

discover starter pack

INSIDE: All about Jesus from Mark; God talk in Psalms

1 Find a time when you can read the Bible each day



2 Find a place where you can be quiet and think



3 Get your Bible and a pencil or pen



4 Ask God to help you understand what you read

6 Pray about what you have read and learned



5 Read today's Discover page and Bible bit



We want to...

- Explain the Bible clearly to you
- Help you enjoy your Bible
- Encourage you to turn to Jesus
- Help Christians follow Jesus

Discover stands for...

- Total commitment to God's Word, the Bible
- Total commitment to getting its message over to you

Discover Dudes & Dudettes

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How to use Discover

It's dead easy, honest!

Here at *Discover*, we want you at home to get the most out of reading the Bible. It's how God speaks to us today. And He's got loads of top things to say.

We use the *New International Version* (NIV) of the Bible. You'll find that the NIV and *New King James Version* are best for doing the puzzles in *Discover*.



The Bible has 66 different books in it. So if the notes say...

Read Mark 1 v 1

...turn to the *contents page* of your Bible and look down the list of books to see what page Mark begins on. Turn to that page.

'Mark 1 v 1' means you need to go to *chapter 1* of Mark, and then find *verse 1* of chapter 1 (the verse numbers are the *tiny ones*). Then jump in and read it!



Here are some other symbols you might come across...

weird words

Splookinchumps

These boxes explain baffling words or phrases we come across in the Bible.

think!



This box usually has a tricky personal question on what you've been reading about.

action!



Challenges you to put what you've read into action.

wow!



This box contains a gobsmacking fact that sums up what we've been reading about.

pray!



Gives you ideas for prayer. Prayer is talking to God. Don't be embarrassed! You can pray in your head if you want to. God still hears you!

Even if there isn't a **PRAY!** symbol, it's a good idea to pray about what you've read anyway.

Mark: All about Jesus

Mark 1 v 1
Day 1



Today we start reading an incredible book – *Mark*.

It's packed with amazing miracles, top teaching, and above all... **Jesus**.

But first, let's pray.

pray!

Ask God to help you understand what He has to say to you as you read Mark.

Ask Him to help you learn loads about Jesus, so that you become more like Him.

No prizes for guessing who wrote this book! But what was Mark writing about?

Read Mark 1 v 1 to find out

THE GOSPEL...

That means **good news**. Mark has things to tell us which are the best things anyone could hear!

...OF JESUS CHRIST

Most people switch off when they hear that name. But read the verse again – Jesus is the **Son of God!!!**

Do you want to know more about Him, the most important person in history?

Then stick with Mark as He tells us all about **Jesus**.



Use the wordsearch to find the 5 key phrases in Mark 1 v 1. Fill them in below the wordsearch and read what they mean.

E	N	G	T	T	O	L	S	S
T	K	V	S	Y	C	U	O	E
B	E	G	I	N	N	I	N	G
F	Q	O	R	S	K	F	O	Y
S	B	S	H	B	J	Z	F	R
H	N	P	C	J	P	M	G	A
A	J	E	S	U	S	D	O	V
X	H	L	P	D	C	R	D	L

B _____

A **new start**. Not only the start of the book of Mark, but also a new start for people who **turn to God**.

G _____

Good news worth getting excited about!

J _____

This name means '**God saves**'. Mark will tell us how God sent Jesus to earth to save people like us.

C _____

This means God's chosen **King** who would rescue His people.

S _____ **O** _____ **G** _____

God actually sent His **own Son** to earth! For us!

pray!



Dear God, thanks so much that Jesus is such good news!

Get the message?

Mark 1 v 2-8
Day 2



Would you listen to a scuffy bloke who ate insects and dressed like a tramp?

No? It's a good job you didn't meet John the Baptist then...

weird words

Prophet

God's messenger

Baptising

Dunking people in water to show they'd repented

Repentance

Turning away from sin and turning to God

Thongs

Like shoelaces

Read Mark 1 v 2-3

Wow! 700 years before Mark's book, God's messenger **Isaiah** said these words. Isaiah said that someone would prepare the way for Jesus. And here he is: **John the Baptist!**

Read verses 4-5

John knew the people weren't ready for King Jesus yet. They weren't living the way God wanted them to. *Cross out the Xs to show what John told them to do.*

XTU**X**R**X**N**A**X**X**W**A**X**Y**F**R**X
OX**X**M**S**I**X**N**A**X**X**N**D**X**B**E**X**
BA**X**X**P**X**T**X**I**X**X**X**S**E**D**X**X**

T _____

John **baptised** people in the River Jordan. Being baptised showed that they wanted to get rid of their sin, ready to welcome King Jesus.

