

GCSE AQA A Topic on a Page for Component 2

Theme H: St Mark's Gospel as a Source of Religious, Moral and Spiritual Truths.

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Teacher's Introduction

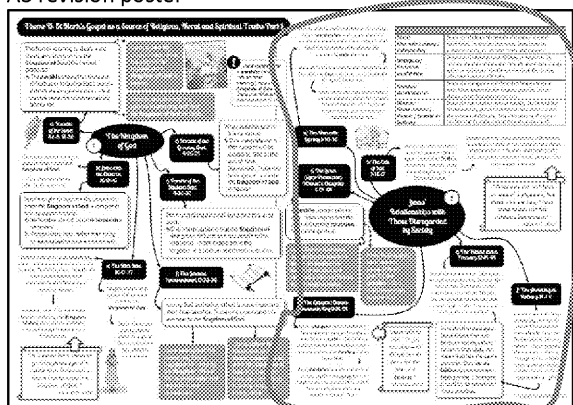
This resource covers the Religious Studies GCSE AQA A specification for Component 2: Thematic Studies; Textual Studies – Theme H: St Mark's Gospel as a Source of Religious, Moral and Spiritual Truths.

The sections are as follows:

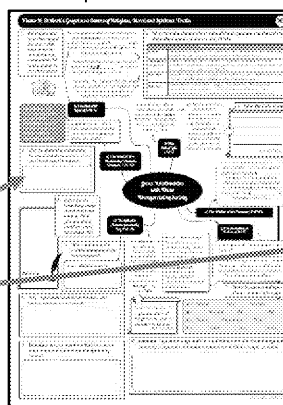
1. **A4 teacher information pages.**
2. **Two A3 revision posters**, between them covering the four sub-topics. These are labelled: **1** and **2**. These posters are intended as a summary of all Theme H material, focusing on the main points rather than the detail, so that all important areas are covered without going into too much depth.
3. **Four A3 sub-topic sheets with activities.** Each of these sheets covers one sub-topic and provides write-on activities for students to complete. Answers are provided in the A3 sub-topic revision posters and the A4 extension question answer pages. These are labelled with numbers inside white circles: **H4**. Exam-style questions in the activity sheets are marked by a pencil icon: .
4. **Four A3 sub-topic revision posters.** These provide answers for the main activities given in the A3 sub-topic activity sheets. As revision posters, these can be used as a summary for each area, and have enough space for teacher or student annotation. These are labelled with numbers inside black circles: **H4**.
5. **A4 answers to extension questions.** These pages provide answers to the extension questions not covered on the A3 sub-topic revision posters.

All posters can be displayed on classroom walls, or given to students to learn in lessons or at home.

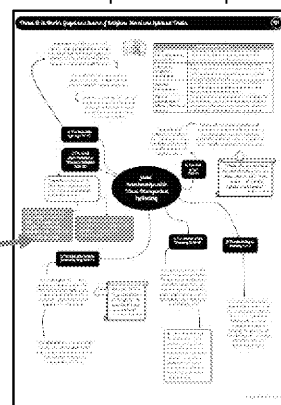
A3 revision poster



A3 sub-topic sheet with activities



A3 sub-topic revision poster



As a whole, the resource can be used to help students to revise at the end of a topic/subtopic, or before a test or an exam. Different styles and layouts are used to make the information interesting, and to help the students engage with the information in a productive way.

H Dixon, November 2016

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Theme H: St Mark's Gospel as a Source of Religious, Moral and Spiritual Truths Part 1

The fruit of listening to God's word (seed) and acting on it is the **Kingdom of God** (the harvest produced).

↳ The **parable** shows that there are difficulties in following God's word – distractions and persecutions – but that the reward is worth remaining faithful for.

Some believe the crop produced from the seed will be enjoyed as the **Kingdom of God** in heaven.



! Jesus taught, often in **parables** (stories with an inner meaning). There are different interpretations of this.

Some believe the crop is a spiritual relationship with the **Kingdom of God**.



a) Parable of the Sower 4:1-9, 14-20

Christians should not try to exclude others from the **Kingdom of God**...

... God chooses who to offer his Kingdom to.

d) Jesus and the Children 10:13-16

People ought to become like children to enter the **Kingdom of God**. Examples of how to do this include:

↳ Be humble. Do not assume **salvation** is deserved.
↳ Accept God's help, rather than trying to earn salvation on one's own merit.

People should give up wealth and other distractions from God in order to enter God's Kingdom. Wealth will stop people having a full relationship with God and/or entering heaven.

e) The Rich Man 10:17-27

However, even if humans face barriers entering the **Kingdom of God**, God can do anything – he can bridge these barriers if he chooses.

