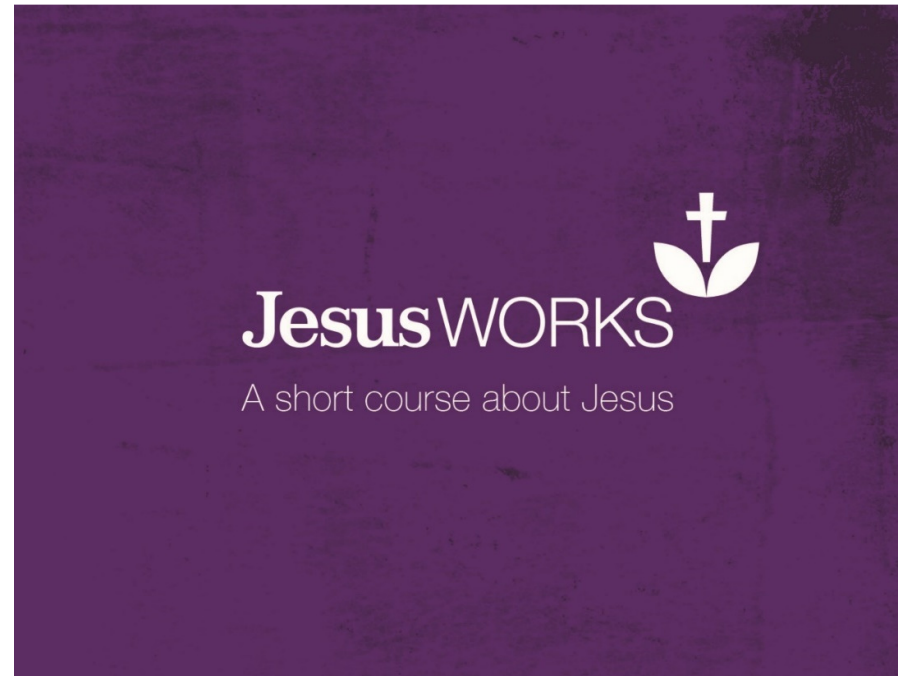


Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# Navigating the Bible

During this term, we will be reading from the Bible a fair amount, so it will be important to know how to navigate it.

**Contents Page:** In every Bible there is a contents page which tells you where each book of the Bible is located. This is usually found a couple pages before the first book of the Bible, 'Genesis'.

**Testaments:** The Bible has two testaments. The Old Testament (the first 3/4) and the New Testament (the last 1/4).

**Books:** The Bible consists of 66 books. The main book we will be looking at this term is Mark, but we will also be looking through other books to see how they relate. Some books like 1 Peter start with numbers to differentiate between books with the same title.

E.g. **Genesis** 2:7

**Chapters:** Each book is broken up into chapters. These are the large numbers. Some books have 1, others have over 50. These are usually used to break big idea's up.

E.g. Genesis 2:7

**Verses:** Within each chapter, there are little numbers (superscript) called verses. These are used to find specific sentences or paragraphs.

E.g. Genesis 2:7

## Appendix: Questions

[illegible]

*Living in the light*

**Bible:** Read John 3:16-21

**Question:** Why did God send Jesus?

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**Discussion:** Why will some people reject Jesus?

**Discussion:** Have you ever felt like you're not good enough to be a Christian?

**Discussion:** Does this passage put any restrictions on who can be a Christian? If so, what?

This almost concludes small groups for the term. To finish, we are going to reflect on the below question and then pray together.

**Reflection:** Do you want to be a Christian? If you already are, what have you gotten out of studying some of the fundamentals of Christianity this term?

**Sample Prayer:**

*Dear God,  
I thank you that even though I am small compared to everything you made, you love me and know me. I am sorry for turning away from you and for doing and thinking things that have made you sad. Please forgive me and help me to live your way and not mine.  
In Jesus' name I pray,  
Amen*

## Part 1:

# Jesus - Liar, Lunatic or Lord?

Week 1: Who is Jesus?

