

GCSE AQA B Topic on a Page for Section B

Theme D: St Mark's Gospel – The Life of Jesus

Theme E: St Mark's Gospel as a Source of Spiritual Truth

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
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Teacher's Introduction

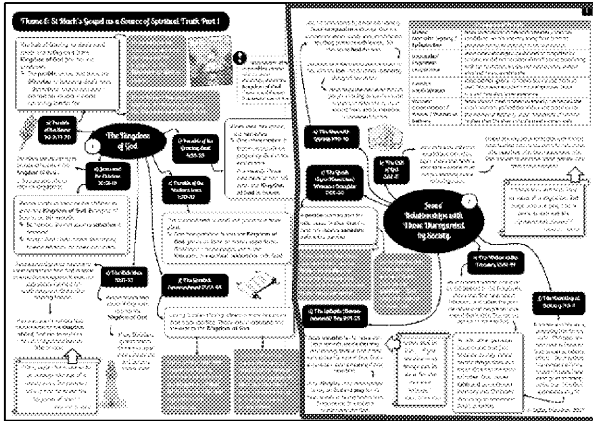
This resource covers the Religious Studies GCSE AQA B specification for Section B: Themes; Textual Studies – Themes D and E.

The sections are as follows:

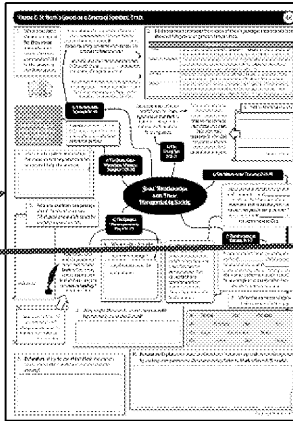
1. **A4 teacher information pages.**
2. **Four A3 revision posters**, between them covering the four subtopics. These are labelled as part **1** and part **2** for themes D and E. These posters are intended as a summary of all material, focusing on the main points rather than the detail, so that all important areas are covered without going into too much depth.
3. **Eight A3 subtopic sheets (four for each theme) with activities.** Each of these sheets covers one subtopic and provides write-on activities for students to complete. Answers are provided in the A3 subtopic revision posters and the A4 extension question answer pages. These are labelled with numbers inside white circles:  **D4**
4. **Eight A3 subtopic revision posters (four for each theme).** These provide answers for the main activities given in the A3 subtopic 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: **D4**
5. **A4 answers to extension questions.** These pages provide answers to the extension questions not covered on the A3 subtopic revision posters.

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

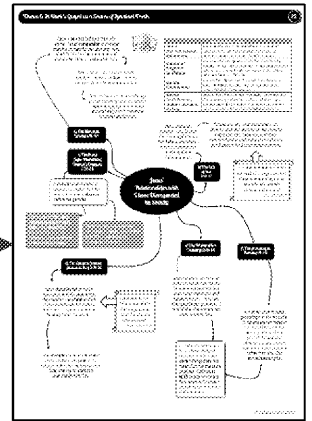
A3 revision poster



A3 subtopic sheet with activities



A3 subtopic 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.