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"It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."
(Mark 10:25 NRSV)



b) Parable of the Growing Seed 4:26-29

When seed has grown, it is harvested.
↳ One interpretation is that humans will be judged by God at the end of time (harvested). Those who have 'grown' will enter the **Kingdom of God** in heaven.

c) Parable of the Mustard Seed 4:30-32

The mustard seed is small but grows to a large plant.
↳ One interpretation is that the **Kingdom of God** grows on Earth as more people follow God/Jesus – more people are in the Kingdom; in a spiritual relationship with God.

f) The Greatest Commandment 12:28-34

Loving God and loving others is more important than ritual sacrifice. Those who understand this are near to the **Kingdom of God**.

Some believe that this means only love is important for entering the **Kingdom of God**. All the Jewish rules and regulations are unnecessary.

Some believe this means that people should follow rules to enter the **Kingdom of God**, but that these rules are summed up in loving God and loving others.

Jesus is approached by... Jesus' **compassion** is concern for Jewish purity touching someone chooses to heal.

Jesus still tells the man line with the **law** – he disregards Jewish law.

Jesus helps the people know makes it hard around freedom incon...

a) The Man with Leprosy 1:40-45

c) The Greek (Syro-Phoenician) Woman's Daughter 7:24-30

A **gentile** woman asks help. Jesus implies that Jews will receive **salvation** before the gentiles.

Some believe that Jesus was testing the woman's **faith** – he healed her daughter because she believed in him, indifferent to her religious status.

d) The Epileptic (Demon possessed) Boy 9:14-27

Jesus' **disciples** fail to... Jesus reminds people need to keep **faith** in... want to see his work in anyone can receive **healing** have faith.

Also, **disciples** need to... to rely on God and pray for help, as well as having... Everyone has to work relationship with...

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Theme H: St Mark's Gospel as a Source of Religious, Moral and Spiritual Truths Part 2

The first **disciples** follow Jesus immediately when he calls them.

- ↳ For Mark this is the perfect model of **discipleship**: following Jesus should always be a Christian's top priority.
- ↳ Mark also shows that discipleship has costs – these disciples left their jobs. Likewise, being a Christian today can involve making sacrifices.
- ↳ Jesus also tells the disciples that he will have them **evangelise** others – providing a model for Christians to do this today.

! Mark's Gospel places a large emphasis on **faith** and how people should follow Jesus. It also highlights difficulties which should be overcome.

This Samaritan was healed because of her belief.

This reminds Christians to ask God for help and to trust in him.

The woman was an outcast, and this shows that God will help all who trust him.

"[Jesus] said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well...'" (Mark 5:34 NRSV)

For Jesus:

- The man with leprosy shows **compassion** is more important than purity.
- The Greek woman shows Jesus' mission to all people.
- Jesus' teaching and actions show he is performing his purpose.
- Sending out the disciples shows the news of God's Kingdom.

a) Key Events in the Life of Jesus

b) The Disciples



4

d) Discipleship

Significance/Importance of Jesus' Disciples:

- Their top priority was to follow Jesus, even if it meant making sacrifices and taking risks.
- Important to them because they believed in Jesus' teaching.
- They may have been motivated by rewards.

Significance/Importance for 21st century Christians:

- Christians want to have a close relationship with God.
- Christians feel it is important to follow Jesus' teaching and example, e.g. by giving and **evangelising**.
- Christians do not want to be judged by denying Jesus, as Peter.

Faith and Discipleship

3

a) The Call of the First Disciples 1:16-20

b) The Healing of the Woman with a Flow of Blood 5:25-34

c) The Calling of the Twelve 3:13-19

Jesus sends his **disciples** to minister to others.

- ↳ The disciples are sent with few possessions – God should be enough.
- ↳ The disciples went to help others – Christians should remember that **evangelism** and **mission** work are for others' benefit, not for their own benefit/profit.

e) Peter's Denials 14:27-31, 66-72



- ↳ Peter does not think he will deny Jesus, though Jesus says he will.
- ↳ Even strong **disciples** have moments of weakness.
- ↳ God knows humans better than they know themselves.

Christians do not need to doubt Jesus; he is always in control. Jesus is God's plan and not a failure.

Christians need to be aware that denial of God will negatively affect their relationship with him, as with Peter.

However, God forgives – he will still love and use those who stumble, such as Peter. Christians should not judge others harshly – people make mistakes.

d) The Cost and Rewards of Discipleship 8:34-38; 10:28-31

If people do not follow Jesus they may do well in this life, but they will die, and they will be condemned.

If Christians follow Jesus fully, they may lose many things, even their lives. However, they will receive eternal life and be rewarded on earth.

- Christians must follow Jesus' teachings.
- Christians must follow Jesus' example.

f) The Sending of the Disciples 16:7-13

- ↳ Jesus sends out his **disciples** again. Mark says he was then taken up to heaven.
- ↳ Disciples should preach to others, and **heal** them.
- ↳ If people believe they will be saved, and if they do not believe they will not be saved.

