

# STUDY GUIDE



Term 1 2025



# Welcome.

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Welcome to Term 1 2025!

In Romans 10:9 Paul writes...

*If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

"Jesus is Lord"! It's the Christian confession. Yet perhaps we're so familiar with it, we forget its weightiness. To declare "Jesus is Lord" is to acknowledge that we are not. It's to confess that he has authority over every aspect of life. We often struggle with that.

In Term 1, we're picking up Mark's gospel where we left it last year - we'll be looking at Mark 11-16. These chapters focus our attention on the authority of Jesus, and the sinful human instinct to reject his authority. Tension between Jesus and the religious leaders is rising. And through their interactions, Mark skilfully challenges our heart attitudes towards Jesus' authority.

We don't often enjoy submitting to the authority of another. Australians are particularly suspicious of those with great power. Yet the surprising and exhilarating thing about Jesus is that although he is the most powerful person to ever live, he uses his power to serve. Jesus is Lord, yet his Lordship is expressed in him laying down his life for ours. We look forward to exploring this in the term ahead.

If you're not in a Home Group, I encourage you to sign up at:

<https://redlands.org.au/members/home-groups>.

Keep your ears open for a number of other events coming up this term. There's our annual Women's Breakfast in February, the Redlands Youth Summit Camp, and The Men's Conference which is an event for Christian men from all of SE Queensland.

## **VISION.**

This year we also want to get busy working toward our vision. Our vision is to...

*Become a church that grows resilient followers of Jesus, walking the path toward counter-cultural Christian maturity, through sustainable Christ-centred ministries*

To that end, two key goals we want to work on this year are...

1. Praying more deeply and more often
2. Greater reach into Redlands region and beyond with Jesus' gospel and love
3. More people belonging to small groups and intentional relationships that deepen our discipleship to Jesus and relationships with others

Please be praying for us as we work on this together. Listen out also for ways to get involved in the year ahead.

In Christ, Sam, Jen, and Josh

## **Term 1 Dates.**

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<b>31 January</b>	Redlands Youth Kick Off
<b>2 February</b>	Kids Church Kick Off
<b>3 February</b>	Home Groups Kick Off
<b>23 February</b>	PresSafe Leader Training (in person)
<b>2 March</b>	Lord's Supper / Newcomers Lunch
<b>22 March</b>	Annual Congregational Meeting
<b>4-6 April</b>	Youth Summit Camp
<b>18 April</b>	Good Friday / Lord's Supper
<b>20 April</b>	Easter Sunday

### **Term 2 date claimer**

24 May	Women's Teaching Day "Jesus and My Messy Life" Speaker - Clare Deeves
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# Missions Update.

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Spotlight on our AFES university ministry partners

## **Tim & Jeanne Iedema, with Evita, Grace, Anna & Lydia**

AFES FOCUS at the University of Southern Queensland  
(UniSQ) Toowoomba



### **An Interview with Tim:**

*Q: How long were you working with AFES FOCUS at QUT?*

T: Initially we only planned to be working for one year but ended up serving there for 7 years.

*Q: What has prompted your move to work with AFES FOCUS at UniSQ?*

T: A number of factors. We first started thinking about it as Jeanne's parents are getting older and need some more support. As we explored ministry options with the AFES team up in Toowoomba, we realised that there are some great opportunities to be reaching international students (and other migrants) in this growing regional city.

*Q: What are some things that you and the girls are finding hard about the move to Toowoomba?*

T: We have loved living in the Redlands with family and leaving them and the QUT Christians ministry is really hard. In some ways we know a bit about what to expect in Toowoomba, but there are so many unknowns too. Everything is a new beginning - school, church, neighbourhood, ministry team.

*Q: What are some things that you are looking forward to about the move?*

T: We look forward to everything being geographically closer - home, school, church, uni. We hope this means we can share more quality time with people around God's Word and look forward to being able to serve together more as a family.

*Q: Describe in a few words what UniSQ Toowoomba is like?*

T: Toowoomba is the main campus for UniSQ. There's a range of different courses but popular ones for international students are nursing, engineering, and IT. About 20% of students on campus are international students. Many of these international students come from South Asian countries like India. You can imagine how different it is for someone from bustling India (where nothing ever stops) to live in quiet Toowoomba (where everything closes early).

