

Rediscovering Jesus – Mark 4:35-41

Sunday 11 October 2020

Before You Begin

Our hope is that this is a resource that will help us to engage meaningfully with God's word and invite us into a sense of worship, despite being unable to meet face-to-face. Use it in a way that feels comfortable and helpful to you.

A table of contents has been added to give you a sense of what will follow and allow you to move more easily through the worship elements.

Prepare

Have your Bible close by and some food and drink prepared for communion. It doesn't have to be bread and grape juice; it could be whatever is available (tea and a biscuit) to use in this symbolic time.

Get into a 'Sacred' Space

Be intentional. Sit somewhere. Have some visual representation of God (perhaps a small cross, your Bible, a symbol or image) or you might play some reflective music. Start with a few moments of silence and deep breathing.

Consider your environment

What will work for you in the space you have? If you have others in your house (housemates/family), consider sharing this time with them, each reading or participating as appropriate. You might simply reflect individually, in your own time and space. Afterwards, you might connect with others through technology to share your reflections, or an encouragement, with them.



Rediscovering *Jesus*

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On a computer, you can click these links

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Call to Worship

Cam Moss

Hello everyone.

Welcome to worship for this week. We're going to be having a youth perspective on things this week so get ready to Rediscover Jesus and what that means for you. First, I just wanted to say that the James series we've been working through has been a really encouraging series. I really enjoyed the panel discussion we had last week with Kaye, Deb, Ken and the Moody family as well. Thank you so much everyone. A big shout out to Daniel Moody as well, loved your contribution mate. It was so cool to hear the different stories, like how the Moody family especially were able to make a positive difference in the lives of other people, in the midst of this global pandemic that we are all in.

I've loved seeing these little expressions of community and people sharing love with each other. I don't know if anyone else has seen these little Spoonville Villages that are popping up around? There's one near my house. You walk past them on walking tracks or ovals and people decorate the little spoons and put them down. It's so cool to see those little expressions of people still actually interacting with each other as community. If I see a cool one I always try to take a photo and send it up to my little brother in Queensland because it's such a nice way to say, "oh! we're all connected with people just because we can't be all gathering together right now. We can still actually do these connection things." I've been really encouraged to think about what we can be doing as a church community and actually continuing to reach out and connect with others in our community as well.

Speaking about making a difference in the lives of others, what about Safe Water September? It's now officially October and I can have a cup of tea. We have raised so much money. It is fantastic the lives we have been able to change because of Safe Water September. Last time I checked we have raised \$16,170 as a church community. Doing the maths on that, it's now 808 people who we have now provided with life-changing access to safe water. Thinking about our lives at the moment, we've been so conscious of washing our hands all the time, making sure we're clean, making sure we're showering and everything's clean. When I think about rural Zimbabwe and Vanuatu, these people just simply don't have access to the things like this that we take for granted. I've been so encouraged to see the massive difference that not only our community, but everyone who's got involved in Safe Water September, has been able to do in the lives of other people. Because at the end of the day, everyone deserves safe water. So, massive shout out to everyone who has taken on the challenge, thank you to all of those who have donated, all of those who have encouraged and thank you to those who have been praying for everyone involved. I've really appreciated the awesome sense of community that we've had. It's been so wonderful.

Before we start today, I'm actually going to do an activity with you. I invite you to join me on a bit of a scavenger hunt. I want you to pause for a moment and have a think about how you are feeling at the moment? I'd like you to go and grab an object if you can, or just think about it, if finding an object is not an option. See if you can come back with an object that reflects how you are feeling right now.



Photo by [Henry Becker](#) on [Unsplash](#)

I've chosen a car to represent how I'm feeling. I've been so encouraged by Safe Water September and feeling so encouraged by the difference that we are making in other people's lives. I'm feeling a little bit *driven* to continue to make a difference in the lives of others.

So thinking ahead to term 4, I also work as a school chaplain and I'm really looking forward to connecting in with some students and hearing how holidays have been. Talking with some older students as we get closer to exams and just journeying with them in that space. And with our youth as well, thinking about how we are going to continue to navigate term 4 together as a community. I'm really looking forward to that. Will you pray with me to begin our time of worship?

Prayer

Cam Moss

Loving God, we thank you that you are good, and that you are in control. Thank you that your love is constant in everything. Thank you for the way in which we are invited to live life in relationship with you. We intentionally open ourselves up to you in this space, wherever we may be. Help us to remove distractions, concerns and worries as we seek to hear from you now.

In your powerful name we pray, Amen.