October 2017

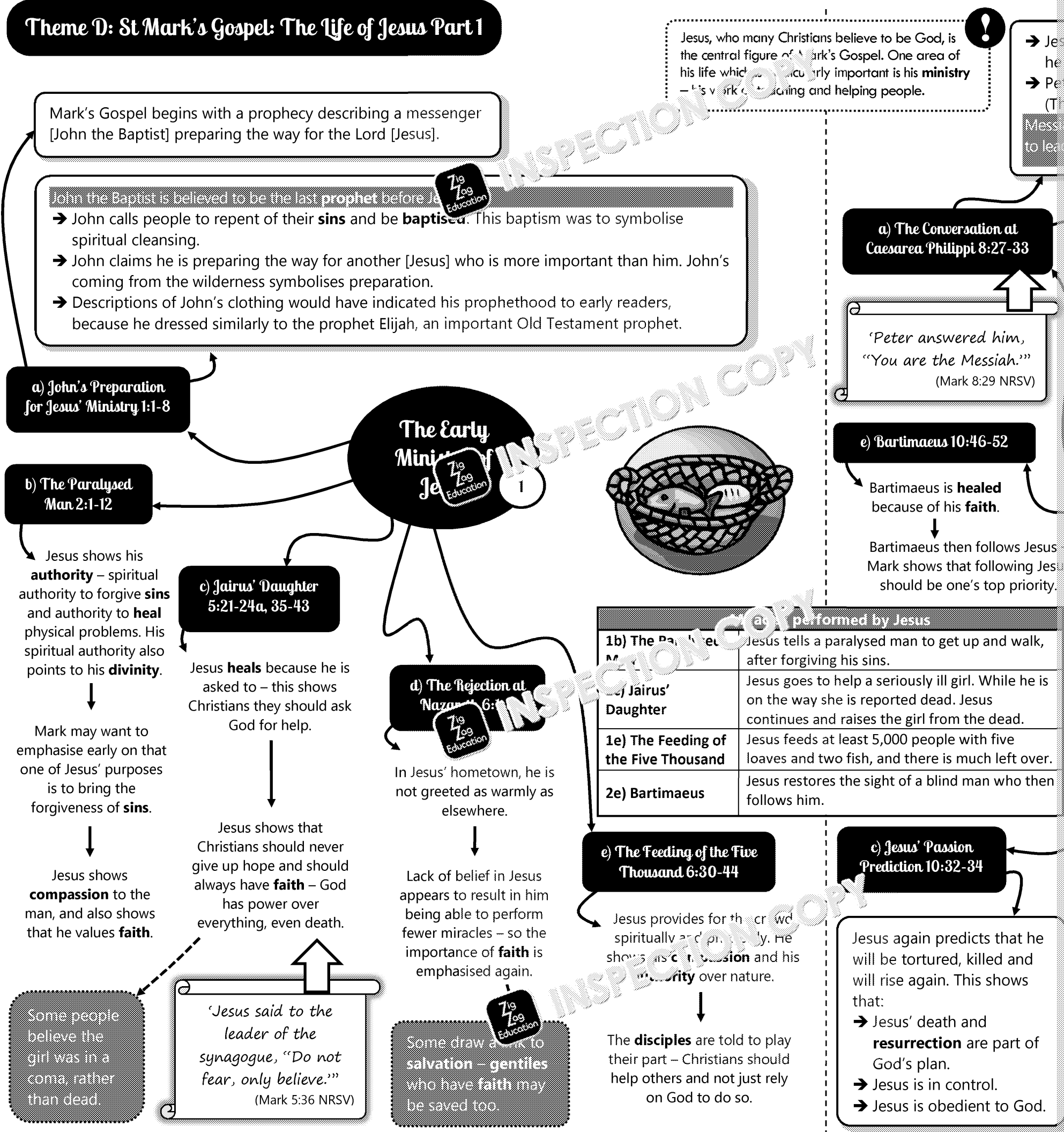
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Theme D: St Mark's Gospel: The Life of Jesus Part 1