*Q: Tell us some things about the UniSQ FOCUS group that you will be leading?*

T: FOCUS is the international student ministry of UniSQ Christian Students, the AFES group on campus. It was started two years ago by a UniSQ ministry apprentice, who has since gone on to study at Bible college. It has had a really positive start, including a number of students who became Christians last year. It's still small but has students from India, Bangladesh, Taiwan, and Papua New Guinea. The main weekly gathering is Thursday nights and there are lots of other opportunities for discipleship and training throughout the week.

I look forward to working with the existing students to help equip them to share Jesus with their classmates and grow as disciple-making disciples.

*Q: How can we pray for you and your family and the new ministry?*

T: Please pray for:

- A good start to relationships with the existing AFES UniSQ staff team and students.
- That existing FOCUS students will be able to get behind the vision of reaching the nations and that they will grow as faithful leaders to the younger students.
- Our kids as they settle into a new school - that they will form friendships.
- Pray that as a family we grow in our faith through this move and that we make the most of gospel opportunities in these new contexts.

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### **Chris & Kate Brown, with Erin**

AFES at Griffith University, multi-campus across Brisbane.

A special way to ring in the new year:

Erin Brown was born on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025!

Congratulations to Chris and Kate. Kate will be on maternity leave this year.

Pray for:

- Chris as he serves Griffith Christians solo. (His co-staff workers moved to Armidale.)
- For both of them as they settle into parenthood.
- For Erin to grow up knowing, loving and following Jesus.



## Mark...The Story So Far.

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It's been a while since we began our journey in Mark's gospel, so here's a brief recap.

Mark is all about Jesus, the true King. He bursts onto the scene in Mark 1, easily defeating evil spirits, healing sickness, calling people to follow him and even beating Satan. This pales beside his claim in chapter 2: that he can forgive sins, which he proves by raising the paralysed man. This means that he is no less than God himself. He continues to show his authority through his teaching and miracles as he journeys, followed by huge crowds.

Yet, this tremendous power that Jesus shows is not spent on self-promotion. Early on, he seems intent on keeping himself a secret, but his concern for people and their suffering as he has compassion on them moves him to exhausting miracle sessions. He is kind to sufferers: the important people who come asking for miracles through to the many 'nameless' people in Mark. His healing ministry is characterised by generosity and a willingness to engage with people from all ages and walks of life.

Jesus selects disciples early in his ministry and they journey with him. The miracles and teachings are there to enable their faith in him, the true Messiah, to grow. His teachings show what kind of king he will be and what his kingdom is like. Sometimes they seem to understand, but other times, they seem unable to understand who he is. Jesus continues to be patient with them, explaining who he is and what will happen to him multiple times. He warns his disciples that those who follow him must walk the same path of self-sacrifice that he is walking, and that they are not to seek greatness, just as Jesus came to serve others by dying for them.

It doesn't take long for him to attract deep opposition. Indeed, early in the book the Herodians and the Pharisees - the bitterest of enemies - unite to plot his death. This conflict grows as the book continues. Jesus does not seem to dampen it down but uses each occasion to teach them something (if they could only listen!). He offends them as he heals on the Sabbath, teaches what they do not want to hear (for example Mark 10) and exposes their sin. As we enter Mark 11, they have been appalled at the crowds' reception of Jesus as the Messiah. They are beside themselves as they see his increasing influence and authority over the crowds and their determination to do away with him has reached a fever pitch. As we pick up the story we will see their fury in the way they try to catch him out in his answers and finally as they concoct a plot to have Judas betray him.

The opposition of these folk to the Lord Jesus does not deter him, nor does he seem dismayed or upset by it. Throughout the book of Mark, he relentlessly speaks truth to them, both about who he is and what they are doing by rejecting him.