Song: Desert Song

This is my prayer in the desert
When all that's within me feels dry
This is my prayer in my hunger and need
My God is the God who provides

This is my prayer in the fire
In weakness or trial or pain
There is a faith proved of more worth than gold
So refine me Lord through the flame

I will bring praise
I will bring praise
No weapon formed against me shall remain
I will rejoice
I will declare
God is my victory and He is here

This is my prayer in the battle
When triumph is still on its way
I am a conqueror and co-heir with Christ
So firm on His promise I'll stand

All of my life in ev'ry season
You are still God
I have a reason to sing
I have a reason to worship
(REPEAT)

This is my prayer in the harvest
When favour and providence flow
I know I'm filled to be emptied again
The seed I've received I will sow

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Song: To be like you

Humble King holy One
Friend of sinners God's own Son
God in flesh among men
You walked my road You understand

Servant King friend to me
You saved my soul washed my feet
Here I'll bow give all to You
Lord I want to be like You

All I want all I need
More of You less of me
Take this life Lord it's Yours
Have my heart have it all

I will walk in Your ways
Love Your word seek Your face
My reward my sole pursuit
To know You more to be like You

Jesus Jesus all I want is to be like You
Jesus Jesus all I want is to be like You
(REPEAT)

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Reflections: Part 1

Cam Moss & Ethan

Cam Moss

How good is that last song, “To be like You”? We used that song for the last little bit of Youth Alpha. We’ve been using the Youth Alpha material with our Sunday Chats, working through all the content and at the very end, we did a bonus session on the night before school holidays started. We got to spend some significant time just thinking about being filled with the Holy Spirit and we used that song to help us. It’s such a powerful tune and an awesome way to help us to connect into that space. Hopefully you’re feeling really encouraged and filled by the time we’ve been able to spend in sung worship together.

One of our youth, Ethan, has shared his thoughts on his faith journey during COVID-19.

Ethan

Hi, my name is Ethan and I’m from the youth from Ringwood Church of Christ. My faith journey during COVID-19 has been helped by Alpha.

It’s really helped me keep in contact with God and to just know that he’s always around and with you during these tough times. It’s really good to know.

It’s been really good to catch up with friends at Friday Youth and it’s really good to keep in contact with them and it’s good to know that there’s still people there to support you. I’d also like to thank Cam for leading the youth and for Andrea for leading the Youth Alpha and just helping us to keep in contact with God and remind us that he’s always there with us.

Cam Moss

How sweet is that? Thank you so much Ethan. Thanks for your openness, your vulnerability, your honesty in that space mate. It takes so much courage to actually step out there and film yourself and be willing to put your hand up and jump up into that space. Thank you so much.

I love what Ethan said about contact – that whole word. Ethan was talking about us at youth group being able to still stay in contact with each other on a Friday night and a Sunday. But also staying in contact with God, having that reminder that God is always there. God is good, God is in control and that’s something we’ve really been trying to press into with our youth on Sunday morning’s, looking at the Alpha material. Just discovering who God is and potentially what living life in relationship with God is all about. We’ve been tossing up some of these big questions, and we don’t pull any punches! We’re looking at faith, life, meaning, purpose and who Jesus is. It’s great stuff to be stepping into and personally I’ve found it really encouraging to be rethinking about some of these things, the things that you just take for granted. It’s been cool to take a step back and go, “yeah, actually I haven’t thought about that for a while. Do I still think the same thing that I thought about that, when I started thinking about that?” It’s really cool stuff. So, I really encourage you all to get around the Alpha content if you haven’t already.

We're going to move ourselves into our Bible reading for today and we're going to be having a look at a quick story from the gospel of Mark. Our Beach Mission team down at Macrae SUFM, will also be using the gospel of Mark for our program this year. We're using a resource that's called "Question Mark" and a resource that we use around the gospel of Matthew is called "Welcome ... Matt ..." but for this one it's "Question ... Mark ..." (get it?)

I've really been encouraged by our team. One of our team members shared a link to David Suchet, the BBC actor who you might know as the TV character 'Poirot', reading the full Gospel of Mark. It's so cool to hear his voice speak powerfully the gospel. I've actually got David Suchet reading the entire NIV Bible on CD. It's great stuff. It's so cool to hear him actually give so much power behind the words. I've really enjoyed starting to listen to Mark through his voice and just getting blown away by how awesome this stuff is!

At the start, David Suchet says this great thing, "try and get yourself into a posture that you're hearing these words for the very first time."