Week 2: What is the Bible?

## Week 1: Who is Jesus?

This term we will be looking at the basic life of Jesus, who he was, what he taught and what he did.

**Discussion:** C.S. Lewis argued that based on what the Bible says Jesus did he could only be one of three things. He's either a Lunatic, a Liar or Lord. Which one of these do you believe Jesus is?

This term, we will be spending most of our time in the book of Mark, where we will follow Jesus' life and understand the basics of what Christians believe.

### *The claims of Jesus*

**Activity:** Summarize the events in each of the seven passages, then identify the claim/s that either Jesus makes or are made about Him.

Mark Passage	Summary	Claim/s
1:9-13		
1:14-15		
1:29-34		
2:1-12		
2:23-28		
4:35-41		
5:37-43		

## Week 8: Do you want to be a Christian?

This is it, our final study for the term. We will spend today recapping what we have learnt this term as well as looking at just how much God and Jesus love us.

**Question:** What is something new you've learnt during small groups this term?

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Today we won't be looking at the book of Mark. Instead, we will look at the book of John, which is another account on Jesus' life.

### *Eternal life*

**Bible:** Read John 3:1-15

**Discussion:** Do you think Nicodemus had faith in Jesus? Why?

**Question:** What does Jesus mean when he says you must be 'born again'?

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**Question:** What does this passage tell us about Heaven?

---

**Question:** How do we enter the Kingdom of God?

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### *The response*

**Bible:** Read Luke 18:9-14

**Question:** How would you describe the Pharisee and tax collector?

Pharisee: \_\_\_\_\_

Tax collector: \_\_\_\_\_

**Discussion:** Did the tax collector think he was good enough to follow Jesus?

**Question:** What do the words ‘exalt’ and ‘humble’ mean?

Exalt: \_\_\_\_\_

Humble: \_\_\_\_\_

The study is almost over for this week. In our final study for the term, we are going to ask a personal question, ‘do you want to be a Christian?’.

**Discussion:** How should we approach God when we pray?

**Prayer Points:**

i) The talk/study: \_\_\_\_\_

ii) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### *What do the claims mean?*

**Discussion:** Which of these claims are the easiest for you to believe?

**Discussion:** Which of these claims are the hardest for you to believe?

**Question:** Based on the story so far, what do you think Jesus’ goal is on earth?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Question:** Based on what we have read, what is there that Jesus doesn’t have control over?

\_\_\_\_\_

Our study is almost done for this week. Next week we will look at what the Bible is and why it is important for Christians.

**Discussion:** After reading these passages and looking at Jesus’ claims, do you believe Jesus *was* LORD? Do you believe he *still* is LORD? Has your answer changed from the beginning of the study?

**Prayer Points:**

i) The talk/study: \_\_\_\_\_

ii) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Week 2: What is the Bible?

Last week we began to look at what Christianity is by starting with the question; ‘Who is Jesus?’. This week we will ask another important question; ‘What is the Bible?’.

**Discussion:** Brainstorm what words/stories come to mind when you hear the terms:

1. The Bible
2. The Gospel

For Christians, the Bible is much more than just a historical book. We are going to continue our exploration of the Bible by looking at the events it tells us about and then working out if it is reliable.

### *The timeline of the Bible*

**Activity:** The following events are all written about in the Bible. Number them from 1 to 9 according to the order that they happened.

Number	Event
	Israel exiled to Babylon
	Jesus will return
	Moses leaving Egypt
	The first Churches founded
	Israel returns to Jerusalem
	Creation
	Jesus’ life
	Israel conquers many nations
	Abraham and the promises

**Fun fact:**  
There are 66 books that make up the Bible. *The Old Testament* has 39 books while *The New Testament* has 27 books.

## Week 7: What is a Christian?

Over these final two studies we are going to look at what it means to be a Christian and then finish by asking if you want to be a Christian.