Some believe Jesus did condemn those who do not believe, others feel this is Mark trying to hard to **evangelise**.

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1. Give two different understandings of the Kingdom of God from this parable.

The fruit of listening to God's word (seed) and acting on it is the **Kingdom of God** (the harvest produced).

↳ The **parable** shows that there are difficulties in following God's word – distractions and persecutions – but that the reward is worth remaining faithful for.

2. In the parable what are seeds, birds and weeds symbols of?

a) Parable of the Sower 4:1-9, 14-20

The Kingdom of God

3. Fill in the gaps!

Use the words in the box below.

People ought to become like _____ to enter the **Kingdom of God**. Examples of how to do this include:

- ↳ Be _____. Do not assume salvation is _____.
- ↳ Accept God's _____, rather than trying to earn _____ on one's own merit.

Humble Help Children
Salvation Deserved

Christians should not try to exclude others from the **Kingdom of God**...

... God chooses who to offer his Kingdom to.

d) Jesus and the Children 10:13-16

People should help others if they want to enter the **Kingdom of God**.

However, even if humans face barriers entering the **Kingdom of God**, God can do anything – he can bridge these barriers if he chooses.

e) The Rich Man 10:17-27

People should give up wealth and other distractions from God in order to enter God's Kingdom. Wealth will stop people having a full relationship with God and/or entering heaven.

5. How might Christians help others in light of this passage? What do some become (which includes giving up all their possessions)?

6. Fill in the Bible quote.

(Mark 10:25 NRSV)

8. Give three qualities that are implied by the phrase 'who are called to inherit the Kingdom of God'.

9. Extension: Why do you think different parables in Mark's Gospel appear to give different understandings of the Kingdom of God?

10. Explain...

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Theme H: St Mark's Gospel as a Source of Religious, Moral and Spiritual Truths

- What does Jesus show less regard for than other Jews when he shows the man compassion? Fill in the answer in the three spaces.



Jesus is approached by a man with leprosy. Jesus' **compassion** is stronger than his concern for Jewish purity **?** _____, which forbid touching someone with leprosy. He chooses to **heal** the man.

Jesus still tells the man to see the priest, in line with the **?** _____ – he does not completely disregard Jewish **?** _____.

Jesus helps the man even though people knowing about his powers makes it hard for him to move around freely and is, therefore, inconvenient for him.

- Fill in the main character from show which group, or group

Illness:	Jesus cared about stay away from
Unpopular/Forgotten:	Jesus cared about consider himself overlook the wide
Gentiles:	Jesus did not ignore avoided 'impure
Women:	Jesus did not treat praised the wide treatment of w

Some believe that Jesus was testing the woman's **faith** – he **healed** her daughter because she believed in him, indifferent to her religious status.

a) The Man with Leprosy 1:40-45

A **gentile** woman asks for help. It implies that the Jews will receive **salvation** before the gentiles.

Jesus is a tax collector, who follows him. Mark again shows that **faith** is important – people must not put anything above following Jesus.

Scribes and Pharisees associate sinners. Jesus that he help those help with relationship not just to 'good' people cares about

b) The Call of Levi 2:13-17

c) The Greek (Syr-Phoenician) Woman's Daughter 7:24-30

- Give an alternative explanation for Jesus' initial response that he would not help the woman.

- Add a quote from the passage about the Greek woman. (Hint: pick one which could be useful for question 10.)

Reference:



Jesus' **disciples** fail to heal a boy. Jesus reminds people that they need to keep **faith** in God if they want to see his work in their lives – anyone can receive **healing** if they have faith.

- What do the disciples need to remember to do in this passage?

Also, *disciples need to remember to...*

As with other passages Jesus shows that just because society values certain things does not mean God has the same priorities. God values **faith** and commitment from anyone. Christians should try to remember God's priorities.

- Why might Mark focus on the man with leprosy early in the Gospel?

'Jesus said to him, "If you are able!—All things can be done for the one who believes" (Mark 9:23)

- Extension:** Why do you think Mark focuses on Jesus' encounters with those disregarded by society?

- Extension:** Explain two ways in which by society is important to Christians

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Theme H: St Mark's Gospel as a Source of Religious, Moral and Spiritual Truths

1. Mark shows that discipleship has costs for Christians. What did it cost the first disciples in this passage?

The first **disciples** follow Jesus immediately when he calls them.

↳ For Mark this is the perfect model of **discipleship**: following Jesus should always be a Christian's top priority.

↳ _____

↳ Jesus also tells the disciples that he will have them **evangelise** others – providing a model for Christians to do this today.

