



Discover

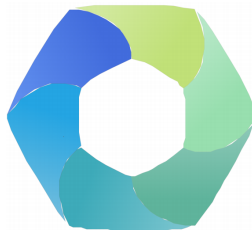
Jesus



# DISCOVER JESUS

---

*Daily Readings and Bible Studies*



**FREE** *for* **ALL**  
RESOURCES

**DISCOVER JESUS**  
written by Grant Retief  
Christ Church Umhlanga, 2015

57 Hambridge Avenue  
Umhlanga, 4019  
South Africa  
031 572 6542  
admin@ccu.org.za  
www.ccu.org.za

No copyright - Free for All

Download and copy from:  
[www.freeforall.co.za/discover-jesus](http://www.freeforall.co.za/discover-jesus)

Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®  
Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by Biblica, Inc.®  
Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

# Contents

	<i>Page</i>
<b>Introduction</b>	5
<b>1. Whole in One</b> <i>Mark's Gospel as a Whole</i>	6
<b>2. The King Announced</b> <i>Mark 1:1-15</i>	9
<b>3. The King's Authority</b> <i>Mark 1:16-39</i>	13
<b>4. The King's Subjects</b> <i>Mark 1:40-2:17</i>	17
<b>5. The King Rejected</b> <i>Mark 3:7-35</i>	21
<b>6. The King's Cross</b> <i>Mark 15:33-39</i>	25
<b>7. The King's Demands</b> <i>Mark 8:27-38</i>	29
<b>8. Two Ways to Live</b>	33

For other titles in the DISCOVER series, please visit:

[www.freeforall.co.za/discover](http://www.freeforall.co.za/discover)

Discover Jesus

Discover Discipleship

Discover the Bible

Discover the Church

For titles in the GROW series, please visit:

[www.freeforall.co.za/grow](http://www.freeforall.co.za/grow)

Origins (Genesis 1-3)

# Introduction

## Introducing “Discover Jesus”

This booklet aims to introduce its readers to Jesus through key Bible passages found in the New Testament Gospel of Mark.

Mark helps us to understand the *identity* of Jesus before he enters Jerusalem—the city of which he is to be Saviour and King. We discover the ways in which Jesus fulfilled Old Testament expectations about who the ‘King of the Jews’ would be. We also come to see what the “Kingdom of God” looks like, as Jesus reveals it in his famous parables of the Sower and the Mustard Seed.

In the second half of the gospel we follow Jesus and his disciples as they make their way to Jerusalem. His *purpose* is becoming clearer, but his disciples are struggling to comprehend it.

Mark is interested in three important questions: who Jesus was, what he set out to do, and how we should respond: Who, what and how?

## How to use this book

This booklet is designed to be used privately and corporately. There is one passage that will be studied each week. Before coming to “Discover Jesus”, work through the questions on days 1 to 5. Each question will be based on the passage being studied. It won’t take you more than 10 minutes to note down your thoughts. These will form the basis of our time together.

# 1.

# Whole in One

---

## Mark's Gospel

---

It would be very beneficial for you to read through the whole of Mark's Gospel during the 8 weeks we have together. Use the five questions to help you to see something of the whole book of Mark. You may want to scan 3 or 4 chapters per day and think about the questions below, where we will see something of who Jesus is, what he came to do, and how we should respond to him.



# Daily Reading



Mark 1:1, 8:29 and 15:37-39 are crucial signposts in the way Mark has constructed his Gospel. What do they suggest the main points of the Gospel are?



What sort of things do we see Jesus doing in the first half of the Gospel? (E.g. Mark 1:16-26, 2:1-12, 4:1-9, 4:35-39, 6:35-44). What does this teach us about what Jesus is like?



What sort of things do we see Jesus teaching and doing in the second half of the Gospel? (E.g. Mark 8:31-38, 9:30-37, 10:28-46) What does this teach us about what Jesus is like?



What question is being raised in 2:1-12; 4:35-41 and 8:27-29?



What question is being raised in 8:31, 9:31, 10:33, 10:45?

# *Group Study*

# 2.

## The King ANNOUNCED

---

Mark 1: 1 - 15

---

*The readings and study this week will help you to see that Jesus' coming into the world was planned and predicted by God long before it happened. Jesus is the fulfilment of God's Old Testament promises and calls people to give up their rebellion against God and instead follow him as their King.*

## Mark 1:1-15

<sup>1</sup> The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup> It is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way”—

<sup>3</sup> “a voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”

<sup>4</sup> And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him.

Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. <sup>6</sup> John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And this was his message: “After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup> I baptize you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.”

<sup>9</sup> At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

<sup>12</sup> At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert, <sup>13</sup> and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

<sup>14</sup> After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. <sup>15</sup> “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”

# Daily Reading



What two things does Mark tell us about Jesus in verse 1? What does 'Christ' mean?



According to verses 2-3, where does the good news about Jesus begin?



Who does John the Baptist think Jesus is, in verses 4-8?



Who announces King Jesus in verses 9-13? Who is Jesus, from these verses?



What does Jesus think our response should be to his arrival, in verses 14-15? What does 'repent' mean?

# *Group Study*

# 3.

## The King's AUTHORITY

---

Mark 1: 16 - 39

---

*The readings and study this week will help you to see the absolute authority of Jesus over mankind's greatest enemies. There is nothing that does not submit to the word and power of Jesus, yet his priority is not to perform miraculous acts but to declare a message to all humanity.*

### **Mark 1:16-39**

<sup>16</sup>As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." <sup>18</sup>At once they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup>When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. <sup>20</sup>Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

<sup>21</sup> They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. <sup>22</sup> The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. <sup>23</sup> Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, <sup>24</sup> “What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”

<sup>25</sup> “Be quiet!” said Jesus sternly. “Come out of him!” <sup>26</sup> The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

<sup>27</sup> The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him.” <sup>28</sup> News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

<sup>29</sup> As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. <sup>30</sup> Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her. <sup>31</sup> So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

<sup>32</sup> That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. <sup>33</sup> The whole town gathered at the door, <sup>34</sup> and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was. <sup>35</sup> Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. <sup>36</sup> Simon and his companions went to look for him, <sup>37</sup> and when they found him, they exclaimed: “Everyone is looking for you!”

<sup>38</sup> Jesus replied, “Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.” <sup>39</sup> So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.



# Daily Reading



What word describes Jesus' effect on the men in 1:16-20?



What two things does Jesus have authority over in 1:21-28?



What does Jesus have authority over in 1:29-34?



What is Jesus' priority in 1:35-39?



What would be an appropriate response to Jesus, if what Mark has told us is true?

# *Group Study*

# 4.

## The King's SUBJECTS

---

Mark 1: 40 - 2: 17

---

*The readings and study this week will reveal Jesus' diagnosis and remedy for humanity's universal and greatest problem. You will also see overwhelming evidence that Jesus is the only one who can to deal with this problem.*

### **Mark 1:40-2:17**

<sup>40</sup>A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." <sup>41</sup>Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" <sup>42</sup>Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cured. <sup>43</sup>Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning: <sup>44</sup>"See that you don't tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them." <sup>45</sup> Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere.

**2** A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. **2** So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. **3** Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. **4** Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on. **5** When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." **6** Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, **7** "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" **8** Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? **9** Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk?' **10** But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...." He said to the paralytic, **11** "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." **12** He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

**13** Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them. **14** As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him. **15** While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. **16** When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the "sinners" and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and 'sinners?'" **17** On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

# Daily Reading



Read 1:40-45. Besides the physical benefit of healing, what other benefit is there for the leper after his encounter with Jesus?



In 2:1-12, why does Jesus forgive the man before healing him?



In 2:1-12, how does Jesus prove he has in fact forgiven the man?



In 2:1-12, why do the religious leaders object to Jesus' pronouncement of forgiveness of sin?



In 2:17, what is surprising about why Jesus has come?

# *Group Study*

# 5.

# The King REJECTED

---

Mark 3 : 7 - 35

---

*The readings and study this week will reveal the responses that people made to Jesus during his earthly ministry and what Jesus did in turn. You will also hear what Jesus says is the right way to respond to him.*

## **Mark 3:7-35**

<sup>7</sup>Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the lake, and a large crowd from Galilee followed. <sup>8</sup>When they heard all he was doing, many people came to him from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, and the regions across the Jordan and around Tyre and Sidon. <sup>9</sup>Because of the crowd he told his disciples to have a small boat ready for him, to keep the people from crowding him. <sup>10</sup>For he had healed many, so that those with diseases were pushing forward to touch him. <sup>11</sup>Whenever the evil spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God." <sup>12</sup>But he gave them strict orders not to tell who he was.