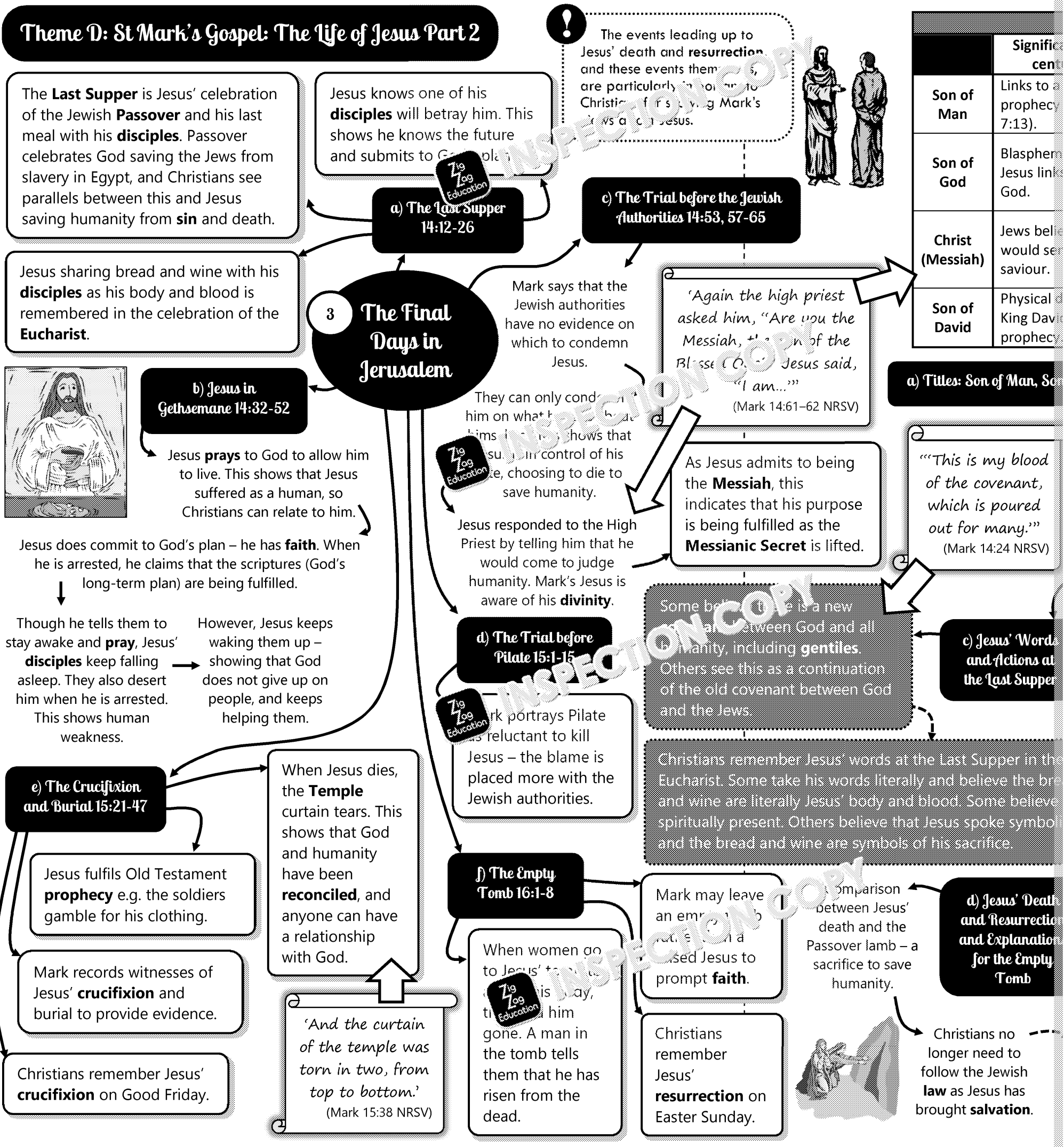


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Theme D: St Mark's Gospel: The Life of Jesus Part 2

