following characters in Mark's gospel?

- The Disciples
- The Pharisees
- The blind men
- The crowd
- The demons

Return to the T/F statements from Week 1 & 2. Do you have a clearer understanding of whether to agree or disagree with the statements?

- There'll be people evangelising in heaven.
- If no one becomes a Christian through me, I must be doing something wrong.
- When it comes to sharing Christ, actions are more important than words.
- Being a Christian is knowing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
- God wants all people to be saved.

From all that we've learnt, in your own words, write a few sentences explaining the place of Uncover Mark in evangelism.

Write your own prayer that reflects the things God has taught you in these studies.

WK 5: Uncover Mark

Understanding the Uncover Mark passages in light of the gospel

Share any evangelistic stories (from Uncover or general opportunities)

Teaser question: Discuss these questions in pairs, supporting your ideas with any bible passages you can think of (from any part of the Bible)...

- What does someone need to *know* to become a Christian?

- What must someone *do* to become a Christian?

Trickier questions:

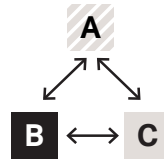
When did the disciples become Christians? What about people in the Old Testament?

Leading someone to Christ through Uncover Mark

Look through some of the following passages (allocate at least two passages per triplet). What are the important gospel truths that come up in this section of Mark's gospel?

	What do we learn about Jesus?	What do we learn about humanity?
1:14-39		
1:40-2:12		
5:21-43		
8:27-9:1		
10:32-52		
14:32-42		
14:53-72		
15:16-41		
15:42-16:8		

Making disciples who are disciple-makers

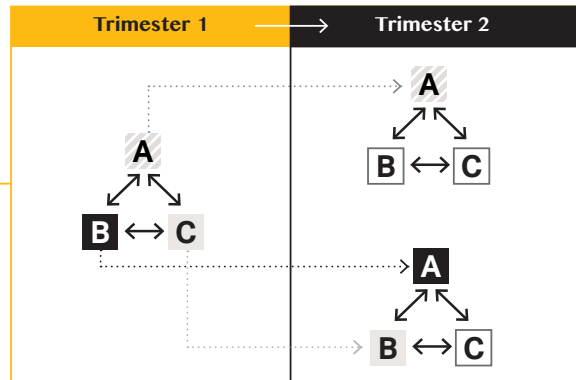


A training B
B learning from A
C *inquiring* or wanting to grow

Mutual encouragement

Every person learns
Every person encourages

Multiplying



Next steps

1 Identify

Are you an **A** or a **B**?

2 Invite

Making the hardest part easier: who to invite?
why this seems to work?
simple & memorable, achievable & realistic, multiple pathways,
gives conversations a natural disciples-making edge

3 Organise your first meeting time and location

Review this course: Do you remember what we've learnt?

Week 1: Introduction to Mark's gospel and evangelism. How did you finish these sentences?

- the gospel =

- we share this with people because...

Week 2: In the second study we looked at Jesus calling various people to him and inviting people with ears to hear the message of the sower planting the word in four soil types. From this study, how would you answer the question, "Why do we use Uncover Mark to introduce people to Jesus?"

Week 3: Introduction to Uncover Mark: Do you remember the 5 R's and what place they have in exegesis?

The 5 R's	Exegetical step
R	
R	
R	
R	
R	

Week 4: Last week we looked at how different people (the Pharisees, disciples, blind Bartimaeus) responded to Jesus. What did these characters teach us about evangelism?

Week 5: What does Mark's gospel teach us about how to become a Christian?

Evaluate this course:

This was the first time running the course so we'd love your feedback to improve it!

What was helpful about the course?

What improvements could we include into the course? Would love any creative suggestions!



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