

WEEK 1

INTRODUCTION

GROUP DISCUSSION 1

Welcome to *Christianity Explored*.

TALK OUTLINE

**“The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.”
(Mark 1:1)**

- There are many reasons to suspect that God might exist: the order of the universe, the beauty of the world and the incredible design of the human body. There’s also the nagging sense that nothing we do or achieve will fully satisfy us, that something is missing in life.
- But how can we know for sure that God exists? We would need him to introduce himself. And according to Mark, that’s exactly what God has done. In order to introduce himself to us, he has become a man: the person we call Jesus Christ.
- Christianity is about being able to have a relationship with God. That’s why “the gospel about Jesus Christ” is good news.

NOTES

GROUP DISCUSSION 2

- If you could ask God one question, and you knew it would be answered, what would it be?

- What is your view of Christianity?

- How do you feel about making time to read Mark?

HOME STUDY

Each week you'll be exploring a few chapters of Mark. By the end of Week 6, you'll have read the whole of Mark's Gospel.

▶ *Read Mark 1:1 – 3:6.*

Summary: Jesus' true identity begins to emerge, but the religious authorities oppose him.

▶ *Use the following study to help you explore the passage. There's room at the end for you to write down any questions you'd like to discuss next time.*

**1 In Mark 1:1–13, who points to Jesus?
(look in particular at verses 2, 7 and 11)**

2 Who is Jesus said to be in these verses?

**3 What sort of power and authority does Jesus exercise?
(see Mark 1:16–20, 21–22, 23–28, 40–45; 2:1–12)**

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4 What has Jesus come to do? (see Mark 1:14–15, 35–39; 2:17)

5 Notice that Jesus' priority is preaching – it comes before healing the body. Why might that be?

6 Who opposes Jesus and why do you think this might be? (see Mark 2:6–7, 16; 3:2–6)

7 What do the opening chapters of Mark tell you about who Jesus is? What are the implications for how you relate to Jesus?

Your questions on this HOME STUDY