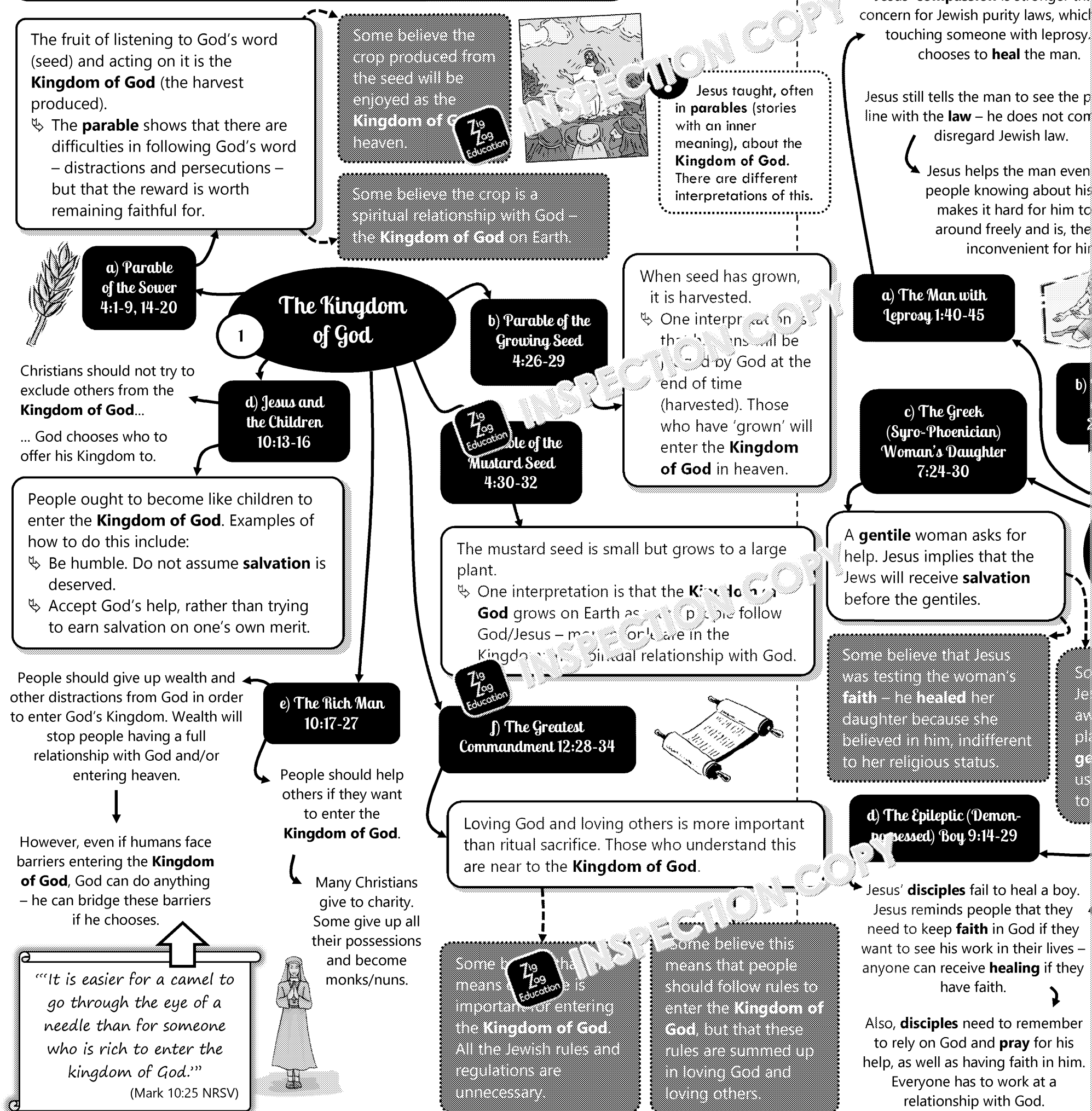


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Theme E: St Mark's Gospel as a Source of Spiritual Truth Part 1

