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Before We Begin

Over the next eight weeks we will explore Christianity by seeing what the Bible has to say about Jesus Christ.

In particular, we will explore three questions about Jesus:

- who was he?
- why did he come?
- what does it mean to follow him?

The Bible contains 66 books. Many human authors wrote these books over 1500 years. God's Holy Spirit inspired each author. When we read the Bible, we are reading God's words – exactly what he wants us to know.

The Bible is divided into two main sections: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament was written before Jesus was born and the New Testament was written after Jesus was born.

In this course we will read the book of Mark (also known as Mark's Gospel), which is a historical account of Jesus' life.

Mark's Gospel is divided up into chapters and each chapter is divided into individual verses, all of which are numbered. So 'Mark 1:1 – 3:6' refers to the book of Mark, chapter 1, verse 1, through to chapter 3, verse 6. All the Bible references in this *Study Guide* are written in this way.

During the course we will study various passages from Mark's Gospel. You may also ask any questions about Christianity.

So who was Jesus? Why did he come? And what does it mean to follow him?

What is Christianity?

Welcome to **Christianity Explored**.



What is your name? Why did you decide to come on the course?



If you could ask God one question, and you knew it would be answered, what would it be?



What do people usually think Christianity is about?

- Christianity is about being a good person
- Christianity is about going to church
- Christianity is a Western religion
- Christianity is about following the teachings of Jesus Christ
- Christianity is _____



Read Mark 1:1 aloud.

- 1 What do we learn about Christianity from this verse?
(Note that the word 'gospel' means 'good news'.)**

- 2 Some people criticise Christianity. They say:**

'It is a list of rules.'

**'It is about going to church and pretending to be
a good person.'**

'It is boring.'

How does Mark answer these criticisms in Mark 1:1?
