

Term 4 Growth Group
Evans Head Presbyterian Church

Mark's



Sandwich Passages

Introduction

For term 4 of 2009 we are going to be looking at a number of a passages in the Gospel of Mark. We are not going to work our way through the whole book but pick up on 6 passages that have been called "The Sandwich" passages of Mark. These passages have been identified as giving us a good picture of one of the main thrusts of Mark. That is, what does a follower of Jesus look like.

Mark's gospel is like a fast paced journey of the life and times of Jesus. Mark's gospel can be broken up in a number of ways but a simple way is to see it as 3 phases of a Journey:

- 1) The Journey in Galilee Ch 1-8:21
- 2) The Journey to Jerusalem Ch 8:27-10:45
- 3) The Journey in Jerusalem Ch 11 - 16:8

As you read through Mark you will see that the first phase is a fast paced overview with the word "immediately" used 30 times and it covers more than 2 years of Jesus life. The last two phases slow down and cover the last couple of months of Jesus life. With in all these sections you will see themes of discipleship from discernment in the first phase, to acceptance or rejection in the middle and finally faithfulness in the last. We will be looking a parts of each section as the "sandwich" passages are spread over each section.

It is also good to know that Mark's gospel was probably the first gospel written, around 60 -70AD. It was probably written by Mark who was a close friend of Peter's and the gospel probably is a written account of Peter's eye witness account of the life of Jesus. The gospel was probably written to Christians in Rome and Italy who were being persecuted by Nero the roman emperor who blamed Christians for the great fire of Rome and started to kill and persecute them. Therefore you can see throughout Mark how he is trying to encourage them and strengthen them as he shows that Jesus life was one of struggle but faithfulness, for them to see that a disciple of Jesus is not an easy path but the right path.

You might be thinking at this point "yes but what do you mean by a sandwich passage" Good question. A sandwich passage is one that starts out with a situation or scene (an outer story) then is interrupted by a new scene or situation (the inner story) and then comes back to the outer story and where the whole passage has one main theme. One main message about what a disciple of Jesus looks like. We will be looking at 5 of them. We have 2 other studies in this series on from 1 John 4 (week of the Blokes camp) and a passage from Mark 8 that is the critical turning point in Mark. I pray that these studies will be a wonderful time of God doing a mighty work in your life.

For all the sandwich passages the main part of the study will be based around filling out a table. In filling out the table it will help you answer the questions:

What does the text actually say?

What does the text mean?

The rest of the study will be looking at what questions or thoughts that were raised out of the passage and the table and then look at how do we apply that to our lives. Which will enable us to answer the question:

How do we respond to the text?

Passage	Setting	Characters	Plot	Theology/Main Point
Outer: Inner: Outer				

Passage: Place in here the passage looked at and then break it up into the 3 parts of the passage, Outer story x2 and Inner Story

Setting: Where is this passage happening

Characters: Who are involved

Plot: What is happening in this passage

Theology/Main Point: What is the main point of the passage, what does it teach us about being a follower of Jesus

Study 1

Jesus Family: Mark 3:20-35

1) Read through the passage and fill out the following table

Passage	Setting	Characters	Plot	Theology/Main Point
Mark 3:20-35 Outer: 20-21 Inner: 22-30 Outer: 31-35	In a house, sitting after being followed by lots of people and a crowd in the house and teachers of the law are their	Jesus, disciples, followers, Jesus mother and brothers, teachers of the law	Accusations flying around and the issue of family	The disciple the one inside with Jesus is the one that does God's will

2) Share with each other your completed table.

3) Write out any questions that arise from the passage or the table and then work through answering them together.

- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)

4) From this passage what does being part of Jesus family look like?

5) What does this mean for your life? (Take into account the main point)

6) What is your response to this passage? (Try to have at least one practical application for your life specifically)

Growing in Relationship:

Share how your week has gone, how have your times with God been going, have you had any opportunities to share Jesus with people, how is your prayer life going?

Growing through Prayer:

From the study and what you have shared about your week spend time praying with each other.

Pray for the bloke's camp

Study 2

God's Love: 1 John 4:7-21

1) At home read through 1 John 4:7-21 and then write out the passage in your own words below:

2) Read out your paraphrase to your growth group

3) What was more clear to you after your own paraphrase?

4) What was more clear to you after listening to other peoples paraphrase?

5) Write out any questions that arise from the passage or the paraphrases and then work through answering them together.

a)

b)

c)

d)

6) What is the main point of the passage?

7) How does the passage shape how we think about love?

8) List how we can show our love to God?

9) List how we can show Godly love to each other?

10) Put in place an action plan on how you are going to show Godly love to a couple of specific people.