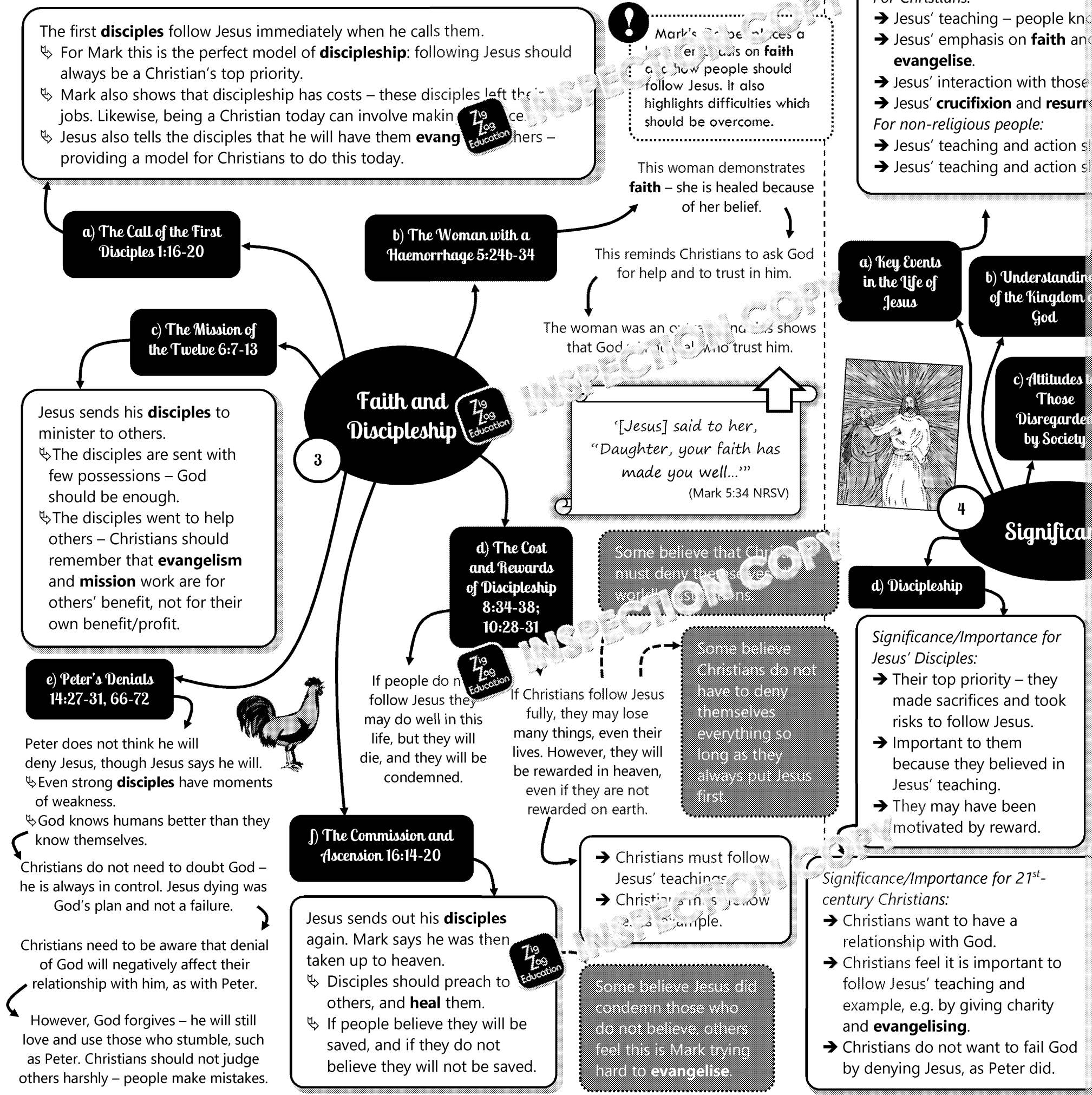


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Theme E: St Mark's Gospel as a Source of Spiritual Truth Part 2



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Theme D: St Mark's Gospel: The Life of Jesus

1. How does Mark's Gospel begin (Mark 1:2-3)?

Mark's Gospel begins...

John the Baptist is believed to be the last prophet before Jesus.

- John calls people to repent of their sins and be **baptised**. This symbolises spiritual cleansing.
- John claims he is preparing the way for another [Jesus] who is more important than him. John's coming from the wilderness symbolises preparation.
- Descriptions of John's clothing would have indicated his prophethood to early readers, because he dressed similarly to the prophet Elijah, an important Old Testament prophet.

a) John's Preparation for Jesus' Ministry 1:1-8

Find a Bible quote about one of the miracles of Jesus. Find one about the feeding of the 5000.