**Discussion:** In one sentence, what do you think Christianity is all about?

We will start by exploring what Jesus says it means to follow Him (i.e. to be a Christian). Then, we’ll look at how we can ask for God’s forgiveness.

### *The call*

**Bible:** Read Mark 8:34-9:1

**Discussion:** What do you think it means to take up your cross?

**Question:** What are the two ways of life described in this passage?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

**Discussion:** Which way of life is more appealing? Why?

**Discussion:** Why might someone be ashamed about Jesus?

**Discussion:** What is Jesus saying in Mark 9:1? Is He telling the truth?

## Part 4: The Next Step

Week 7: What is a Christian?

Week 8: Do you want to be a Christian?

*How do we know the Bible is reliable?*

**Bible:** Read 2 Peter 1:12-21

**Question:** Is the Bible something that only needs to be read once? Why?

---

**Discussion:** Based on the passage, do you think Christians should regularly read the Bible? Why?

**Question:** According to the passage, why is the Bible reliable?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Discussion:** What do you think prophecy is (c.f. Rev 19:10)? Does it still happen today?

This almost concludes the study for this week. The next couple of weeks we will start to look at the problem of sin and its solution.

**Discussion:** Do you believe the Bible is reliable? Is the Bible important to understanding who Jesus is?

**Prayer Points:**

- i) The talk/study: \_\_\_\_\_
- ii) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Part 2:

# Jesus and the Cross

Week 3: What is Sin?

Week 4: Why the Cross?

**Question:** How are Christians saved? What doesn't it involve?

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*New life*

**Bible:** Read 1 Peter 1:3-9

**Discussion:** Do you think this sounds like a good inheritance? Why?

**Question:** What are the consequences of the Resurrection? Are any of these negative?

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**Discussion:** Do you think the negative consequences outweigh, or are outweighed by, the positives? Why?

This concludes our time focusing on the Resurrection. In the next two studies we will focus more on what a 'Christian' is. Then we'll ask the question, 'do you want to be a Christian?'.

**Discussion:** In one sentence, explain why the Resurrection is so important.

**Prayer Points:**

i) The talk/study: \_\_\_\_\_

ii) Other: \_\_\_\_\_



## Week 6: How does the Resurrection relate to Life?

Last week, we began to unpack the big idea of the Resurrection and why it is important to Christianity.

**Discussion:** What are some beliefs people have about life after death?

This week we will be looking at the Resurrection again, but this time we'll be focusing on how it affects our relationship with God.

### *Death to life*

**Bible:** Read Ephesians 2:1-10

**Question:** How are unbelievers described? Why?

**Transgressions:**  
Acts that go against the law, or in this case, God.

**Activity:** In the table below, list how the Ephesians passage describes those 'alive with Christ' compared to those 'dead in transgressions'.

Alive with Christ NB: 'Alive with Christ' = Christian	Dead in Transgression

## Week 3: What is Sin?

Over the last two weeks we have looked at the Bible and how it points to Jesus. These next two weeks we will look at what sin is, how it is a major problem and if there is a solution to it.

**Discussion:** What has someone done to you this week that has hurt you?

**Discussion:** What have you done this week that has hurt someone else?

This week, we will continue to look at the book of Mark to discover the true meaning of sin and if Jesus could do anything about it.

### *What is sin?*

The Bible never explicitly defines sin (i.e. it never says "sin is..."). This is because 'sin' wasn't a complicated word when the Bible was written. So, to work out what 'sin' is we need to do a bit of digging.

**Bible:** Read Ephesians 4:25-31

**Question:** What words or phrases are used to explain sin?

**Discussion:** Which one of these do you find the hardest or most confronting? Why?

**Bible:** Read Mark 7:14-23

**Question:** What part of us is sinful?

---

**Discussion:** Does sin extend beyond human relationships? Where?

### *The solution to sin*

**Bible:** Read Mark 8:27-33

**Question:** What claim is made about Jesus?

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**Question:** What is going to happen to Jesus? What reason does he give as to why it must happen?

