

2. Significance and application – reflect on passage in terms of doctrine and the Bible's big picture. How does it relate to us today?
3. Structure – Your aim in teaching this is application, heart change not information transfer. Ask: how do I get people's attention? How do I help them see its importance? How do I get below the radar to deal with people's hearts? How do I get it into people's minds and hearts long term? Connection and need - State – Explain – Apply
4. Write up – Forces us to think about what we say and how we say it. Drafting/Editing helps us take out asides and refine and focus our material and questions so that we make the main thing the main thing.

Exegesis

Simple beginnings: Working with the text

- Use more than one Bible version – one more literal one which aims to make it understandable.
- Observe and interrogate the text - Asks questions like – Why? Where? How? What?
- Try to imagine you were reading it for the first time as a Christian, and then re-read it again as a non-Christian – what questions do you have, what words don't you understand and what surprises you?
- What is the context? When was it written? Who is it to? What are its big themes? Where does it fit with the rest of the Book and the Bible?
- Think Horizontally – compare the incident with the other gospels. What is distinctive about where the Mark has put it, what's around it? Why has Mark included it when others haven't? Why has he put it in that particular setting? Why has he used those words? But always preach Mark not a mixture of the gospels.
- Read the gospel both forwards and backwards. Read it in the light of knowing its ending – what is Jesus teaching that they will get when he has died, risen and ascended?
- Tension – One of the key tensions in the gospels is with the now and not yet of the kingdom of God. It is inaugurated in Christ's coming and his disciples are called into life in the kingdom under his Lordship and committed to living it out, whilst they pray for its full realisation which is still to come.
- It is written for disciples about following Jesus and who he was to encourage them to follow Jesus now.

Helpful tools to use:

- **Readers edge** (Mark 1:1) we know who Jesus is from the outset, the disciples/crowds/Pharisees don't, (8:27-30) we read this knowing Jesus has died and risen again they don't, we have a different understanding of the kingdom than they do.
- **Purpose** why does Mark choose these incidents, what does he want to teach through each one?
- **Surprise** (Mark 16:1-8) What are the women expecting, what do they find – this gives us the key to passage.
- **Emphasis and repetition** (Mark 7:1-23 - defile) There was no bold text or underline, so they used repetition to make their point.
- **Quotation/allusion** (Mark 4:35-41) Loads of allusions to Jonah story.
- **Intensity** (Mark 15:1-15) Mark writes so that we feel, he puts things together in a compact format so that we have an emotional response. He wants us to feel the injustice of it all and Jesus' aloneness (14:43f Jesus is abandoned and betrayed, 14:53-65 he is falsely accused, 14:66-72 Jesus feels Peter's betrayal, 15:1-15 crowd reject him) and be asking why?.
- **Tension texts** (Mark 8:29) What will Peter say? We need to help people see its significance.
- **Storyline** (Mark 7) Each passage fits into the whole with repeated themes and storylines building e.g. rejection of Jesus by religious leaders. Where have these things occurred before?
- **Structure** (Mark 8:22-30) Has Mark structured his material to show something about a particular issue? What is around the passage that shapes our understanding?
- **So What?** (Mark 7:19) So what implication or application does Mark draw? E.g. All foods are clean

Applying a passage

Aims: To make and equip disciple of Jesus.

Who are you teaching: - Some are disciples, some are church-goers, neutral and coasting, but assuming they are saved, and some may have never heard. **This is why it's important you ask

unbelievers questions – articulating what they find hard before they do and better than they do. As you answer them it shows the gospel is credible.

Don't do bolt on applications – read bible, pray more, tell your friends, go to church.... That isn't application! Application flows out of the passage.

Read through Mark chapters 1 and 2. Answer the following questions:

Why does Mark write?

What does he believe about Jesus?

What evidence does he give to support his conclusion?

How is Mark's gospel different to the other gospels?