It's such a great idea just to get yourself in that posture that you might be encountering something new from God. I love that idea that every time you read the Bible, it's actually God's living word and there's new stuff in there, it's not old, stale and just a book. It's actually the living word! So, I encourage you as we step into this Bible reading for today, really encourage you to open yourselves up to hearing something new and experiencing that true living word.

Here's the link to watch and listen to David Suchet read it if you would like:

rngwd.com/markreading

Bible Reading: Mark 4:35 - 41 (NIV)

If you are with others perhaps take turns to read different sections

That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

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Reflections: Part 2

Cam Moss

“Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him.” How awesome is that?! What a great example of Jesus’ power and his full command over the entire Earth. Imagine being the disciples, you’d get taken for the ride of your life in more ways than one. You’re in a rocky boat, but also, you’re discovering a person who actually is the son of God, and is fully in control, fully good, fully loving, that’s just awesome!

I don’t know about you but sometimes when I look at the gospel stories, I can tend to not actually engage with them. It’s a case of, “oh yeah, but I’ve read this stuff before...I’m pretty familiar with it, we’ve talked about this a lot at Sunday school. Feeding the 5,000, I can name a couple of different miracles that he’s done, that’s pretty cool”. I can get a little bit, not distant, but I just don’t realise how awesome this stuff is. For me, it’s really stuck out doing some of the Alpha material that we’ve done with the youth. Having these conversations - working together as we discover some of these stories again, potentially for the very first time - but actually adopting that mindset of rediscovering Jesus.

Hearing these stories for the “first time” is a reminder of just how powerful these stories are! It’s incredibly awesome stuff! I’ve been so encouraged that even in reading a little bit of Mark that we’ve started to do that this is actually really good, powerful stuff. What a great place to come back to, especially right now when everything seems like it’s all out of control with COVID-19, and everything seems to be going all over the place. What a cool thing that we are invited into relationship with an all-powerful, all-loving God, and that we can openly step into that space and live life in relationship with him. That’s just so awesome!

I really would like to encourage you, as we’ve been doing with the youth, to just spend more time in the gospels. Put some time aside and listen to David Suchet reading Mark in full. Sit down and read it out loud! There’s something so cool in reading the word actually out loud.

When you read it in your head, I don’t know about yourselves, but for me when I’m doing my devotions I can just sort of read through and go “yep, cool, cool, it’s in my head”. But actually, saying things out loud gives it more power! It’s really cool, so I massively encourage you to start stepping into some of those spaces. That’s what we’ve been trying to commit ourselves to doing with our youth group. Actually stepping into that space and rediscovering Jesus like we’re hearing these stories for the very first time. And we’d really like to encourage you into that as well.

So let’s just all work together, and let’s see what we can do to actually connect with Jesus authentically, like we’re hearing these stories for the first time. Because Jesus is totally there, he’s all-loving, all-powerful, he’s full of goodness for all of us. I’m just feeling so awesomely encouraged by the fact that we live in relationship with him. How cool is that?! I massively encourage you to spend some time connecting in with the gospels, rediscovering Jesus!

Questions for reflection and discussion

1. Who is Jesus to you right now?
2. How can you intentionally encounter Jesus in a new way this week?

Communion

Have some food and drink prepared for this time

If you're able, join us at 11am Sunday through Zoom to share in communion together at rngwd.com/communion or via Facebook live rngwd.com/fbv

If you are unable to join us, then please use the following reflection to take communion in your own way today and after, consider who you can call to have a chat as you would on a Sunday morning after a church service.

As we have been considering the concept of rediscovering Jesus, let's bring ourselves back to communion. Jesus' death on the cross, and his subsequent resurrection, shows God's love and complete power in full. God has won victory over even death itself! Jesus, both fully human and fully God, gave himself up for us. For you, and me, and everyone in this world.

As we take the bread and the cup, or whatever elements you have in front of you, I encourage you to consider the enormous personal sacrifice that Jesus made for each of us, and what that personally means for you right now.

Prayer

Cam Moss

Loving God, we thank you that you are good and that you are in control. Thank you for sending your son Jesus to Earth, and for his death and resurrection that gives us victory over death! We ask that you help us to stay disciplined in pressing into your word, as we intentionally seek to experience the true character of Jesus. We pray that you make really clear to each of us what you'd like us to take away from today. We lift up all of our thoughts from today to you.

In your wonderful name we pray, Amen.

Connect cards online

Click this link or enter it into your web browser rngwd.com/connect.

We love to know that you have been able to connect through worship today. Please click on the link (or enter it into your web browser) to our online connect cards letting us know which ways you have been able to worship, and if you want to let us know how we can praying with you. Thank you!