Read verses 6-8

John's weird clothes and wild food showed that he was a **prophet**. That meant he was **God's messenger**. So we should to listen to what he said!

John said that Jesus was really powerful. *What else did John say about Jesus (v8)?*



IX**B**A**X**P**T**I**X**S**E**Y**X**O**U**W**I**X
XT**H**X**W**A**X**T**E**R**B**X**X**U**T**X
HE**W**X**I**X**L**L**X**B**A**X**X**P**T**I**X**S
EY**X**X**O**U**X**W**I**X**T**H**X**T**H**E**X**
HO**X**L**X**Y**X**X**S**P**X**I**X**R**I**X**T**X**X**

I B _____

wow!



John baptised people on the outside to show they'd turned away from sin. But Jesus would actually **FORGIVE** their sins. And He'd give them the Holy Spirit to help them live God's way. (More about the Holy Spirit tomorrow.)

pray!



Thank God that Jesus can forgive us and help us to stop sinning!

Dove from above

Mark 1 v 9-11

Day 3



John the Baptist prepared the way for King Jesus to come and rescue His people.

Now we get to meet Jesus for the first time...

weird words

Nazareth/ Galilee

These places are both in the country now called Israel

Jordan

Main river in the area

The Spirit Holy Spirit

Read Mark 1 v 9

John had been baptising loads of people. But Jesus was no ordinary person.

John baptised people who admitted they were sinful and needed to be forgiven. They turned away from their wrong ways.

But Jesus had **NEVER** done wrong. He had no reason to be forgiven. But Jesus was baptised to please God. It was all part of God's plan.

Next, God lets us know just how special and important Jesus is.

Read verse 10

and go back 1 letter (B=A, C=B, D=C) to describe what happened.

THE
T Q J S J U
D B N F E P X O
P O K F T V T
M J L F B
E P W F

Jesus had the Holy Spirit in Him, helping Him to serve God, His Father. The great news is that **ALL CHRISTIANS** have the Holy Spirit with them, helping them to live for God!



Read verse 11

God said

" Z P V B S F
N Z T P O
X J U I Z P V
J B N X F M M
Q M F B T F E

God loved His Son Jesus very much. Yet He sent Jesus to earth to rescue us from our lives full of sin! That shows how much God loves us too!

pray!



Thank God for loving us SO MUCH that he sent His Son Jesus to us.

4

Tempting offer

Mark 1 v 12-13

Day 4



Mark is giving us evidence that Jesus is the Christ – the King who God sent to rescue His people.

Well, who else could face this...

Read Mark 1 v 12-13

That's nearly 6 weeks! Do you think you'd survive in the hot and dangerous desert for 40 days without any food??? For Jesus, it was even worse than that...

Unjumble the anagrams to show who was with Jesus in the desert.

S _____
SANTA

That's the **devil**. Right from the start he was trying to defeat Jesus. Satan would try anything to stop Jesus from rescuing His people.

W _____ A _____
LIDW AMSNAIL

There were all sorts of nasty creatures in the desert that could have attacked Jesus...

A _____
SLANGE

...but angels looked after Him! God protected His Son.

Jesus didn't give in to the devil's temptations (check out **Matthew 4 v 1-11** for the full story). Later on in his book, Mark tells us about other ways Satan tried to defeat Jesus. But Satan will not stop God's plans.

The devil tempts all of us. He wants us to give in to sin and stop living God's way.

think!



In what ways does the devil tempt YOU to do wrong?

Don't get too down about it! We all give in to temptation sometimes, but it doesn't stop God from loving us. Check out this brilliant verse...

1 Corinthians 10 v 13 (Not sure how to find it? Go back 4 pages to 'How to use Discover')



pray!

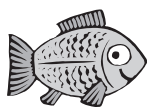


Talk to God about sins you're tempted by. Be honest. Ask Him to help you fight these things. And keep asking Him—it won't happen overnight.

Fisherman's friend

Mark 1 v 14-20

Day 5



Jesus survived 40 testing days in the desert being tempted by the devil.

Now Jesus is back in Galilee and He's got a few things to say...

weird words

Repent

Stop doing wrong stuff and start living God's way instead.

Read Mark 1 v 14-15

REPEN

THE GO

S NEAR

OD NEWS

F GOD I

LIEVE

GDOM O

T AND BE

THE KIN

Fit the **white** blocks together to reveal what Jesus said.

THE KIN

wow!



The kingdom of God isn't a place like Wales. It's Jesus ruling over all His people. All Christians are part of God's kingdom! The kingdom is near because Jesus the King has arrived.

Now sort out the **shaded** blocks.

REPEN

wow!