As we enter Jerusalem with Jesus in Mark 11, we know so much about him. He knows he will be handed over to the Gentiles, mocked and beaten, unjustly tried and crucified. He also knows he will rise again. We know that Jesus knows this will happen soon and in Jerusalem, so as we see him enter Jerusalem we know what will happen next, and we know that he knows. His courage is remarkable.

We also know that Jesus is always in charge of things. We have seen this time and again through the gospel. He always seems to win the arguments. He is in control of nature, sickness and evil spirits. He has authority to forgive sins. As we move through Mark 11 and the following chapters, we will see that power wielded constantly, but always with generosity and honesty. Whether teaching his own or putting his opponents in their place Jesus is constantly inviting everyone to trust in him as their true Messiah King.



# Study 1

Mark 11:27-12:12

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**Extra intro question:**

Quickly skim read through Mark 11:1-26. What happened? Who was for Jesus? Who was against Jesus? What did Jesus say just before verse 27? (verse 22-26)

1. What stands out to you?
2. What surprises you?
3. What do you agree with?
4. What do you find hard?
5. Have you read something similar before?
6. What have you learned about Jesus through this passage? How does this passage help you love and follow Jesus more?

7. What do I want to do differently? Are there attitudes and thoughts you have about Jesus that might need adjusting? Is your view of Jesus big enough?

**Application questions:**

8. Jesus spoke the truth about themselves to the chief priests and the teachers of the law and they knew it (verse 12a). How should they have responded to God's word to them? How are you encouraged by God's patience towards us? What does this mean for you as you engage with God's word?
9. Jesus is fearless in the face of opposition and speaks about his own death at the hands of people who hate him with such courage. How do you want to respond to that? How might remembering this regularly make a difference to your life?
10. What does it mean to you that Jesus is not just smarter than you, but that he is smarter than everyone you meet (even those who have an answer for everything!)? What difference does this make to you as you engage with your non-Christian family and friends?
11. Who can I share something with and how?

## Study 2

Mark 12:13-40

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1. What stands out to you?
2. What surprises you?
3. What do you agree with?
4. What do you find hard?
5. Have you read something similar before?
6. What have you learned about Jesus through this passage? How does this passage help you love and follow Jesus more?
7. What do I want to do differently? Are there attitudes and thoughts you have about Jesus that might need adjusting? Is your view of Jesus big enough?

### **Application questions:**

8. Compare the different motives behind the people who asked Jesus questions in our passage. What does this tell us about his patience? Are there any things that Jesus seemed to do with everyone who asked questions? How did he deal with those who seemed more genuine?
  
9. What does it mean to you that there is a bodily resurrection?
  
10. Who owns us, according to Jesus' words in Mark 12:13-17? What does this mean to you?
  
11. Who can I share something with and how?

## Study 3

Mark 12:41-13:37

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1. What stands out to you?
2. What surprises you?
3. What do you agree with?
4. What do you find hard?
5. Have you read something similar before?
6. What have you learned about Jesus through this passage? How does this passage help you love and follow Jesus more?
7. What do I want to do differently? Are there attitudes and thoughts you have about Jesus that might need adjusting? Is your view of Jesus big enough?

**Application questions:**

8. What does it mean to you that Jesus could recognise how great a sacrifice the poor widow made in Mark 12:43-44?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. How does Jesus' knowledge of the future comfort and encourage you in your daily life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. What direct instructions did Jesus give as he unpacked the future? (Mark 13:33-37). What do these instructions mean for us today?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. Who can I share something with and how?

## Study 4

Mark 14:1-11

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1. What stands out to you?
2. What surprises you?
3. What do you agree with?
4. What do you find hard?
5. Have you read something similar before?
6. What have you learned about Jesus through this passage? How does this passage help you love and follow Jesus more?
7. What do I want to do differently? Are there attitudes and thoughts you have about Jesus that might need adjusting? Is your view of Jesus big enough?

**Application questions:**

8. Compare how the woman with the perfume and Judas Iscariot responded to Jesus. How can you imitate the woman in your everyday life?
  
9. We are often pragmatic and think about how to use our resources strategically. This is wise. But how does this passage show that Jesus can rearrange our financial priorities?
  
