



CHRISTIANITY|**EXPLORED**

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

HANDBOOK

Christianity Explored Handbook (4th Edition)

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Blenheim House, 1 Blenheim Road, Epsom, Surrey, KT19 9AP, UK
Tel: 0333 123 0880; International: +44 (0) 208 942 0880
Email: info@thegoodbook.co.uk

Websites:

UK and Europe: www.thegoodbook.co.uk
North America: www.thegoodbook.com
Australia: www.thegoodbook.com.au
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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.

 **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?