Reference:

The Early Ministry of Jesus

3. Fill in the gaps!
Use the words in the box below.

Authority
Purposes
Greeted
Faith
Heals
Help
Miracles
Sins

b) The Paralyse Man 2:1-12

Jesus shows his **authority** – spiritual authority to forgive sins and authority to **heal** physical problems. His spiritual authority also points to his **divinity**.

Mark may want to emphasise early on that one of Jesus' purposes is to bring the forgiveness of **sins**.

Jesus shows **compassion** to the man, and also shows that he values **faith**.

5. Fill in the quote.

(Mark 5:36 NRSV)

8. Why do you think Mark's Gospel starts with John the Baptist's preparation?

c) Jairus' Daughter 5:21-43

Jesus shows that Christians should never give up hope and should always have **faith** – God has power over everything, even death.

Jesus shows that Christians should never give up hope and should always have **faith** – God has power over everything, even death.

6. Give an alternative understanding for Jesus saying that the girl is just sleeping.

d) The Rejection at Nazareth 6:1-6

In Jesus' hometown, he is not **accepted** as warmly as elsewhere.

Lack of belief in Jesus appears to result in him being able to perform fewer **miracles** – so the importance of **faith** is emphasised again.

Some draw a link to **salvation** – **gentiles** who have **faith** may be saved too.

9. Extension: Why do you think Mark spends a lot of time covering Jesus' miracles?

4. Give a purpose for the miracles.

b) The Paralyse Man

c) Jairus' Daughter

e) The Feeding of the 5000

Jesus' spiritual authority shows...

The crowd's reaction shows...

10

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Theme D: St Mark's Gospel: The Life of Jesus



Jesus, who many Christians believe to be God, is the central figure of Mark's Gospel. One area of his life which is particularly important is his **ministry** – his work of teaching and helping people.

- Jesus' **disciples** tell him what people believe about him: he is a **prophet**.
- Peter says that he believes Jesus is the **Messiah**.
(This also reflects Mark's belief.)

Messiah means 'anointed one'. Peter believes Jesus was sent to lead the Jewish people.

1. Fill in the Bible quote.



a) The Father's voice from heaven
Mark 8:27-33

- Jesus tells his **disciples** not to tell others about him: an instance of the **Messianic Secret** in Mark's Gospel.
- Jesus explains he has responsibilities to the Jewish people.
- When Peter rebukes him, Jesus calls him 'Satan' because he does not fully understand God's plan.

(Mark 8:29 NRSV)

Miracles performed by Jesus

- e) **Bartimaeus** Jesus restores the sight of a blind man who then follows him.

e) **Bartimaeus** 10:46-52

4. Why was Bartimaeus healed?

Bartimaeus was healed because...



Bartimaeus then follows Jesus – Mark shows that following Jesus should be one's top priority.

c) **Jesus' Passion Prediction** 10:32-34

5. Give three things that Jesus' passion prediction shows.

Jesus again predicts that he will be tortured, killed and will rise again. This shows that...

→

→

→



Two of Jesus' disciples ask to sit at his right and left in glory.

Jesus explains that his followers should seek to help others, not seek to help themselves.

Many Christians put this into practice by helping others day to day, giving to the poor, or becoming missionaries or ministers. It shows that Christianity is practical and Christians must do good.

"... whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all."
(Mark 10:44)

7. Give two ways in which Christians may serve others, which are not given here.



8. Explain the impact the Transfiguration has for Christians, e.g. if Jesus is shown to fulfil the law and the prophets.

9. **Extension:** Give two possible reasons for the Messianic Secret in Mark's Gospel.