Mark's Gospel places emphasis on **faith** and should follow Jesus. In difficulties which should

This woman demonstrates **faith** – she is healed because of her belief.

The woman was _____ shows that God trusts

a) The Call of the First Disciples 1:16-20

c) The Mission of the Twelve 6:7-13

b) The Woman with a Haemorrhage 5:25-34

3. What does the disciples' mission teach Christians about the purpose of evangelism/mission?

Jesus sends his **disciples** to _____ to others.

↳ The disciples are sent with few possessions – God should be enough.

↳ The disciples went to help others – Christians should remember that **evangelism** and **mission** work are for

Faith and Discipleship

If people do not follow Jesus they may do well in this life, but they will die, and they will be condemned.

d) The Cost and Rewards of Discipleship 8:34-38; 10:28-31

If Christians follow Jesus fully, they may lose many things, even their lives. However, they will be rewarded in heaven, even if they are not rewarded on earth.

e) Peter's Denials 14:27-31, 66-72



Peter does not think he will _____ Jesus, though Jesus says he will.

↳ Even strong _____ have moments of weakness.

↳ God knows humans better than they know themselves.

6. Fill in the gaps. Use the words in the box below.

Denial
Doubt
Disciples
Judge
Deny

Christians do not need to _____ God – he is always in control. Jesus dying was God's plan and not a failure.

Christians need to be aware that _____ of God will negatively affect their relationship with him, as with Peter.

However, God forgives – he will still love and use those who stumble, such as Peter.

Christians should not _____ other harshly – people make mistakes.

f) The Commission and Ascension 16:14-20

Jesus sends out his **disciples** _____ he was then taken up to his Father.

↳ Disciples should preach _____ them.

↳ If people believe they will _____ they do not believe they

8. Which sacrament does the commission of the disciples emphasise?

9. Extension: Why do you think Jesus has such emphasis on calling and sending out his disciples?

10. Extension: Explain to _____ discipleship as present

Some believe Jesus _____ who do not believe _____ Mark trying hard

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For Jesus:

- The man with **A** _____ – Jesus realises **compassion** is more important than **law**.
- The Greek woman – possibly the start of Jesus' mission to the **B** _____.
- Jesus' teaching and **miracles** – performing his purpose from God.
- Sending out the **disciples** – so the good news of God's Kingdom is spread.

1. Write the correct multiple-choice answers in the gaps.

For People: 1st and 21st centuries:

- Jesus' teaching – people know how to follow God and that God loves them.
- Jesus' emphasis on **faith** and **commission** – this helps Christians strong and reminds them to **C** _____.
- Jesus' interaction with those disregarded by society – this shows people that God loves everyone.
- Jesus' **crucifixion** and **resurrection** – Christians believe brought **D** _____ and **reconciliation** with God.

a) Key Events in the Life of Jesus

b) Understandings of the Kingdom of God

Significance

Christians can understand the Kingdom of God in several different ways:

- _____ – people can experience the **Kingdom of God** now – such as the mustard seed growing from a seed straight away.
- _____ – people can experience the Kingdom of God later than the crop is harvested (e.g. parable of the growing seed).
- _____ – knowing God is being in his Kingdom spiritually.
- _____ – those who believe in and follow God exist in his Kingdom here and/or in heaven.

c) Attitudes to Those Disregarded by Society

Attitudes to those Disregarded by Society

?	Jewish purity laws discouraged contact with the disrespected and gentiles. Jews were angry at those who they felt betrayed them (e.g. tax collectors). Gentiles and sinners were seen as inferior (to God as well). Society was divided and people were scared of catching diseases.
?	Saw compassion as more important than law. He offered the opportunity for a relationship with God to all people, including gentiles and women were all worth as much as others.
?	Do not deem people as unclean or unworthy. Seen Christianity as inclusive and open to everyone. Most people thought that women are equal to men, though some still see different gender roles as appropriate.

d) Discipleship

4. Give two reasons why discipleship was important to Jesus' disciples.

Significance/Importance for Jesus' Disciples:

- Their top priority – they made sacrifices and took risks to follow Jesus.
- _____
- _____

f) Authority of Jesus' Teaching

e) Nature and Importance of Faith

But Christians think that Jesus' teaching is from God and has spiritual authority.

Significance/Importance for 21st-century Christians:

- Christians want to have a relationship with God.
- Christians feel it is important to follow Jesus' teaching and example, e.g. by giving charity and **evangelising**.
- Christians do not want to fail God by denying Jesus as Peter did.

6. Who can have faith? What is it necessary for?

There are different views on faith:

- **Faith** can be (seen as) weak or strong.
- Faith can be easy or hard.
- Faith can be held by _____ e.g. _____.
- Faith is necessary for _____ and _____.
- _____ people to accept God's power and will when they do not fully understand.