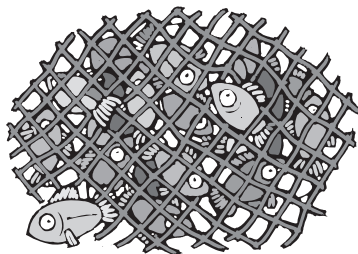
We need to **REPENT** (turn away from our sin) and **BELIEVE** the good news that Jesus can rescue us from sin. That's the only way to become part of God's Kingdom.

Now read verses 16-20

These guys repented (gave up their old way of life) and believed (followed Jesus). *What did Jesus say to them (v17)?*



That means telling people about Jesus the King, so they can start to follow Him too.



think!



BIG questions: Have **YOU** repented and turned your back on old sinful ways? Do **YOU** believe the good news about Jesus? Do **YOU** tell others about Him?

pray!



Tell God about your answers. Maybe you can talk to an older Christian about them too.

Spirit-splattering stuff

Mark 1 v 21-28

Day 6



Mark's still giving us evidence that Jesus is God's Son.

Let's follow Jesus into the synagogue.

weird words

Capernaum

Town on the edge of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus did loads of miracles there.

Sabbath

Jewish day of rest. Like Sunday.

Synagogue

Where people met to pray and learn from God's Word.

Read Mark 1 v 21-22

To find the first piece of evidence about Jesus, take **every 3rd letter** starting with the first **J**.

**J T A E H U S E T U S H S
P O T I R A R I U I T G T Y H K
O T N V W E E I W R T W E H
H V A O I U J L T E S H S P O
U I R S R I W I T A T Y S S**

1. J _____

The people couldn't believe their ears! Jesus' teaching wasn't the same as other people's. His teaching came **straight from God, His Father.**

wow!



We're so privileged. We get to read the words of Jesus Christ! We get teaching straight from God's Son! So keep listening to what He says in Mark's book.

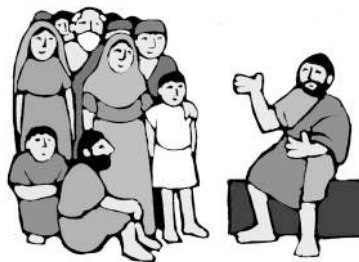
Read verses 23-24

Evil spirits are God's enemies and they often make people ill. But God is far more powerful than any evil spirit!

Now take every 3rd letter starting with the first **T**, to uncover the second piece of evidence.

2. T _____

The evil spirit called Jesus **the Holy One of God**. He knew that Jesus had been sent by God, so he was terrified.



Read verses 25-28

Now write down every 3rd letter beginning with the first **A**.

3. A _____

Jesus commanded the spirit to leave the man, and it did! Jesus was **in charge**. Nothing is more powerful than Jesus!

Are **YOU** as amazed by Jesus as these people were (v27)?

pray!



Thank Jesus that we can read His amazing teaching. And thank Him that NOTHING is more powerful than Him.

Fever pitch

Mark 1 v 29-34

Day 7



So far we've found out that Jesus is God's Son.

He's also an awesome teacher who has authority over people and power over evil spirits.

And that's not all...

weird words

Demon-possessed

People who had demons in them. Demons are evil spirits that cause people to be ill or do sinful stuff.

Ever been laid up in bed with a boiling temperature? It's a rotten feeling when you're as weak as a kitten and hotter than the Sahara desert.

Simon's mother-in-law had a nasty fever. And in those days a fever was often life-threatening.

Read Mark 1 v 29-31

Fill in the missing Es and As to reveal what happened.

J__sus w__nt up
to h__r, took h__r
h__nd __nd h__lp_d
h__r up. Th__ f__v__r
l__ft h__r __nd sh__
b__g_n to w__it on
th__m __g__in.

That's incredible! Jesus healed her **instantly**. No-one but Jesus could heal someone that quickly. In a second, she was well enough to get a meal for Jesus and His disciples.



A doctor like that was popular...

Read verses 32-34

This time fill in all the missing As and Ss.

Je__u__ he__led
m__ny who h__d
v__rious di__e__ses.
He __lso drove out
m__ny demon__.

JESUS HAS COMPLETE POWER OVER ILLNESS!

Hold on a minute!
Why wouldn't Jesus let the demons tell people who He was? (v34)?

It wasn't the right time for people to know who Jesus was. That He was the Rescuer who God had promised His people. That time would come later. God's timing is always perfect.

pray!

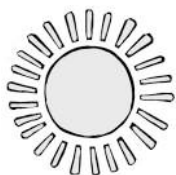


Jesus has power over illness! Think of someone you know who's ill. Pray that God will help them through this time and make them better.

Psalms: God talk



Psalm 19 v 1-6 Day 8



We're going to take a break from Mark's book...