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Theme D: St Mark's Gospel: The Life of Jesus

Meaning and Significance of Titles of Jesus			
	Significance for 1 st -century Jews	Significance for Jesus	Significance for 21 st -century Christians
Son of Man	Links to a Jewish prophecy (see Daniel 7:13).	Jesus used this when referring to the suffering he will experience and the A _____ he has.	Emphasises Jesus' humanity and allows Christians to relate to him.
Son of God	Blasphemy because Jesus links himself to God.	Jesus does not say whether he thinks himself divine, or just a human with a special relationship with God. Before his death, this relationship is recognised by B _____, but not humans.	Most Christians think Jesus was divine; some think he just had a special relationship with God.
Christ (Messiah)	Many Jews believed God would send a C _____ saviour.	Means 'anointed one' in Greek and Hebrew. Jesus believed he was chosen by God. He conceals his identity to fulfil his purpose.	Christians believe that Jesus was a spiritual saviour – that he came to bring salvation, not political freedom.
Son of David	Physical descendant of King David. Fulfils prophecy.	Some believe that Jesus sees himself this way / thinks this is important; others do not.	Jesus being the Son of God (and also human) is more important.

1. Write your choice

Key Points

→ That Jesus brings salvation that this world cannot give

→ That Christians believe that Jesus is the only way to live.

→ Jesus is the only way to live and not to live otherwise

b) Jesus as Son of God and Miracles

e) The Miracles

Science

→ Miracles are not in science

→ The miracles of Jesus are not in science

Many scholars believe Mark's Gospel has spiritual authority.

Christians believe Mark's Gospel has spiritual authority.

Non-religious and secular views:

? Jesus' body could not have risen

? Jesus might not have been resurrected

? Mark's witnesses are unreliable

Christian views:

? Jesus' resurrection is spiritual, not physical

? OR Jesus could have been resurrected physically

6. Explain why the resurrection is important for Protestants

Catholics tend to believe that the resurrection is important for Protestants

Protestants tend to believe that the resurrection is important for Protestants

8. Extension: What does the resurrection suggest about Jesus as the Son of God?

a) Titles: Son of Man, Son of God, Christ (Messiah), Son of David

c) Jesus' Words and Actions at the Last Supper

Some believe there is a new covenant between God and all humanity, including gentiles. Others see it as a continuation of the old covenant between God and the Jews.

4. Fill in the Bible quote.

(Mark 14:24 NRSV)

Christians remember Jesus' words at the Last Supper in the Eucharist. Some take his words literally and believe the bread and wine are literally Jesus' body and blood. Some believe they are spiritually Jesus' body and blood. Others believe that Jesus spoke symbolically and the bread and wine are symbols of his sacrifice.

5. Find a Bible quote about the significance of Jesus' crucifixion/resurrection.

Reference:

7. Do you think that Mark's Gospel can be trusted? Why or why not?

7. Death and Resurrection and Explanations for the Empty Tomb

Comparison between Jesus' death and the Passover lamb – a sacrifice to save humanity.

Christians no longer need to follow the Jewish law as Jesus has brought salvation.

Theme E: St Mark's Gospel as a Source of Spiritual Truth

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.

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

The Kingdom of God

e) The Man 10

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

People should give up wealth and other distractions from God in order to enter God's Kingdom. We should stop people having a false relationship with God by entering heaven.

d) Jesus and the Children 10:13-16

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

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

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

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

5. How might Christians help others in light of this passage? (What do some of the actions mentioned include giving up their possessions?)

6. Fill in the Bible quote.

(Mark 10:25 NRSV)

8. Give three qualities Mark's Gospel implies people should have in order 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?

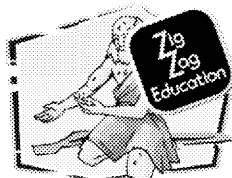
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Theme E: St Mark's Gospel as a Source of Spiritual Truth

1. 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 go to 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.

2. Fill in the main _____ show which group _____

Illness:

Unpopular/Forgotten:

Gentiles:

Women:

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. Jesus implies that the Jews will receive **salvation** before the gentiles.

