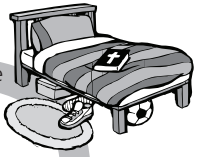
DISCOVER

INSIDE ISSUE 4: MARK, RUTH, GENESIS, ACTS, COLOSSIANS

1 Find a time when you can read the Bible each day

2 Find a place where you can be quiet and think



3 Grab your Bible and a pencil or pen

4 Ask God to help you understand what you read

5 Read today's Discover page and Bible bit

6 Pray about what you have read and learned

We want to…

- Explain the Bible clearly to you
- Help you enjoy your Bible
- Encourage you to turn to Jesus
- Help Christians follow Jesus

Discover stands for…

- Total commitment to God's Word, the Bible
- Total commitment to getting its message over to you

Team Discover

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How to use Discover

Here at Discover, we want you at home to get the most out of reading the Bible. It's how God speaks to us today. And He's got loads of top things to say.

We use the New International Version (NIV) of the Bible. You'll find that the NIV and New King James Version are best for doing the puzzles in Discover.

The Bible has 66 different books in it. So if the notes say…

Read Mark 14 v 1

…turn to the contents page of your Bible and look down the list of books to see what page Mark begins on. Turn to that page.

"Mark 14 v 1" means you need to go to chapter 14 of Mark, and then find verse 1 of chapter 14 (the verse numbers are the tiny ones). Then jump in and read it!

Here's some other stuff you might come across…

WEIRD WORDS

Sprongpip
These boxes explain baffling words or phrases we come across in the Bible.

Think!

This bit usually has a tricky personal question on what you've been reading about.

Action!

Challenges you to put what you've read into action.

Wow!

This section contains a gobsmacking fact that sums up what you've been reading about.

Pray!

Gives you ideas for prayer. Prayer is talking to God. Don't be embarrassed! You can pray in your head if you want to. God still hears you! Even if there isn't a Pray! symbol, it's a good idea to pray about what you've read anyway.

Coming up in Issue 4…

Mark: God's resue plan

First off we get stuck into the final few chapters of Mark's Gospel. We'll see how Jesus was let down by his friends and killed by his enemies. It's seriously shocking stuff — but none of it was a surprise to God. Jesus' death was all part of God's amazing rescue plan — a plan to rescue us too!

Ruth: The whole truth

Imagine leaving your home country, friends and family, to go to a totally new place where you have no food, no job, and no husband! Sound tough? That's exactly what Ruth did! But God was looking after Ruth and her mother-in-law Naomi, and showing them how loving and kind He is. In this issue of Discover we'll be reading their story in the little Bible book of Ruth. (Spoiler alert: it ends with a wedding!)

Genesis: Dreamer drama

We dive into Genesis to meet Joseph: a man who proves that dreams really do come true… at least, they do if you've got God working things out behind the scenes!

Joseph went from being his dad's fav son… to being locked up in jail… to being the second-most-important man in Egypt! Through Joe's good times and bad times, we learn that God is totally in control, and working for the good of His people!

Acts: Spreading the word

Have you ever eaten a camel burger? Or a kangaroo steak? *No?* Well, Peter certainly hadn't! Until he received a strange vision from God…

It was all God's way of telling Peter and the other apostles that the good news about Jesus wasn't only for Jewish people — it's for **everyone**, no matter where they're from or what they eat!

Once the apostles got that, there was no stopping them — they set sail on some epic journeys around the world to tell lots of people about Jesus! Read all about it in Acts!

Colossians: Just Jesus

Finally, we get our heads into Colossians — a letter written by Paul to the Christians in Colossae, in Turkey.

False teachers had been telling the Colossians that they needed to do extra stuff to be right with God. Paul is writing to warn the Colossians: "DON'T LISTEN!" Paul reminds them how amazing Jesus is, and says that all they have to do is trust in Him. It's the same for us, too!

Ready to get started?
Then turn this page...

Mark: God's rescue plan

Mark
14 v 1-9

Welcome to issue 4 of Discover! Let's jump into Mark's book about Jesus. We join the amazing story of Jesus Christ, just a few days before His death.

Why did He die?

What amazing things happened? Let's find out...