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**Fun fact:** Jesus doesn't just predict his death once, he does it three times. The others can be found in Mark 9:30-32 and 10:32-34.

Our study is almost done for the week. Next week we will look at Jesus, the Cross and how our sins can be taken away.

**Question:** Define sin. Is it something you should take seriously? Why?

---

### **Prayer Points:**

- i) The talk/study: \_\_\_\_\_
- ii) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### *The importance of the Resurrection*

**Bible:** Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-19

**Discussion:** What do you think the Gospel is?

**Question:** Summarise how Christians are saved.

---

**Question:** What did Jesus do after he rose from the dead?

---

**Question:** How important is the Resurrection to Christianity? If it never happened, what would it mean for Christians today?

---

**Discussion:** In verse 17 it says Christians would still be sin if Jesus had not been raised to life. Why would this be the case?

This week's study is almost done. Next week we will continue to look at the Resurrection and how it allows us to enter a good relationship with God.

**Discussion:** Before today how important did you think the Resurrection is to Christianity? What do you think now? Why?

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### **Prayer Points:**

- i) The talk/study: \_\_\_\_\_
- ii) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Week 5: Why the Resurrection?

Today and next week we are going to look at the Resurrection, and what that means for us today.

**Discussion:** In 30 seconds, name as many TV shows, movies or books as you can in which people have come back from the dead.

We will begin this study by looking at what Mark has to say about the Resurrection. Then, we will look at another book of the Bible which tells us more about the Resurrection.

### *Jesus raised to life*

**Bible:** Read Mark 16:1-8

**Discussion:** Why was it such a shock that the stone had been rolled away?

**Question:** Who do you think the man in the tomb was?

---

**Discussion:** How does it make you feel that Jesus was raised from death back to life? What is similar/different to the movies/TV shows/books you listed before?

#### **Resuscitation:**

Emergency procedure to bring a person back from the brink of death.

#### **Reincarnation:**

Dying and then returning in a new life form.

#### **Resurrection:**

Dying and returning to life again.

## Week 4: Why the Cross?

Last week, we explored what sin is. This week we will see why the cross is important for Christians and how it changes everything.

**Discussion:** What type of person would you be willing to die for?

---

To understand the significance of the cross, we will continue reading the book of Mark starting with the events before the Cross, then during.

### *Before the cross*

#### **Sanhedrin:**

the supreme court of the Jewish legal system, where the elders and Rabbis act as judges and make religious and legal decisions

**Bible:** Read Mark 14:53-65

**Question:** What did the Sanhedrin want to do with Jesus?

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**Question:** What evidence did the Sanhedrin find to punish Jesus?

---

**Discussion:** Do you think Jesus deserved these punishments?

**Discussion:** The Sanhedrin appears to want to punish Jesus. What might be their motivation? Do you think there are any hidden agendas?

**Question:** What 'blasphemy' was reported to have been said? Was it blasphemy?

---

### *At the cross*

**Bible:** Read Mark 15:21-32

**Discussion:** What thoughts and emotions do you have when you read this story?

**Question:** What was the charge against Jesus? Is it true?

---

**Discussion:** Jesus went through extreme physical and emotional pain. What do you think would be harder?

**Discussion:** If Jesus is so powerful, why didn't He take himself down from the cross?

**Bible:** Read 1 Peter 2:21-25

**Question:** Based on what we've looked at this term, why did Jesus die?

---

Our study is almost finished for the week. In two weeks, we will begin looking at what happened after the cross and why it makes Christianity different from other religions.

**Question:** Are you glad that Jesus died on the cross? Why?

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**Prayer Points:**

i) The talk/study: \_\_\_\_\_

ii) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Part 3: Jesus and His Resurrection

Week 5: Why the Resurrection?

Week 6: How does the Resurrection Relate to Life?