

## Session 1

# Christianity Explained

## Jesus – Son of God

*“The beginning of the gospel about  
Jesus Christ, the Son of God.”*

Mark 1 v 1

This is God’s world, and we have seen that Jesus comes into the world with all the authority of God himself. We have seen:

- 1. Jesus’ authority as a teacher**  
Mark 1 v 21-22
- 2. Jesus’ authority over evil spirits**  
Mark 1 v 23-28
- 3. Jesus’ authority over sickness**  
Mark 1 v 29-31
- 4. Jesus’ authority to forgive sins**  
(this shows him to be equal with God)  
Mark 2 v 1-12
- 5. Jesus’ authority over nature**  
Mark 4 v 35-41
- 6. Jesus’ authority over life and death**  
Mark 5 v 35-42
- 7. Jesus’ authority over people**  
Mark 1 v 16-20

But most importantly, as far as we are concerned today, we have seen:

## Conclusion:

We have seen in this study:

- Jesus’ great authority as the Son of God
- Jesus’ claim to be divine, that is, God.
- The call for us to follow him

Someone has called Jesus “*The man you can’t ignore.*” He is either a *liar*, a *lunatic*, or the *Lord*. There are three concepts that you need to believe to be a Christian. We have seen the first of these:



## At Home

Read Mark chapters 1 – 5. Note anything that you do not understand, or would like to discuss. There will be a time for discussing these things at the start of next week’s session.

# Week 1

## Mark Chapters 1 – 5

### *Suggested reading plan*

Try to write down what you think are the main points the passage is making. Also list any things you have questions about **?** and any things that strike you as interesting **!**. We will discuss them at the start of the next session.

### 1. Mark 1 v 1-28

Main Points \_\_\_\_\_

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### 2. Mark 1 v 29 – 2 v 12

Main Points \_\_\_\_\_

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### 3. Mark 2 v 13 – 3 v 6

Main Points \_\_\_\_\_

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### 4. Mark 3 v 7-34

Main Points \_\_\_\_\_

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### 5. Mark 4 v 1-41

Main Points \_\_\_\_\_

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### 6. Mark 5 v 1-20

Main Points \_\_\_\_\_

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### 7. Mark 5 v 21-43

Main Points \_\_\_\_\_

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*Any thoughts on Mark chapters 1 – 5 as a whole*

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## Session 2

# Christianity Explained

Jesus –  
his death on the cross

### 1. The facts of the cross

Read Mark 15 v 21-39

### 2. The meaning of the cross

#### a. The darkness (15 v :33)

Indicates that, in the death of Jesus, God was doing a special, supernatural act.

#### b. The cry (15 v 34-37)

“Why have you forsaken me?” We see that, at least to some extent, God had forsaken or abandoned his Son when he was on the cross. Remember the book, which we imagined was a record of every time we have lived our way instead of God’s way. Jesus, who always lived his Father’s way, “bore our sins in his body on the cross,” and our sins formed a barrier between him and his Father. Jesus dealt with our sins and their guilt and punishment, and his resurrection showed that God was satisfied with the sin-bearing that Jesus had completed on the cross.

#### c. The curtain (15 v 38)

The tearing of the curtain indicated that people come back into relationship with God only through Jesus’ death.

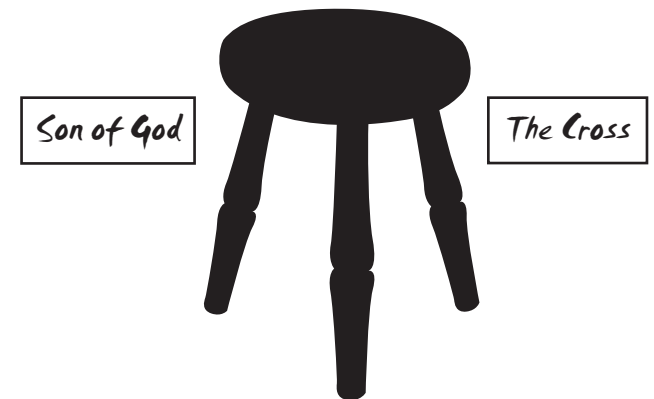
#### d. The ransom (10 v 45)

This is the price Jesus paid to buy us back to God – that price was the giving of his life, that is, his death.

### Conclusion:

Jesus’ death is sufficient for the sins of anyone, but God’s forgiveness is not automatically given to everybody. Each of us must individually accept by what Jesus did on the cross.