Read Mark 14 v 1-2

The murder plan

Jesus' enemies hated Him and wanted to get rid of Him. They were trying to find a way to have Him killed.

Read verses 3-9

This woman poured a whole jar of expensive perfume over Jesus' head. She was showing how much she loved Him. Some people thought it was a waste of perfume and money (v4-5).

But Jesus said it was a beautiful thing, which is why we're reading about it 2000 years later (v9).

Think!

Do you love Jesus? How do you show your love for Him?

According to Jesus, why did Mary pour perfume on His body? (v8) Go back one letter (B=A, C=B, D=C etc) to find out.

__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __
U P Q S F Q B S F

__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __
N F G P S N Z

__ __ __ __ __ __
C V S J B M

Jesus knew that He would soon die. Maybe His enemies' murder plan would work.

God's rescue plan!

Amazingly, it was always part of God's plan that Jesus would die. Not so that His enemies could get rid of Him, but so that Jesus could rescue His people.

Pray!

Thank God for His amazing rescue plan. Ask Him to help you show your love for Jesus by living to please Him.

WEIRD WORDS

Passover and Festival of unleavened bread
We'll explain these tomorrow!

Chief priests and teachers of the law
Religious leaders who hated Jesus

Alabaster
White stone

Pure nard
A spiky plant

Indignantly
Angrily

Rebuked her
Told her off

The gospel
The great news that Jesus can rescue us

2

Mark
14 v 12-16

Where's the busiest place you've ever been?

_____

_____

_____

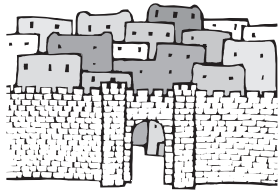
_____

_____

_____

Fest-of-all

In Jerusalem, 2000 years ago, the busiest and most important time of the year was the Passover festival.



1000s of people travelled to Jerusalem, some from other countries. The city was crammed with people.

Each family had to buy a perfect lamb, kill it and offer it to God as a sacrifice. (You'll find out why tomorrow!)

Each family needed a room so that the lamb could be cooked and eaten.

Jesus wanted to eat His last ever Passover feast with His friends, the disciples. But in the overcrowded city, where could they possibly find a room where they could eat it together?

Read Mark 14 v 12-16

*What did Jesus tell His disciples to look for? Cross out all the **X**s, **Z**s and **K**s, and follow the maze.*

K	X	Z	↓	K	Z	K
X	Z	K	A	Z	R	Z
Z	X	X	M	K	A	Z
X	C	N	A	X	J	R
K	A	K	K	X	Z	E
K	R	R	Y	K	A	T
Z	K	Z	I	Z	W	X
X	X	Z	N	G	A	K

_ _ _ _ _

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

The man led them to a large room, all set up for the feast! The disciples must have been amazed when everything turned out exactly as Jesus had said.

Jesus' enemies were plotting to kill Him. Yet Jesus was in total control of everything. It was all part of **God's rescue plan**.

Pray!

Thank God that He is in control of everything. If you mean it, tell God that you want Him to be in charge of your life.

WEIRD WORDS

Festival of unleavened bread
A week-long feast that came after Passover

Customary
Traditional

Sacrifice
Kill the lamb and offer it as a gift to God

3

Exodus 12 v 3-14

Jesus was going to celebrate Passover with His disciples.

But what was this Passover thing all about?

Passover facts

They were remembering a time 1500 years earlier, when God rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.

To rescue His people, God sent ten plagues on Egypt, but Pharaoh wouldn't listen. Only after God killed the eldest son (firstborn) of all the Egyptians, did Pharaoh finally let the Israelites go.

Read the verses and fill in what the Israelites had to do.

Read Exodus 12 v 3-6

1. K_____ a l_____

The lamb was killed instead of the firstborn son in each Israelite family. The eldest son could say: *"That lamb died instead of me!"*

Wow!

The lamb's death was a picture of what JESUS would do 1500 years later.

He would die on the cross to take the punishment we should get for our sins. So Christians can look to Jesus and say:

"He died instead of me!"