10. Compare the attitudes of the chief priests (14:1-2) and Jesus' (14:8-9) to his future death. How do you want to respond to Jesus' confidence and courage?
  
11. Who can I share something with and how?



## Study 5

Mark 14:12-26

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1. What stands out to you?
2. What surprises you?
3. What do you agree with?
4. What do you find hard?
5. Have you read something similar before?
6. What have you learned about Jesus through this passage? How does this passage help you love and follow Jesus more?
7. What do I want to do differently? Are there attitudes and thoughts you have about Jesus that might need adjusting? Is your view of Jesus big enough?

**Application questions:**

8. How does 14:12-16 add to our confidence that Jesus knew exactly what would happen to him? Why does this matter to us today?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Why does Jesus say 14:21? How does this help us to understand Judas' knowledge of what he was doing when he betrayed Jesus?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. How does this retelling of the first Lord's Supper help you as you prepare to take the Lord's Supper in church with your fellow Christians?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. Who can I share something with and how?

## Study 6

Mark 14:27-52

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1. What stands out to you?
2. What surprises you?
3. What do you agree with?
4. What do you find hard?
5. Have you read something similar before?
6. What have you learned about Jesus through this passage? How does this passage help you love and follow Jesus more?
7. What do I want to do differently? Are there attitudes and thoughts you have about Jesus that might need adjusting? Is your view of Jesus big enough?

**Application questions:**

8. Describe the ways that Jesus is let down by his closest friends and disciples in this passage, and Jesus' responses to them. How does this encourage and challenge us, as his followers today?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. What can we learn about prayer from Jesus' prayer in the garden of Gethsemane?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. How does Jesus' pointing forward to his resurrection help us to have confidence in him today?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. Who can I share something with and how?

## Study 7

Mark 14:53-15:15

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1. What stands out to you?
2. What surprises you?
3. What do you agree with?
4. What do you find hard?
5. Have you read something similar before?
6. What have you learned about Jesus through this passage? How does this passage help you love and follow Jesus more?
7. What do I want to do differently? Are there attitudes and thoughts you have about Jesus that might need adjusting? Is your view of Jesus big enough?

### **Application questions:**

8. What do you think of Jesus' determination to tell the truth about himself, even when he knew the hatred of the reaction? How does that give us courage today? How can that help us practically when we feel under fire for loving Jesus?
  
9. Why might Peter's denial get worse each time? What can we learn from that for ourselves and our desire to protect ourselves? How do Jesus' words affect him? What can we learn from that?
  
10. What can we learn as followers of Jesus about responding to suffering, as we reflect on his response to his suffering throughout his betrayal and trial?
  
11. Who can I share something with and how?

## Study 8

Mark 15:16-39

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1. What stands out to you?
2. What surprises you?
3. What do you agree with?
4. What do you find hard?
5. Have you read something similar before?
6. What have you learned about Jesus through this passage? How does this passage help you love and follow Jesus more?
7. What do I want to do differently? Are there attitudes and thoughts you have about Jesus that might need adjusting? Is your view of Jesus big enough?

**Application questions:**

8. In contrast to the people in Mark 15, and to many people in our own day and age, how would you like to live more like Jesus is true King in your daily life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. What do you make of Jesus' words in verse 34? How do you want to respond to Jesus' death for you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. Reflect on the centurion's realisation that Jesus is the Son of God. How did he reach this conclusion? Why might other's have not reached this conclusion?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. Who can I share something with and how?



## Study 9

Mark 15:40-16:8

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1. What stands out to you?
2. What surprises you?
3. What do you agree with?
4. What do you find hard?
5. Have you read something similar before?
6. What have you learned about Jesus through this passage? How does this passage help you love and follow Jesus more?
7. What do I want to do differently? Are there attitudes and thoughts you have about Jesus that might need adjusting? Is your view of Jesus big enough?

**Application questions:**

8. How do we know for sure that Jesus is alive from this passage? What other useful details do the other gospels contribute?
  
9. Why is it important that Jesus rose again?
  
10. What one or two things do you want to always remember from these studies? Or, what one or two things do you want to do differently as a result of these studies?
  
11. Who can I share something with and how?