There are three basic concepts which you must believe to be a Christian. We have now seen two of these:



### At Home

Read Mark chapters 6 – 10. Note anything you do not understand or would like to discuss. There will be a time for discussing these things at the beginning of next week’s session.

# Week 2

## Mark Chapters 6 – 10

### *Suggested reading plan*

Try to write down what you think are the main points the passage is making. Also list any things you have questions about **?** and any things that strike you as interesting **!**. We will discuss them at the start of the next session.

### 1. Mark 6 v 1-29

Main Points \_\_\_\_\_

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### 2. Mark 6 v 30-56

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### 3. Mark 7 v 1-37

Main Points \_\_\_\_\_

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### 4. Mark 8 v 1-38

Main Points \_\_\_\_\_

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### 5. Mark 9 v 1-32

Main Points \_\_\_\_\_

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### 6. Mark 9 v 33 – 10 v 16

Main Points \_\_\_\_\_

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### 7. Mark 10 v 17-52

Main Points \_\_\_\_\_

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*Any thoughts on Mark chapters 6 – 10 as a whole*

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## Session 3

# Christianity Explained

Jesus –  
his resurrection

### 1. The resurrection predicted

Read Mark 10 v 32-34

### 2. The facts of the resurrection

In the Bible at least ten occasions are recorded when the risen Jesus appeared to his followers. He spoke to them, ate with them and was touched by them (eg: Luke 24 v 36-43)

### 3. The meaning of the resurrection

Read Acts 10 v 39-43

- a. All people will be raised  
*“the living and the dead”*
- b. All people will be judged  
*“judge of the living and the dead”*
- c. The risen Jesus will be the judge  
*“he is the one whom God appointed judge”*
- d. All will be divided into two groups  
*“Everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”*  
(Acts 10 v 43)  
*“If anyone is ashamed of me... the Son of Man will be ashamed of him.”*  
(Mark 8 v 38)
- e. This division is forever

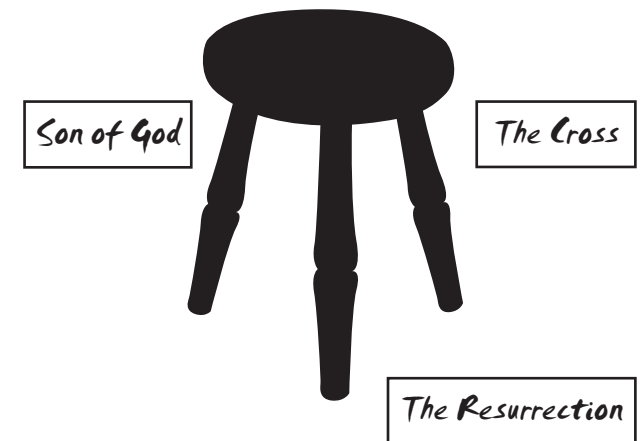
### Conclusion:

Jesus’ attitude to me on the Day of Judgement is the same as my attitude to him now, in this life.

If I accept him now, he will accept me then.

If I reject him now, he will reject me then.

There are three basic concepts which you must believe to be a Christian. These are:



### At Home

Read Mark chapters 11 – 16. Note anything you do not understand, or would like to discuss. There will be a time for discussing these things at the beginning of next week’s session.

# Week 3

## Mark Chapters 11 – 16

### *Suggested reading plan*

Try to write down what you think are the main points the passage is making. Also list any things you have questions about **?** and any things that strike you as interesting **!**. We will discuss them at the start of the next session.

### 1. Mark 11 v 1-33

Main Points \_\_\_\_\_

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### 2. Mark 12 v 1-44

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### 3. Mark 13 v 1-37

Main Points \_\_\_\_\_

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### 4. Mark 14 v 1-52

Main Points \_\_\_\_\_

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### 5. Mark 14 v 53 – 15 v 15

Main Points \_\_\_\_\_

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### 6. Mark 15 v 16-47

Main Points \_\_\_\_\_

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### 7. Mark 16

Main Points \_\_\_\_\_

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*Any thoughts on Mark chapters 11 – 16 as a whole*

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## Session 4

# Christianity Explained

Grace –  
not our works

Imagine that you have just died, and that God is judging your life. God says to you: “Give me one good reason why I should accept you into heaven with me?”

What would you reply?