Read verses 8-11

2. E_____ the lamb

There were special instructions for how the lamb should be cooked and eaten. And the Israelites had to get ready for their escape from Egypt!

Read verses 7 & 12-14

3. Use the lamb's bl_____

They had to put the lamb's blood on their door frames. No blood would mean death for the eldest son.

But if there was blood there, God promised to p_____ o_____ the house and not kill the eldest son (v13).

Pray!

If you're a Christian, thank God for sending Jesus to die in your place. Praise Him that on the day of judgment, He will pass over you and not punish you, because of Jesus' death.

WEIRD WORDS

Without defect
Perfect

Slaughter
Kill

In haste
Quickly!

Gods of Egypt
God would punish the Egyptians for worshipping fake gods

Commemorate
Remember and celebrate

Ordinance
Law

4

Mark
14 v 10-21

Judas

Jesus is eating His last ever Passover feast with His friends, the 12 disciples.

Well, 11 of them are His friends...

Traitor!

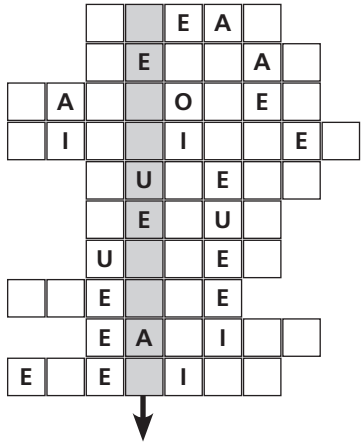
Read Mark 14 v 10-11

Judas had gone behind Jesus and the disciples' backs. He agreed to help Jesus' enemies with their plan to murder Jesus! What a traitor!

Now read Mark 14 v 17-21

When it was **evening**, Jesus and His twelve disciples came for the **Passover** meal. As they were **eating**, Jesus told His **disciples:** "One of you will **betray** me". This **upset** the disciples. "**Surely** you don't mean me!' they all said. **Jesus** answered: "It is one of you **twelve**, one who dips his **bread** in the bowl with me."

*Fit all the **bold** words into the grid. The shaded boxes should spell out two words.*



_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

God's rescue plan!

Even before Jesus was born, the Old Testament said that God would send someone to rescue His people. That person was Jesus. But the Old Testament also said that He would have to suffer and die to rescue us (Isaiah 53 v 5). Amazingly, it was all part of God's rescue plan!

Judas did a terrible thing. He would be punished for it later. But Judas couldn't stop God's perfect plans. Nobody can! Instead, Judas himself became part of God's great rescue plan!

Pray!

Thank God that no one stops His perfect plans to rescue people.

Want to know more?
For the free e-booklet *Why Did Jesus Die?*, email discover@thegoodbook.co.uk or check out www.thegoodbook.co.uk/contact-us to find our UK mailing address.

WEIRD WORDS

The Twelve
The 12 disciples. They were Jesus' friends and were taught by Him.

Reclining at the table
They lay on couches while eating a meal!

Son of Man
Jesus

Woe to...
God will punish that person

5

Mark
14 v 22-25

What's the most memorable meal you've eaten?

_____

_____

_____

_____

Today we read about the most important meal... ever!

Amazing **meal deal!**

Only a few hours before His death, Jesus used this meal to show His friends what He was about to go through for them...

Read Mark 14 v 22

When Jesus broke the bread and gave it to His disciples, He said:

"This is my _____"

So what did He mean?

The broken bread was a symbol of Jesus' body, which would be broken (tortured and killed) very soon.

Eating the bread showed the disciples that they would share in the good that came from Jesus' death for them.

Read verses 23-25

What strange thing did Jesus say about the wine?

"This is my _____"

What did He mean now?

Blood gives life to our bodies. When Jesus died on the cross, He gave His life for others.

Drinking the wine reminded the disciples that Jesus would give His life for them, so their sins could be forgiven.

Blood of the covenant (v24)

A *covenant* is a promise. God promises to forgive people for the wrong things (sins) they've done. But only people who trust Jesus' death to rescue them from the punishment they deserve.

Christians still eat bread and drink wine together to remember that Jesus died for them. This meal is called the **Lord's Supper** or **Communion**.