<sup>13</sup> Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. <sup>14</sup> He appointed twelve—designating them apostles—that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach <sup>15</sup> and to have authority to drive out demons. <sup>16</sup> These are the twelve he appointed: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); <sup>17</sup> James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means Sons of Thunder); <sup>18</sup> Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot <sup>19</sup> and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

<sup>20</sup> Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. <sup>21</sup> When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, “He is out of his mind.” <sup>22</sup> And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, “He is possessed by Beelzebub! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons.” <sup>23</sup> So Jesus called them and spoke to them in parables: “How can Satan drive out Satan? <sup>24</sup> If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. <sup>25</sup> If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. <sup>26</sup> And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. <sup>27</sup> In fact, no one can enter a strong man’s house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he can rob his house. <sup>28</sup> I tell you the truth, all the sins and blasphemies of men will be forgiven them. <sup>29</sup> But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is guilty of an eternal sin.” <sup>30</sup> He said this because they were saying, “He has an evil spirit.”

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus’ mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. <sup>32</sup> A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, “Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you.” <sup>33</sup> “Who are my mother and my brothers?” he asked.

<sup>34</sup> Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! <sup>35</sup> Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.”



# Daily Reading



How do the Jewish rulers treat Jesus in 3:6? How does Jesus respond in 3:7?



In 3:13-18, why does Jesus appoint 12 apostles?



How do the religious rulers reject Jesus, in 3:22-30?



In 3:20-21 and 3:31-35 what shocks you about Jesus' response to his family calling him?



If Jesus is the authoritative King of chapter 1, why is he the rejected King in chapter 3?

# *Group Study*

# 6.

## The King's CROSS

---

Mark 15 : 33 - 39

---

*The readings and study this week will focus on the central aspect of Jesus' ministry: the cross. You will come to understand the Old Testament background to the cross, what was happening on the cross from God's perspective, the purpose for which Jesus died and what his death accomplished for all those who trust in him.*

## Mark 15:33-39

<sup>33</sup> At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. <sup>34</sup> And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*” — which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

<sup>35</sup> When some of those standing near heard this, they said, “Listen, he’s calling Elijah.”

<sup>36</sup> One man ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink. “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to take him down,” he said.

<sup>37</sup> With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

<sup>38</sup> The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. <sup>39</sup> And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, heard his cry and saw how he died, he said, “Surely this man was the Son of God!”

<sup>40</sup> Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome. <sup>41</sup> In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.

# Daily Reading



As a backdrop to Mark 15:33-39, read **Exodus 10:21-29**. What does darkness symbolise in the Bible?



Compare **Psalms 22:1, 16, 18** with Mark 15:34. What do you notice?



Why does Mark insert v.38 between v.37 and 39?



What is surprising about v.39?



Why do you think Jesus had to die?

# *Group Study*

# 7.

## The King's DEMANDS

---

Mark 8 : 27 - 38

---

*The readings and study this week will honestly reveal what it means to be a follower of Jesus. You will hear the merits of becoming his disciple, as well as the warnings for not doing so.*

## Mark 8:27-38

<sup>27</sup> Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, “Who do people say I am?”

<sup>28</sup> They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.”

<sup>29</sup> “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “You are the Christ.”

<sup>30</sup> Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

<sup>31</sup> He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

<sup>33</sup> But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.”

<sup>34</sup> Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. <sup>36</sup> What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? <sup>37</sup> Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? <sup>38</sup> If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”



# Daily Reading



Chapter 8:29 is the first time the disciples understand who Jesus is. What does 'Christ' mean?



What will happen to the Christ, according to 8:31. How does Peter respond?



What 3 things does Jesus say followers of him need to do, in 8:34?



What 3 reasons does Jesus give for following him in 8:35-38?



Are you ready to follow Jesus on his terms?

# *Group Study*

# 8.

## Two Ways to Live

---

### The Message of the Bible

---

*Having considered the central themes of Mark's Gospel, we will see how those themes fit in with the message of the Bible as a whole. God, the creator and loving ruler of the world set out to rescue rebellious humanity from the judgment of death by sending Jesus his Son to die, in their place, on the cross. The resurrection assures us that his ministry was successful, which means we have to decide whether we will submit to King Jesus or bear the consequence of our sin, ourselves.*