Growing in Relationship:

Share how your week has gone, how have your times with God been going, have you had any opportunities to share Jesus with people, how is your prayer life going?

Growing through Prayer:

From the study and what you have shared about your week spend time praying with each other.

Pray for your missionary:

Study 3

Mark 5:21-43

1) Read through the passage and fill out the following table

Passage	Setting	Characters	Plot	Theology/Main Point
Mark 3:20-35 Outer: Inner: Outer				Fearless Faith, willing to step out of your comfort zone

2) Share with each other your completed table.

3) Write out any questions that arise from the passage or the table and then work through answering them together.

- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)

4) What does fearless faith look like today?

5) What does it look like for you?

6) What can give you confidence when you are not feeling fearless?

(look for passages in the bible that can encourage you)

Growing in Relationship:

Share how your week has gone, how have your times with God been going, have you had any opportunities to share Jesus with people, how is your prayer life going?

Growing through Prayer:

From the study and what you have shared about your week spend time praying with each other.

Pray for our church family

Study 4

Mark 6:7-32

1) Read through the passage and fill out the following table

Passage	Setting	Characters	Plot	Theology/Main Point
Mark 3:20-35 Outer: Inner: Outer				Following Jesus is one of great cost.

2) Share with each other your completed table.

3) Write out any questions that arise from the passage or the table and then work through answering them together.

a)

b)

c)

d)

4) What does this mean for your life? (Take into account the main point)

5) What is your response to this passage? (Try to have at least one practical application for your life specifically)

Growing in Relationship:

Share how your week has gone, how have your times with God been going, have you had any opportunities to share Jesus with people, how is your prayer life going?

Growing through Prayer:

From the study and what you have shared about your week spend time praying with each other.

Pray for other churches in our area:

Study 5

Mark 8 -11

This part of the study is going to be a little different as it looks at the 2 phase of Marks gospel, the journey to Jerusalem. (see intro). For this stud we are going to do it a little bit differently. We are going to cover a larger section to gather more of a bird's eye view of what is happening. It will help us to see how the whole gospel fits together.

1) We are going to break the section up into 5 parts and we will allocate pairs or individuals, depending on the size of the group, to each section. The sections are:

Mark 8:27- 9:1, Mark 9:2-32, Mark 9:33-50, Mark 10:1-45 and Mark 10:46-11:11

Then we want you to answer the 3 following questions for your section:(fill them out for your section)

Passage:

a) Where were the disciples and Jesus?

b) What did Jesus teach?

c) What did the disciples learn?

2) Have each person report back what they found.

3) List all the places mentioned the passage

4) Write out any questions that arise from the passages and then work through answering them together.

a)

b)

c)

d)

5) Summarise Jesus teaching through this section.

6) What difference does this teaching make to the disciples?

7) What difference does it make to us?

8) What will you do differently as a result of this passage?

Growing in Relationship:

Share how your week has gone, how have your times with God been going, have you had any opportunities to share Jesus with people, how is your prayer life going?

Growing through Prayer:

From the study and what you have shared about your week spend time praying with each other.

Study 6

Mark 11:12-25

1) Read through the passage and fill out the following table

Passage	Setting	Characters	Plot	Theology/Main Point
Mark 3:20-35 Outer: Inner: Outer				Faithless institutions will perish, have faith in the one who will not perish.

2) Share with each other your completed table.

3) Write out any questions that arise from the passage or the table and then work through answering them together.

a)

b)

c)

d)

4) What does this mean for your life? (Take into account the main point)

5) What is your response to this passage? (Try to have at least one practical application for your life specifically)

Growing in Relationship:

Share how your week has gone, how have your times with God been going, have you had any opportunities to share Jesus with people, how is your prayer life going?

Growing through Prayer:

From the study and what you have shared about your week spend time praying with each other.

Pray for others who are attached to your Growth Group, and the Connect Youth Camp

Study 7

Mark 14:1-11

1) Read through the passage and fill out the following table

Passage	Setting	Characters	Plot	Theology/Main Point
Mark 3:20-35 Outer: Inner: Outer				Following Jesus calls for extravagant and excessive devotion

2) Share with each other your completed table.

3) Write out any questions that arise from the passage or the table and then work through answering them together.

- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)

4) What does this mean for your life? (Take into account the main point)

5) What is your response to this passage? (Try to have at least one practical application for your life specifically)

Growing in Relationship:

Share how your week has gone, how have your times with God been going, have you had any opportunities to share Jesus with people, how is your prayer life going?

Growing through Prayer:

From the study and what you have shared about your week, spend time praying with each other.

Pray for the Christmas Services and Carol's nights

Note: This is our last study for the year, please plan to have an end of year party with your group and invite those people who are connected to your group through pastoral care groups.