

# Section 1 – Training Notes

<b>Session 1</b>	<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Session 2</b>	<b>Crossing Cultures</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>Session 3</b>	<b>Before the Course</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>Session 4</b>	<b>During the Course</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>Session 5</b>	<b>What Do I Do If...?</b> .....	<b>21</b>
<b>Session 6</b>	<b>Identity, Mission, Call</b> .....	<b>23</b>
<b>Session 7</b>	<b>God’s Role in Evangelism – and Ours..</b>	<b>27</b>

# Section 2 – Study Guide

<b>Before We Begin</b>	.....	32
<b>Week 1</b>	<b>What is Christianity?</b> .....	35
<b>Week 2</b>	<b>Jesus – Who Was He?</b> .....	39
<b>Week 3</b>	<b>Jesus – Why Did He Come?</b> .....	45
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>Jesus – His Death</b> .....	53
<b>Week 5</b>	<b>What is Grace?</b> .....	63
<b>Week 6</b>	<b>Jesus – His Resurrection</b> .....	71
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>What is a Christian?</b> .....	77
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>What Next?</b> .....	85

Welcome to the English Made Easy Edition of ***Christianity Explored***.

This eight-week course of Bible study and discussion aims to introduce people to Jesus Christ through Mark's Gospel, in an environment where they are free to ask any questions they like.

The studies are written in simple English and are ideal for international students or those for whom English is a second language.

What makes this course – and the Christian gospel – distinctive is its insistence on God's remarkable grace: the clear teaching that although we human beings are rotten to the core, we are loved. Loved with an outrageous, daring, incomprehensible love and, what's more, loved by the One whose love we have treated as if it were unworthy of us.

It should be no easier for leaders to relate Jesus' teaching on sin, judgement, wrath and hell than it is for a course participant to hear it. But, if we are prepared to trust in the Holy Spirit's power to open blind eyes, these uncomfortable truths pave the way for a faithful life driven by God's abiding and abounding grace.

This book is divided into two sections: the first will train you to use the course, and the second will be your guide each week as you actually run the course.

If you do decide to run ***Christianity Explored***, please let us know when and where your course is running. E-mail [eme@christianityexplored.com](mailto:eme@christianityexplored.com) or write to the General Manager, Christianity Explored, All Souls Church, Langham Place, London W1B 3DA, United Kingdom.

## Session 3

# Before the Course

To help your course run smoothly you will need to consider the following before the course begins:

### WHERE WILL YOU MEET?

Find somewhere 'neutral' and unthreatening to participants, somewhere you are unlikely to be interrupted – a home is ideal, or a classroom, or a quiet corner of a canteen.

Make sure it is somewhere that's easy to find.

Try to find somewhere where you can meet every week at the same time.

### HOW OFTEN WILL YOU MEET?

It is best to meet regularly. Once a week is ideal.

### HOW WILL YOU INVITE PEOPLE?

Organise a guest event like a sports afternoon, a Christmas carol service, a visit to the cinema, a campus mission, a picnic and so on. At the end of the event, there should be an invitation to join ***Christianity Explored***.

It may be appropriate to invite people personally to the course. Tell them that there will be refreshments / a meal, a Bible study, a short discussion and plenty of opportunities to ask any questions they want.

When inviting people to guest events or to ***Christianity Explored***, it is important to be honest about exactly what will happen.

Reassure people that no-one will be expected to pray, sing or do anything that makes them feel uncomfortable or embarrassed.

## WHO WILL LEAD?

Leaders should be Christians who are able to teach, encourage discussion and care for participants. They should be able to teach the Bible faithfully and clearly and be able to deal with difficult questions on Mark's Gospel. Rather than simply telling people about God's love, leaders must be willing to demonstrate that love by devoting time and attention to those in their care.

If there is only one person on your course, ensure that his or her leader is the same sex.

In a mixed group, it is helpful to have a male and a female leader in order to deal with pastoral situations appropriately.

This course material assumes that the leader has a very good grasp of the English language.

The studies are based in Mark's Gospel. As a result participants will have questions that are not explicitly dealt with in the material. It is assumed that leaders will have enough general biblical knowledge to help participants with these questions.

## HOW WILL YOU PREPARE?

A well-prepared **Christianity Explored** leader will be dedicated in two particular areas:

### 1. Dedicated to the Bible

The Bible is God's word. Whenever we open the Bible, God addresses us. In Hebrews 4:12 we read: 'For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.' Nothing else can do this.

Because we're convinced of the power of God's word, every participant should be given a Bible at the beginning of the course. As leaders, our focus should always be on opening the Bible with people.

Read Mark's Gospel and familiarise yourself with the *Study Guide* part of this book. You will feel much more confident to lead participants once you've prepared yourself for the Bible studies that make up **Christianity Explored**.

## 2. Dedicated to prayer

Paul encourages the Christians at Colosse to devote themselves to prayer – in particular to pray for him in his evangelism. In Colossians 4:2–3 we read: ‘Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message...’ Before, during and after the course we must pray.

Pray that those invited will attend the course, that God will open their blind eyes, for the logistics of organising the course, and that God will equip you to lead faithfully.

Mobilise others to pray. Evangelism is a spiritual battle, so ask other Christians to pray for you and for your group. Report back to them regularly so that they can pray for specific needs and be encouraged by answered prayer.