## God: the creator and loving ruler



*"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."*

**Revelation 4:11**

## Humanity in rebellion



*"There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away."*

**Romans 3:10-12**

## God gives us what we ask for



*"Man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment."*

**Hebrews 9:27**

## Jesus: the man who died for rebels



*"Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God."*

**1 Peter 3:18**

## Jesus: the risen ruler



*"In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."*

**1 Peter 1:3**

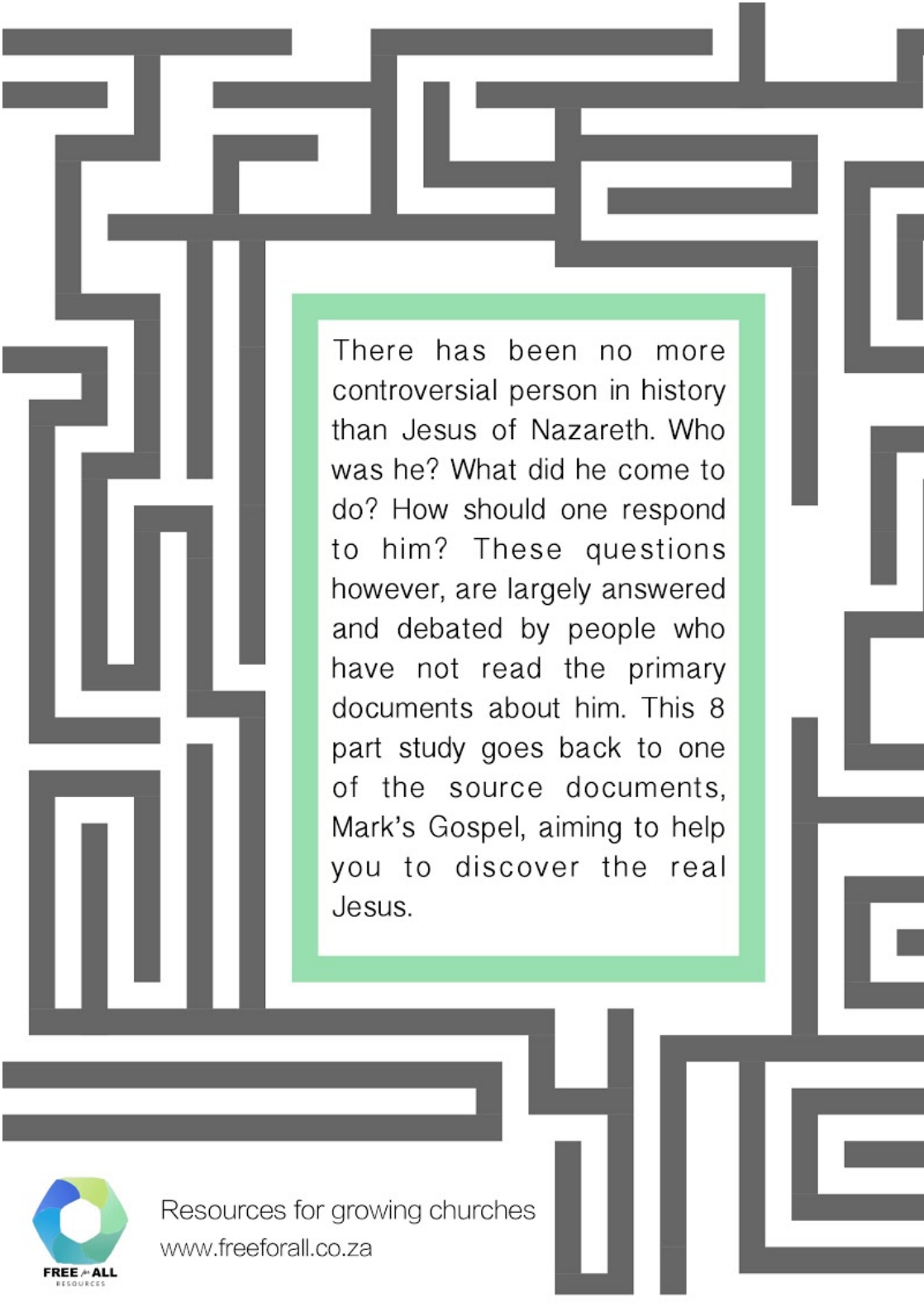
## Two ways to live



*"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but...*

*... whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."*

**John 3:36**



There has been no more controversial person in history than Jesus of Nazareth. Who was he? What did he come to do? How should one respond to him? These questions however, are largely answered and debated by people who have not read the primary documents about him. This 8 part study goes back to one of the source documents, Mark's Gospel, aiming to help you to discover the real Jesus.



Resources for growing churches  
[www.freeforall.co.za](http://www.freeforall.co.za)