Think & Pray!

What can you do to remind you that Jesus died for you?

_____

_____

_____

(Maybe you could make a poster of Romans 5 v 8.)

Now ask God to help you fully understand why Jesus suffered and died.

WEIRD WORDS

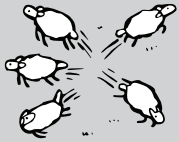
Fruit of the vine
Wine

Kingdom of God
Jesus wouldn't drink wine again until He was with His Father God in His kingdom

6

Stand and **deliver**

Mark
14 v 26-31



It's night time on the Mount of Olives and danger is approaching for Jesus.

Will the disciples face it with Jesus or run away?

Read Mark 14 v 26-28

Jesus told His disciples that they'd all leave Him when trouble came. Just like sheep scattering when they're scared! But Peter refused to believe it...

Read verses 29-31

How many times did Jesus say Peter would deny knowing Him?

Did Peter believe Jesus?

YES/NO _____

But Jesus knew that His friends would all leave Him.

Standing up for Jesus can be really hard. We don't want people to give us a hard time for going to church or believing in Jesus. So we find it hard to own up to being a Christian. Or we keep quiet when people say things against Jesus.

Jesus had already told His followers that they should expect to get hassled for loving Him (it's in Mark 13 v 9-11).

But Jesus also told them that He'd help them out in tricky situations.

*Use the **backwards** word pool to complete Jesus' words from **Mark 13 v 11.***

nevig yloH yas
tiripS emit tahw
yrrow uoy

Do not w_____ about w_____ to say. Just s_____ whatever is g_____ you at the t_____. Because it is not y_____ speaking, but the H_____ S_____!

Wow!

When we're being hassled or questioned about what we believe, we should speak out!

Jesus has given all Christians His Holy Spirit to help them tell people about Him!

Pray!

Ask God to help you stand up for Jesus. Ask Him to give you the right words to say, and the courage to say them.

WEIRD WORDS

Mount of Olives
Large hill

Galilee
Area where Jesus grew up

Disown me
Pretend not to know Jesus

Insisted emphatically
Peter said that he'd definitely not disown Jesus

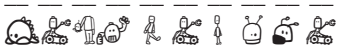
7

Mark 14 v 32-36

Garden of grief

Read Mark 14 v 32-34

Jesus prayed with three of His disciples in a quiet garden called



Why was Jesus upset?

Peter would let Him down ☐

Judas was on his way with a group of soldiers ☐

He knew He was going to die very soon ☐

All these reasons were bad enough, but there was something far worse that really hurt Jesus.

Jesus knew that His Father would punish Him for the wrong things people have done. He didn't deserve to die, but it was the only way He could rescue us!

Read verses 35-36

No wonder Jesus fell to the ground in distress. No wonder He asked God to *"take this cup away from me"*.

He was asking God not to punish Him. He knew it would be like drinking from a cup full of God's punishment.

Use the code to reveal Jesus' amazing prayer.

Jesus wanted to obey His Father God even though that meant He would have to suffer and die!

Action!

In your prayers, make sure you ask what GOD wants, not just what YOU want.

Go on, try it right now...

Pray!

Obeying God is soooo hard. Ask Him to help you live for Him and please Him more.

WEIRD WORDS

Abba
Daddy

8

Mark
14 v 37-42

Some people sleep through anything – alarm clocks, science lessons, church meetings.

Are you feeling sleepy?

Then WAKE UP!!

Dozing disciples

Jesus is in the garden of Gethsemane at night, praying to His Father God. Jesus is upset because He knows God will soon punish Him for people's sins.

Three disciples were with Jesus that night. Who were they (v33)?

P __ __ __ __

J __ __ __

J __ __ __ __

Jesus told them to keep watch while He prayed. Instead, they fell sleep!

Read Mark 14 v 37-42

and compare the three disciples with Jesus.

JESUS	DISCIPLES
Tired, weak and upset (v34).	They were very tired (v40).
Really needed to watch and pray.	Really needed to watch and pray.

Similar, but they acted in totally different ways

JESUS	DISCIPLES
Talked to God (v39).	Kept falling asleep! (v40)
God heard His prayer and gave Him the strength He needed.	Disobeyed Jesus and were open to temptation (v38).