### The wrong answer: What I have done

God should accept me because I have:

- lived a good life
- kept the Ten Commandments
- given to charities
- been a good citizen
- been a good parent
- prayed and read the Bible
- been to church
- been baptised... etc.

Mark 7 v 20-23

### The right answer: What Christ has done

“God, you should accept me because of what **Christ** has done for me, and that alone.”

Good works do not produce salvation  
**BUT**  
Salvation produces good works.

Read Ephesians 2 v 8-10

### Conclusion:

We have seen that eternal life, forgiveness of sins and a place in God’s kingdom cannot be earned or deserved by us. They have been earned for people by the Son of God, through his death and rising again.

NOT

BUT

What  
**I**  
have done

What  
**CHRIST**  
has done

So forgiveness and eternal life are the free gifts of God to all who will receive the giver – that is, Jesus Christ.

Next week, we will discuss how we do this. This is the vital question: *What is a Christian?*

### At Home

Read the booklet you have been given. Note anything you do not understand, and would like to discuss. Also re-read these passages from the Gospel of Mark, and underline what you think are the most significant words for you:

- Mark 1 v 15
- Mark 8 v 34-48
- Mark 9 v 43-48
- Mark 10 v 29-31

## Session 5

# Christianity Explained

## What is a Christian?

### 1. Repenting

*"The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news."* Mark 1 v 15

#### Review

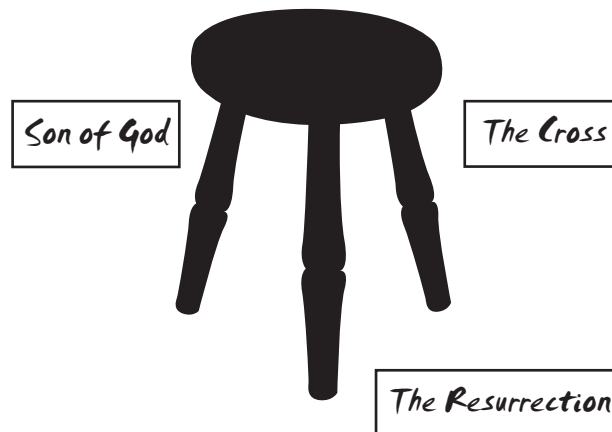
#### Q: What is a Christian?

A: Someone who belongs to the kingdom of God.

#### Q: How can I belong to the kingdom of God?

A: Repent and believe in Jesus Christ.

We have seen that a Christian believes certain facts about Jesus Christ:



But being a Christian is more than just believing these facts.

#### Repentance means:

I am willing for Jesus to be first in my life...

...before my will

...before my ambitions

...before my popularity

...before anyone/anything else

See Mark 8 v 34-38 and Mark 9 v 43-48

#### At Home

Re-read the booklet you have been given.

What gifts does God promise to those who repent and believe?

Mark 1 v 8 H \_ \_ S \_ \_ \_ \_

Mark 2 v 10 F \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Mark 10 v 30 E \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ L \_ \_ \_



## Session 6

# Christianity Explained

What is a Christian?

2. Believing

*“The kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe the good news.”* Mark 1 v 15

### Review

**Q: What is a Christian?**

A: someone who belongs to the kingdom of God.

**Q: How can I belong to the kingdom of God?**

A: repent and believe in Jesus Christ.

We have seen that a Christian believes certain facts about Jesus Christ:

But being a Christian is more than just believing these facts.

*“Anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a child will never enter it”*  
Mark 10 v 15

So believing is more than just accepting facts about Jesus. I must personally receive him as my King and Savior, and by so doing I receive the kingdom of God.

**What gifts does God give to those who accept Christ?**

**1. The Holy Spirit**

Mark 1 v 8

Jesus Christ comes to live in me by his Spirit, and begins to change me from the inside out.

**2. The forgiveness of sins**

Mark 2 v 10

Do I know for certain that my sins are totally forgiven? Was Jesus’ death sufficient to pay for my sins?

**3. Eternal life**

Mark 10 v 29-30

Do I know I have eternal life? Do I trust in what **JESUS** has done, and not in what I do?

**Am I a Christian?**

Test yourself – you are a Christian if you can genuinely say **YES** to these two statements.

1. I trust in Jesus’ death for the forgiveness of my sins. (I do not trust my own good works.)
2. I trust in the risen Jesus to be Lord of my life. (I am willing for him to be first in all parts of my life.)