



Anglican  
Church of Noosa

I CAN  
*see clearly*  
NOW

LOOKING into MARK

Connect Groups Aug/Sept 2021



# LOOKING into MARK

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# Connect Groups

At the Anglican Church of Noosa, the primary avenue for discipleship is in a Connect Group.

We strongly encourage everyone to be involved because these groups are specifically designed to help us grow as disciples.

The normal pattern for a Connect Group time is to have three sections: connecting with each other, connecting with the Word and connecting with God through prayer. These can happen in any order.

We need time to relate to one another by connecting personally. Depending on the members, this can be done in a variety of ways.

As we get into the Word, we examine its truth and relevance in order to apply it to our lives. Scripture is explored, explained and discussed, and the goal is to minister to each other's lives through what is learned, not necessarily to finish all the material.

Prayer is a vital part of a Connect Group's time together. Leave plenty of time so your prayer is not rushed. This is not just an 'opening' or 'closing' prayer, but a time for everyone in the group to take specific requests to God, in a simple and conversational way. This is where the action is! The goal is to create a space where people feel enabled and comfortable to pray, and can see God at work.

## *'I can see clearly now' – a brief intro...*

Looking into this middle section of Mark's Gospel will be a challenge!

This section contains the massive turning point of the Gospel, when Jesus asks the pivotal question, *'Who do people say I am?'*

The answer changes the trajectory of the Gospel, just as the answer we give, changes the trajectory of our lives.

We will cover healings, hard sayings, and there will be surprises along the way, as well as concluding with the splendour of the Transfiguration. We pray your discussions will enrich you in the midst of any challenges that may come.



## NOTES

# Mark 7:24-30

## Introduction

What have you done when someone 'inappropriate' intervened in a situation?

Last time a parent came and fell at Jesus' feet, it was Jairus (5:22-24) and he was helped. This mother will be too, won't she?

1. To what region do Jesus and his disciples travel?  
What kind of people live there? See Deut 7:1-6, 2:16-18
2. What was the title the woman used for Jesus?  
What is its significance?
3. What do you think is the minimum she would have known about Jesus?
4. What is Jesus' response to the woman and why is it shocking?  
Read Matt 10:5-6 to see the disciples' response to her.

5. What did the woman do and what do you think was her motivation? How could she be so persistent?
6. How would YOU have reacted to Jesus' response?
7. How does the woman's reply show understanding/humility/persistence? How is her faith honoured?

## Prayer

- This passage inspired the "Prayer of Humble Access" in the Anglican Communion Service. Why not pray it together now ....

*We do not presume to come to your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies.*

*We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy.*

*Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. **Amen.***

## NOTES



## NOTES

# Mark 7:31-37

## Introduction

Have you ever had an individual encounter that had much bigger significance than just your life?

Again, the geography is important. The Decapolis is another Gentile region. His kingdom is for all nations and all people.

1. What disabilities does this man have?
2. Jesus uses touch as a kind of sign language with this man. What effect might this have on him? What effect did Jesus' words have?
3. Read Isaiah 35. What events does Isaiah foresee? What is their significance? What does that tell us about Jesus?

4. Why do you think Jesus commands these people not to tell anyone? (Note that He'd just given this man the ability to speak!)

5. Are there any types of people you think are out of Jesus' reach?

Are there any types of people that our church could reach out to but is ignoring? How might we fix that?

6. What is there about your life, or the life of those around you, where your testimony could be "He has done everything well"?

## *Prayer*

- Praise God that no person or nation is out of reach of Jesus
- Pray that more and more people would have their ears opened to hear Jesus' words

## NOTES



## NOTES

# Mark 8:1-10

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## *Introduction*

How do you feel when you have compassion on people but are unable to do anything?

Interestingly, Jesus and his disciples are still in Gentile territory. This is the last in a cycle of three miracles where Jesus benefits Gentiles. His kingdom is global, not just local.

1. How does Jesus feel about the crowd? cf. 6:34.  
What does this tell you about Jesus?
2. What does this lead Jesus to do?
3. How does Jesus use the disciples in this miracle?  
How is this an encouragement and a challenge to you as a disciple?
4. Read Mark 6:35-44. What are the similarities between the feeding of the 5,000 and the feeding of the 4,000?