7. Do you think Jesus' teaching is relevant today?

8. Do you think discipleship is easier or harder today than in the time Mark's Gospel was written? Why?

9. Extension: What do you think is the best understanding of the Kingdom of God?

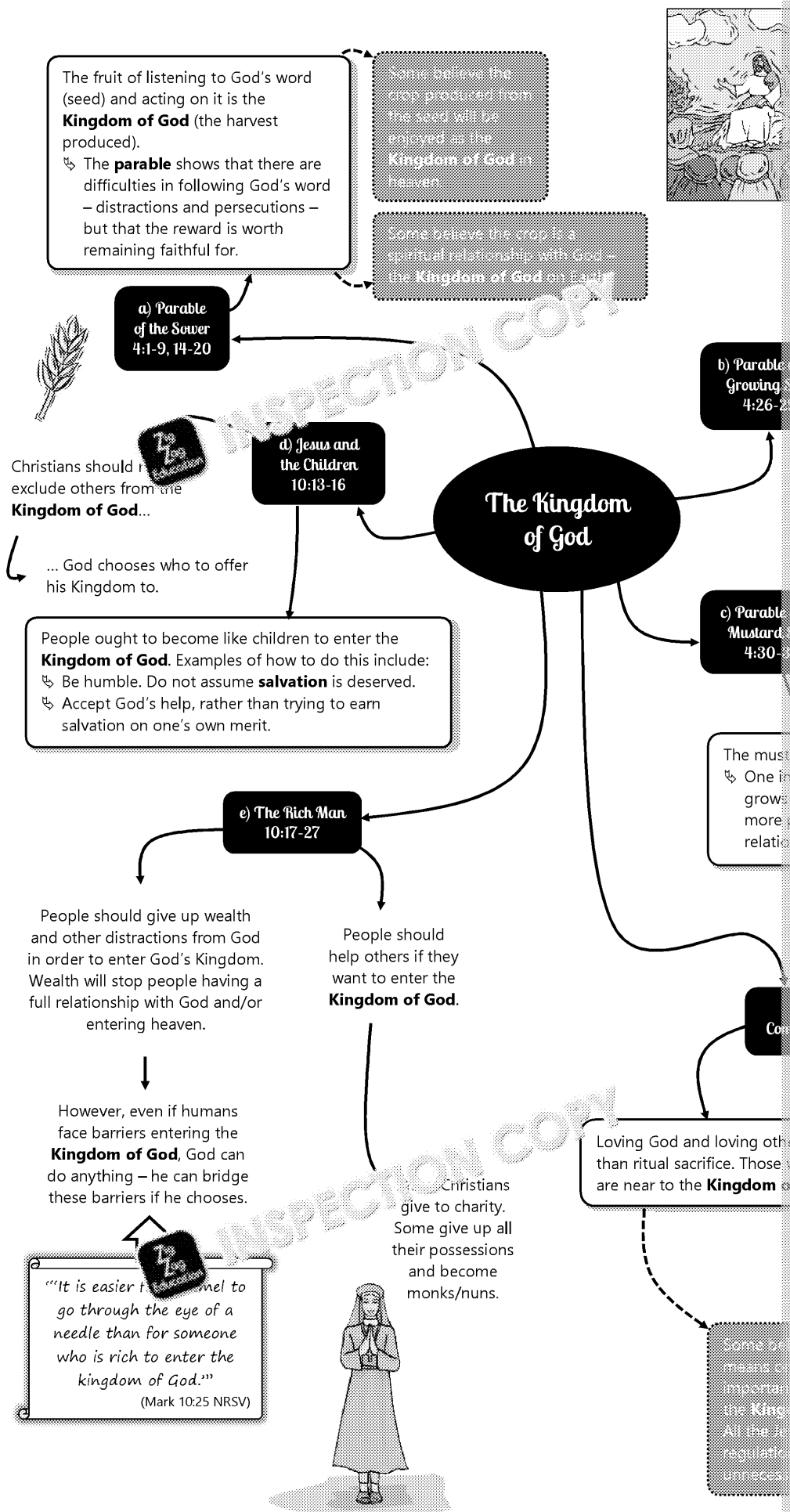
10. Extension:

Mark's Gospel
Argue for and against the Gospel and your view which follows it.
Make some notes in your book.

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Jesus is approached by a man with leprosy. Jesus' **compassion** is stronger than his concern for Jewish purity laws, which forbid touching someone with leprosy. He chooses to **heal** the man.

Jesus still tells the man to see the priest, in line with the **law** – he does not completely disregard Jewish law.

Jesus helps the man even though people knowing about his powers makes it hard for him to move around freely and is, therefore, inconvenient for him.