...to check out two great psalms in the middle of the Bible.



weird words

Heavens

The sky

Glory of God

God's greatness

Proclaim

Shout out

Pavilion

House

Champion rejoicing

An athlete who loves to run

Psalms

Psalms are songs and prayers written to God. We're looking at two psalms that tell us about **HOW GOD SPEAKS TO US**. God mainly talks to us through His Word, the Bible. But reading the Bible isn't the only way we learn about God.

King David (who fought Goliath) wrote Psalm 19. In it he says that we can find out more about God just by looking up in the sky!



Read Psalm 19 v 1-4

What does the sky show us about God? Go back 1 letter to find out (B=A, C=B, D=C etc).

1.
H P E T

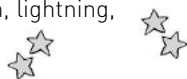
H M P S Z

2.
X I B U I F

I B T N B E F

Go outside or look out of the window. What does the sky look like right now?

God made all of that! It shows us how **amazing** He is. Sun, clouds, rain, stars, moon, lightning, **God made it all!**



wow!



Even people who don't read the Bible see what God has made! It doesn't matter if you're in Sheffield or Hawaii, the sky always shows us how great God is.

Read verses 4-6

The sun is a top picture of how great God is. It's millions of miles away, but it is sooooo bright and powerful. **God made the sun**, so imagine how much more powerful God is!

action!



Look up at the sky and praise God for how great and powerful He is! Maybe when you see the sun and stars you can tell others how great God is!

Word in your ear

Psalm 19 v 7-14 Day 9



Yesterday we saw how the sky shows us God's greatness.

weird words

Statutes/ precepts/ ordinances

God's commands to us in the Bible

Radiant

They shine and show us the right way to live

Righteous

Perfect

Wilful sins

Doing wrong stuff on purpose

Blameless

Right with God

Transgression

Sin. Disobeying God.

How else can we find out about God and learn from Him?

Read Psalm 19 v 7-11

and circle the words that appear in these verses.

law teachings
commands Luton statutes
herrings precepts rules
judgements ordinances
sporrans instructions

Some of them may be long and weird but they all describe something God wants all of us to understand.

They all mean **GOD'S WORD** — what God says to us. We read God's Word in **THE BIBLE**. So what is God's Word like?

Read verses 7-11 again

and fill in the vowels (aeiou) to find out what God's Word is like.

God Word is...

p__rf__ct (v7)

tr__stw__rthy (v7)

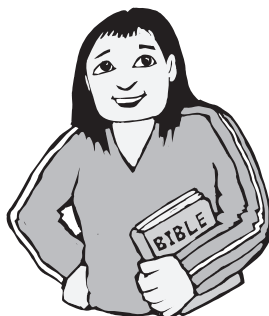
w__s__ (v7) r__ght (v8)

p__r__ (v9)

more precious than g__ld

and sw__t__r than

h__n__y (v10)



That sounds awesome!
We should read it more often!

Read verses 12-14

We don't always do what the Bible tells us. We often mess up. But we can do what King David did in these verses:

1. Say **SORRY** to God
2. Ask God to **FORGIVE** you
3. Ask God to **HELP** you to please Him with what you do and say

pray!



God's Word is perfect, pure, true, trustworthy and right. It gives joy to the heart, is more precious than gold and will last for ever!

Thank God for the Bible. Ask Him to help you understand it more and do what it says.

Blessed is best

Psalm 119 v 1-8
Day 10



We're delving into Psalms to find out how God speaks to us.



Remember any of the words for the *Bible* or *God's Word* that we discovered yesterday?

C__mm__nds
Pr__c__pts
L__w
St__t__t__s

Remembering them will come in handy as we jump forward 100 psalms to Psalm 119.

Which of these speech bubbles fits *YOU* best? Tick one.



I don't know much about the Bible.

I know what the Bible says but I don't do much about it.

I know what God says in the Bible and I want to live that way.

Read Psalm 119 v 1-3

What's the great news for people who obey God's Word?

They are b_____d

That means they are happy serving God and obeying Him. God also gives His people great things, far more than they could ever deserve.

Read verses 4-8

action!



If we want to obey God's Word (the Bible), we'll HATE doing what's wrong and LOVE following God's ways. But **WE NEED GOD'S HELP!!!**

Even when we really want to live God's way, we often mess up and let Him down. The psalm writer knew he couldn't obey God without HUGE help from God.

Flick forward in Psalm 119 to verses 33-35. Read through them several times. Now write them out on a sheet of paper. You might want to put them in your own words and maybe even turn it into a poster for your wall.



pray!



If you really want to live for God, pray the prayer you've just written down. Ask God to help you serve Him in everything you do.

weird words

Blameless

Godly. Not perfect, but living God's way.

Steadfast

Firm. Always obeying God.

Decrees

Commands

Utterly forsake me

Abandon me