



CHRISTIANITY|**EXPLORED**

WHAT'S THE BEST NEWS
YOU'VE EVER HEARD?

HANDBOOK

Christianity Explored Handbook (4th Edition)

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WELCOME TO CHRISTIANITY|**EXPLORED**

Over the next seven sessions we will explore three questions that cut right to the heart of Christianity: Who is Jesus? What did he achieve? How should we respond?

Don't be afraid to ask questions, no matter how simple or difficult you think they are. And if you have to miss a week, don't worry. There is a short summary of the previous session at the start of the next one.



SESSION 1

GOOD NEWS



EXPLORE

What's the best news you've ever heard?

 **LISTEN**

“The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ...”

(Mark 1:1)

- When we see the order and beauty of the world and the human body, the question is: Did this all happen by chance? Or did someone create it?
- The Bible says God is the One who created the universe we live in and the bodies we inhabit. So how can we know him?
- We can know what God is like by looking at Jesus Christ.
- Christianity is about Christ – a title that means “God’s only chosen King”.
- Christianity is the “gospel” – the good news – about Jesus Christ.
- When Jesus was baptized, God the Father announced, “You are my Son”.
- God has revealed himself in human history through Jesus Christ. When we look at Jesus, all the guessing games about God stop.

 **DISCUSS**

1. Is there anything that intrigues or puzzles you about Jesus?
2. How do you feel about reading Mark's Gospel?
3. If you could ask God one question, and you knew it would be answered, what would it be?

Bible words

Gospel: Good news.

Christ/Messiah: God's only chosen King, whom God promised to send into the world.

Prophet: God's messenger.

Baptism: Immersion in water as a symbol of turning from sin and being washed clean on the inside.

Repentance: A change of mind and purpose. Personally turning back to God.

Holy Spirit: There is one God in three Persons: God the Father, God the Son (that's Jesus) and God the Holy Spirit.

 **FOLLOW UP**

Each week you'll be exploring a few chapters of Mark. By the end of Session 6, you'll have read the whole of Mark's Gospel. Use the following questions to help you explore the passage. There's room at the end to write down any questions you'd like to discuss next time.

Read Mark 1:1-20

1. The word "gospel" means "good news". Mark begins his book of good news with three statements about Jesus:
 - a) by the Old Testament prophets (messengers) (Mark 1:2-3)
 - b) by John the Baptist (Mark 1:7)
 - c) by God himself (Mark 1:11)

What do they each say about Jesus?

a)

b)

c)

Read Mark 1:21 – 2:17

2. In chapters 1 and 2 Jesus shows his authority in different situations. (See Mark 1:16-20, 21-22, 23-28, 40-45; 2:1-12.)
When Jesus speaks or acts, what sorts of things happen?

Read Mark 2:18 – 3:6

3. Even at this early stage, Jesus divided opinions. Some people were amazed by him, while others were enraged.
What are your early impressions of Jesus?

Do you have any questions about Mark 1:1 – 3:6?