Illness: Man with Leprosy / Epileptic Boy	Jesus' compassion is stronger than his concern for Jewish purity laws, which forbid touching someone with leprosy. He chooses to heal the man.
Unpopular/ Forgotten: Levi/Widow	Jesus still tells the man to see the priest, in line with the law – he does not completely disregard Jewish law.
Gentiles: Greek Woman	Jesus helps the man even though people knowing about his powers makes it hard for him to move around freely and is, therefore, inconvenient for him.
Women: Greek Woman / Widow / Woman at Bethany	Jesus calls a tax collector, who follows him. Mark again shows that faith is important – people must not put anything above following Jesus.

Jesus calls a tax collector, who follows him. Mark again shows that **faith** is important – people must not put anything above following Jesus.

Jesus' Relationships with Those Disregarded by Society

c) The Greek (Syro-Phoenician) Woman's Daughter 7:24-30

A **gentile** woman asks for help. Jesus implies that the Jews will receive **salvation** before the gentiles.

Some believe that Jesus was testing the woman's **faith** – he **healed** her daughter because she believed in him, indifferent to her religious status.

Some believe that Jesus was not aware of God's plan for the **gentiles** – God used the woman to show him.

b) The Call of Levi 2:13-17

e) The Widow at the Treasury 12:41-44

d) The Epileptic (Demon-possessed) Boy 9:14-29

Jesus' **disciples** fail to heal a boy. Jesus reminds people that they need to keep **faith** in God if they want to see his work in their lives – anyone can receive **healing** if they have faith.

Jesus said to him "If you are a **believer**, you can see the power of the one who believes." (Mark 9:23 NRSV)

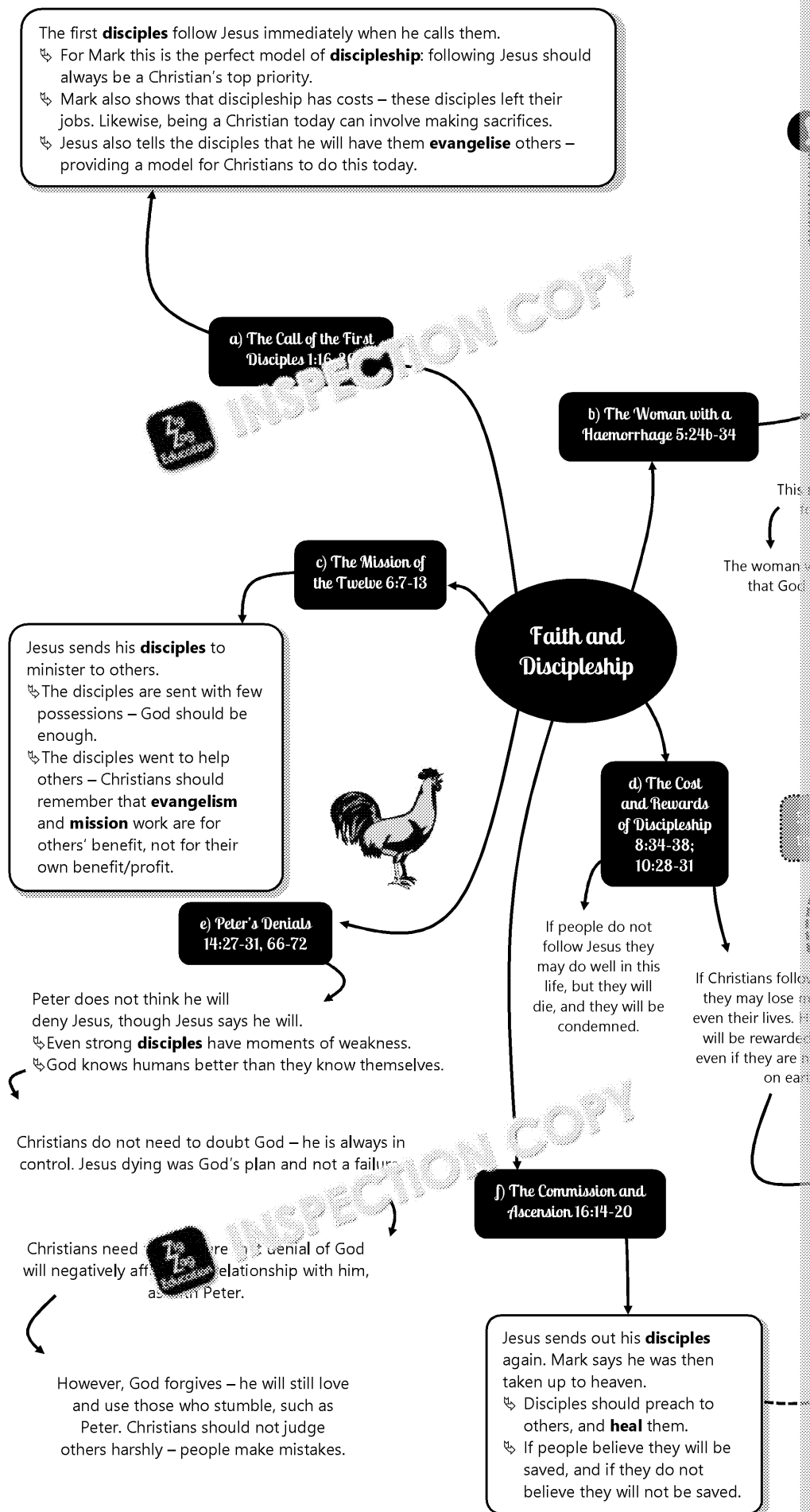
Jesus praises a woman who gives a small amount to the Temple. He shows that he cares about intentions, values the poor. He values what people can give, even if that is little. The rich are worth more to God.