Like these three disciples, all Christians need to **WATCH** and **PRAY**. The devil is always trying to tempt us to do wrong.

So we need to **WATCH OUT** for anything that might cause us to disobey God. And we need to **PRAY**, asking God to help us obey Him.

Think!

What things are you tempted by? (eg: cheating at school, treating your parents badly)

_____

_____

_____

_____

Pray

Ask God to help you to watch out for the devil's temptations. Ask Him to help you to fight the things you wrote down.

WEIRD WORDS

Simon/Peter
Both names refer to the same disciple! The one Jesus said would disown him three times.

Son of Man
Jesus was both God's Son and a human being!

9

God's plan gone **wrong?**

Mark
14 v 43-52

Jesus is in the garden of Gethsemane late at night.

Suddenly, the silence is disturbed, as an angry crowd comes to capture Jesus...

Read Mark 14 v 43-52

What a disaster! At first sight, it looks like everything has gone wrong. Judas has turned against Jesus; Jesus has been captured; and Jesus' friends have deserted Him. How could this be part of God's rescue plan???

1. Judas the betrayer

Fill in the vowels (aeiou) to show what Jesus had said back in Mark 14 v 18.

One of y __ __ will
b __ tr __ y m __.

Who came with the angry mob to arrest Jesus?

J __ d __ s

Jesus knew that Judas was going to betray Him. It was all part of God's rescue plan!

2. Jesus captured

He was d __ sp __ s __ d and
r __ j __ ct __ d by
m __ nk __ nd, a man of
s __ ff __ r __ ng, and
familiar with p __ __ n.
(Isaiah 53 v 3)

Jesus was arrested by the angry mob even though He had done nothing wrong! But Jesus knew He had to be arrested, tortured and killed. It was all part of God's rescue plan. The Old Testament Scriptures (Mark 14 v 49), like Isaiah, had said it would happen!

3. The disciples run away

What did Jesus say back in Mark 14 v 27?

Y __ __ w __ ll __ ll
f __ ll __ w __ y

What happened when Jesus was arrested (v50)?

Everyone d __ s __ rt __ d
him and fl __ d

Jesus had said the disciples would desert Him, and they did! Yet it was all part of God's great rescue plan!

WEIRD WORDS

Chief priests, teachers of the law and elders
Religious leaders who plotted to have Jesus killed

Rabbi
Teacher

Rebellion
Battle against the people in charge

Pray!

Jesus had to suffer and die to rescue us from sin. Spend time thanking God for His perfect plan to rescue us.

10

The truth from **Ruth**

Ruth
1 v 1-5

Today we start reading the great Bible book of Ruth.

We'll meet Ruth, her mother-in-law Naomi and the rich and powerful Boaz.

And we'll learn more about God and His perfect plan for His people.

Background info

- **Look up Judges 21 v 25. God's people were doing what THEY wanted, not what GOD wanted.**
- **The action begins in the country of Moab.**
- **Moab was an enemy of God and God's people, the Israelites.**

Time to meet the family...

Read Ruth 1 v 1-5

What a depressing start!

Fill in the blanks to show what happened to Naomi's family.

There was a f_____ in Israel (v1). Naomi's husband E_____ died (v3). Naomi's sons M_____ and _____ion sadly died too (v5).

But this family wasn't perfect.

Fill in the blanks to show how they had disobeyed God.

Elimelek and Naomi went to live in the country of M_____ (v1). Their sons married two M_____ women (v4).

That doesn't sound so bad, but Moab was a no-go area for God's people. The Moabites (the people who lived in Moab) didn't love God and worshipped fake gods instead. Living in Moab would make it hard to keep living God's way and serving Him.

Pray!

We live in a world where most people don't live God's way. Ask God to help you stand out as a follower of Jesus. Pray that you won't give in and live for yourself like everyone else does. Pray that you would serve God and not go along with the crowd.

Tomorrow we'll find out what happens next to the three widows...

WEIRD WORDS

Judges
God gave His people judges to lead them

Ephrathites
From an area called Ephrathah