5. What are the subtle differences between the two miracles?
6. Why do you think the crowd was prepared to stay with Jesus for three days?
7. What was your biggest takeaway learning from today's passage?

## *Prayer*

- Give thanks that Jesus' compassion is extended to all
- Give Him praise that He has come to call both Jews and Gentiles to Himself



## NOTES

# Mark 8:11-21

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## Introduction

How do you respond when people frustrate you?  
What about when you are stubborn and frustrate others?

The Pharisees are being cynical and asking Jesus for a sign.

1. vv.11-13 What are the indicators of Jesus getting frustrated?  
Why do you think He gets frustrated?
2. Why do the Pharisees ask for a sign?
3. What other passages can you think of where Jesus challenges the Pharisees?

4. vv. 14-21 What are the 8 questions Jesus puts to his disciples?

Why do you think He asks so many questions?

5. Read Jeremiah 5:20-25.

What was wrong with God's people in Jeremiah's time?

6. How could the disciples be slow to understand when they have experienced so much with Jesus?

7. How can we recognise blindness and deafness in our own lives?

## *Prayer*

- Pray for the forgiveness you need when you've exasperated Jesus
- Pray for God's grace to continually fill your life, and the lives of your group members

## NOTES



## NOTES

# Mark 8:22-26

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## *Introduction*

What experience have you had with blind people?  
How did it impact you?

Bethsaida is back in Galilee, on the shores of the Sea. It is the hometown of Peter, Andrew and Philip.

1. Bring and beg ... What does this indicate about the people who brought the blind man to Jesus?  
How do you think it made the blind man feel?
2. Why do you think the people asked Jesus to 'touch' rather than to 'heal'? What do you think they were expecting to happen?
3. Jesus took the man's hand and they went out of the village. Why would he do that?

4. How is this healing different to other healings of Jesus?
5. Jesus wasn't having a bad day. Why do you think He healed this man in two stages?
6. How does this passage give you hope to tell others about Jesus?
7. Go back to read 8:18. Jesus had recently healed a deaf man, and now has healed a blind man. What do the disciples need to continue learning?

## *Prayer*

- Pray for each other to be continually open to all that Jesus wants to teach us
- Ask God to show you the people you need to return to in your sharing of Jesus

## NOTES



## NOTES

# Mark 8:27 - 9:1

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## Introduction

Share about a time when somebody said something really shocking to you?

In Mark 1:1 we are told what this Gospel is all about. Reflect on how long it takes for the disciples to catch on to the truth about Jesus.

1. Caesarea Philippi was a pagan place with many temples devoted to other gods. Why is Jesus' question significant and why do you think He asked it in this particular location?
2. What is the significance of the answers the disciples gave?
3. What has Peter finally realised?

4. What are the four things Jesus says must happen to Him?

Why do you think He uses the word 'must'?

5. Why do you think ...

... Peter rebukes Jesus?

... Jesus rebukes Peter?

6. What do we need to do if we want to become a disciple of Jesus?

What are the four reasons for taking up such an invitation?

7. What is there about Jesus' teaching that you don't like? How do you respond?

## *Prayer*

- Thank Jesus that He faced rejection and death for you
- Ask God to help you see the cross in a new light



## NOTES

# Mark 9:2-13

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## Introduction

Have you ever had a spectacular experience that changed your view of something?

1. Try and use your own words to describe what happened to Jesus.
2. Read Exodus 24:15-18. What are the recognisable similarities with the Transfiguration?
3. What differences are there between Mark 1:11 and Mark 9:7?

4. Does this passage impact your worship of Jesus?  
What does it say about Him?

5. Why do you think Jesus took these three disciples,  
at this particular time, up the mountain to see this  
encounter?

6. How does v.7 make what Jesus said about himself  
even more compelling? [see 8:31, 34-35]

7. What does it look like for you to follow Christ?

## *Prayer*

- Bring to God all the things you've learned over this series, and ask Him to help you apply them
- Pray for our church to see afresh that following Christ means denial, sacrifice and commitment, especially as we are asking God to show us His vision for our future!

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