Also, **disciples** need to remember to rely on God and **pray** for his help, as well as having faith in him. Everyone has to work at a relationship with God.

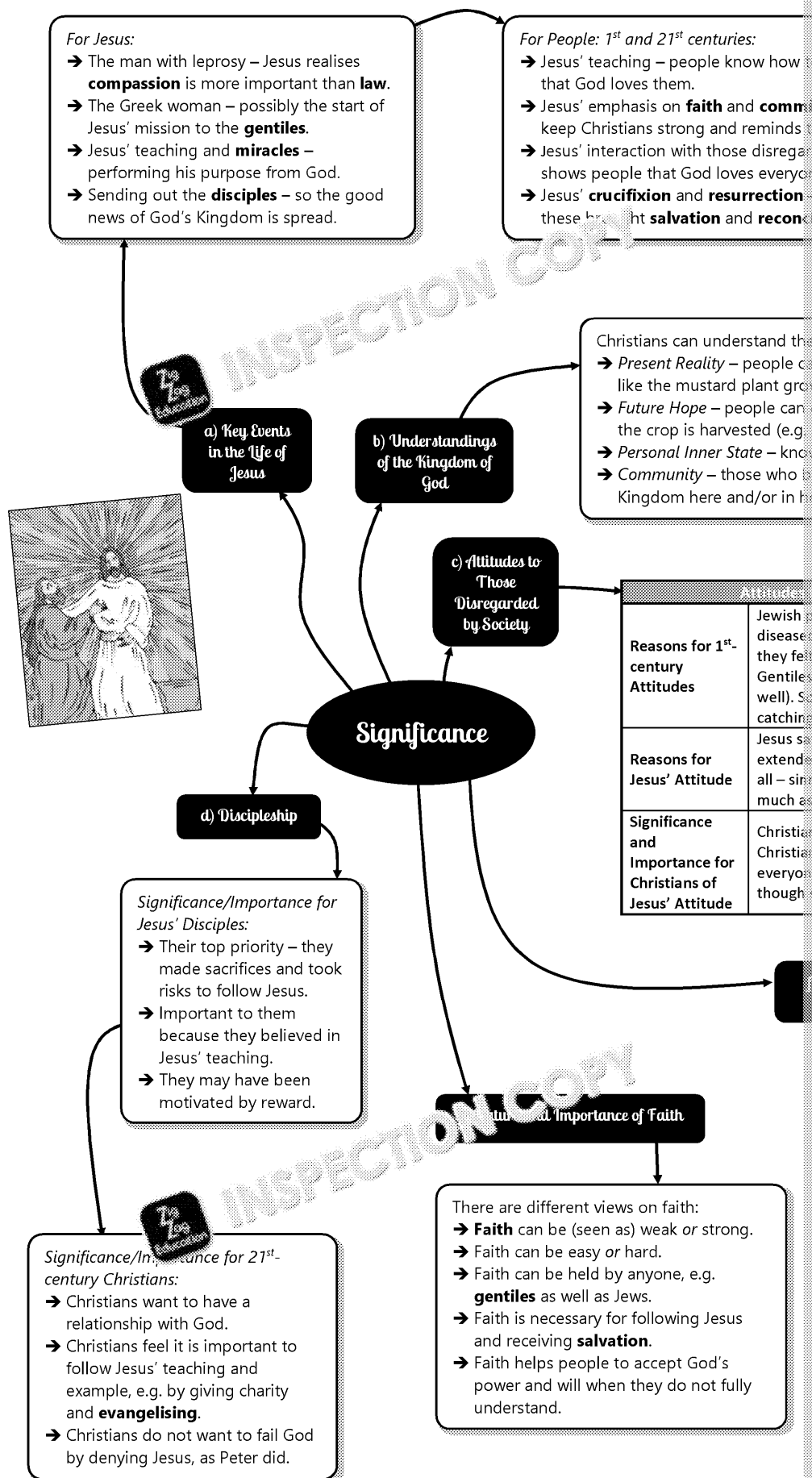
As with other passages, Jesus shows that just because society values certain things doesn't mean God has the same priorities. God values **faith** and commitment from anyone. Christians should try to remember God's priorities.

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Theme H Topic on a Page Activities

1. The Kingdom of God

- 1) See summary sheet.
- 2) For example:
 - Seeds eaten by birds = those who hear God's word, but the devil takes it away.
 - Seeds choked by weeds = those who hear God's word but are distracted by worldly pleasures.
- 3) See summary sheet.
- 4) See summary sheet.
- 5) See summary sheet.
- 6) See summary sheet.
- 7) See summary sheet.
- 8) For example:
 - Humility
 - Faith
 - Charity
 - Loving (God and others)
 - Doing God's will
- 9) For example: I think that different parables in Mark's Gospel appear to give different understandings of the Kingdom of God because there are several different valid understandings – Jesus says that the Kingdom of God is present now on earth and will also be experienced in the future.
- 10) For example:
 - The Kingdom of God is important to Christians in encouraging them to give to the poor. Jesus says that it is hard for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God, and the Kingdom belongs to the poor. Christians who want to have a good relationship with God should do this, as they do not want wealth to distract them from God and his will.
 - 'But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."
 - The Kingdom of God is important to Christians in reminding them that they should not be proud, but that salvation is a gift from God, and they do not earn it. It reminds them that the Kingdom is for all, not just for the rich and powerful, because it is God who offers his Kingdom to all, and not humans.
 - 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs...' (Mark 10:14 NRSV)

Accept any relevant points and reference to Mark's Gospel.

1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4), 1 mark for reference to Mark's Gospel.

If only one way is mentioned, maximum 2 marks, 1 mark for reference to Mark's Gospel.

2. Jesus' Relationship with Women Disregarded by Society

- 1) See summary sheet.
- 2) See summary sheet.
- 3) See summary sheet.
- 4) See summary sheet.
- 5) For example:

'But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." (Mark 7:28–29 NRSV)
- 6) See summary sheet.
- 7) See summary sheet.

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- 8) For example: I think Mark might write about the man with leprosy early on to show other Jews – he shows that compassion is more important than the law. This sets shows that following Jesus differs from mainstream Judaism.
- 9) For example: I think that Mark focuses on Jesus' encounters with those disregarded to show that Jesus brought salvation for everyone, not just for the elite. I think he also shows that what is important, not someone's social status.
- 10) For example:
- Jesus' relationship with those disregarded by society is important to Christians that everyone is important to God. Jesus healing the Greek woman's message was for everyone, and, therefore, Christians should not treat anyone differently.
 - 'But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter."' (Mark 7:26-27)
 - Jesus' relationship with those disregarded by society is important to Christians that everyone is important to God. Jesus healing the man with leprosy violated Jewish law. He also ate with sinners, which was frowned upon. This concern should be to help people rather than follow rules or the status quo.
 - 'Moved with pity, Jesus reached out his hand and touched him, and said to him, "Be clean!"' (Mark 1:41 RSV)
- Accept any relevant points and reference to Mark's Gospel.
- 1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4), 1 mark for reference to Mark's Gospel.
- If *only* one way is mentioned, maximum 2 marks + 1 mark for reference to Mark's Gospel.

3. Faith and Discipleship

- 1) See summary sheet.
- 2) For example: The story of the woman with the haemorrhage might be particularly relevant as they are outcasts and not cared about by others – this story may indicate to them that Jesus then he will heal them, and not treat them like outcasts.
- 3) See summary sheet.
- 4) See summary sheet.
- 5) See summary sheet.
- 6) See summary sheet.
- 7) For example:
'And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned."'
- 8) Baptism.
- 9) For example: I think Mark places such an emphasis on Jesus calling and sending out his disciples as a model of how to behave – he shows them that they must prioritise Jesus and follow him, even if it means helping others.
- 10) For example:
- Christians believe that discipleship is costly. Jesus taught his disciples to follow him, even if it meant leaving everything behind (in Mark 8). He also implied that man should leave everything behind for Jesus (Mark 10).
 - Christians believe that discipleship can be costly. Jesus' first disciples left everything behind to follow him. Christians today may have to make similar sacrifices. Discipleship can be costly as disciples are persecuted – Christians may have to choose like Peter whether to follow Jesus or face punishment, even death.
- Accept any relevant point.
- 1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4).
- If *only* belief is mentioned OR the two beliefs are not *contrasting*, maximum 2 marks.

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... Peter that he [Peter] will deny
... shows that faith is in the heart

- 

...not seem to be enough

- any rele

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