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

b) The Call of Levi 2:13-17

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

Jesus' Relationship with Those Disregarded by Society

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



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

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

6. What do the disciples need to remember to do in this passage?

Also, disciples need to remember to...

As with Jesus, because certain things mean God's same principles values for committing anyone should follow God's principles

Reference:



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

8. Why might Mark write about the man with leprosy early on in the Gospel?

9. Extension: Why does Mark focus on Jesus' encounter with those disregarded by society?

10. Extension: Explain two ways by society is important

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Theme E: St Mark's Gospel as a Source of Spiritual Truth

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 send them **evangelise** others – providing a model for Christians to follow this today.

a) The First Disciples 1:16-20

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

b) The Woman with a Haemorrhage 5:24b-34

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

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

Faith and Discipleship

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

d) The Cost and Reward of Discipleship 8:34-10:28-31

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.

f) The Commission and Ascension

Jesus sends his disciples out. He was the first to do so. Disciples are sent to them. If people follow Jesus, they do

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

Denial
Doubt
Disciples
Judge
Deny

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.

Christians do not need to _____ God – he is always in control. Jesus dying was God's plan, not 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 _____ others harshly – people make mistakes.

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

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

10. Extension: Mark's Argument to Make a Book

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For Christians:

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

For non-religious people:

- Jesus' teaching and action showed that **C** _____ is more important than following rules.
- Jesus' teaching and action showed that **D** _____ are worth the same and should be treated equally.

a) Key Events in the Life of Jesus

b) Understandings of the Kingdom of God

c) Attitudes to Those Disregarded by Society

d) Discipleship

e) Nature and Importance of Faith

Significance

Christians can understand the Kingdom of God in several ways:

- _____ – people can experience the Kingdom of God now – such as the mustard plant growing from a seed.
- _____ – people can experience the Kingdom of God in heaven, when the crop is harvested (e.g. parable of the wheat and the tares).
- _____ – knowing God is being experienced spiritually.
- _____ – those who believe in Jesus can exist in his Kingdom here and/or in heaven.

Attitudes to those Disregarded by Society	Significance/Importance for Jesus' Disciples
?	Jewish purity laws discouraged contact with Gentiles. Jews were angry at the Pharisees for betraying them (e.g. tax collectors). They were seen as inferior (to God as well as to Jews) and people were scared of catching diseases.
?	Saw compassion as more important than the opportunity for a relationship with God. Gentiles and women were all worth the same.
?	Do not deem people as unclean or impure. Christianity as inclusive and open to all. That women are equal to men, though with different gender roles as appropriate.

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.
- _____
- _____

5. 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 _____
- Faith helps people to accept God's power and will when they do not fully understand.

6. But _____ are _____ spirit _____

7. _____

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. _____

Mark's Gospel begins with a prophecy describing a messenger [John the Baptist] preparing the way for the Lord [Jesus].



John the Baptist is believed to be the last **prophet** before Jesus.

- John calls people to repent of their **sins** and be **baptised**. This baptism in the wilderness symbolises preparation.
- Descriptions of John's clothing would have indicated his prophethood to the prophet Elijah, an important Old Testament prophet.

a) John's Preparation for Jesus' Ministry 1:1-8

The Early Ministry of Jesus

b) The Paralytic 1:14-15



Jesus shows his **authority** – spiritual authority to forgive **sins** and authority to **heal** physical problems. His spiritual authority also points to his **divinity**.

Mark may want to emphasise early on that one of Jesus' purposes is to bring the forgiveness of sins.



Jesus shows **compassion** to the man, and also shows that he values **faith**.

c) Jairus' Daughter 5:21-24a, 35-43

Jesus **heals** because he is asked to – this shows Christians the importance of asking for help.

Jesus shows that Christians should never give up hope and should always have **faith** – God has power over everything, even death.

d) The Rejection at Nazareth 6:1-6

Jesus' hometown, he is not greeted as warmly as elsewhere.

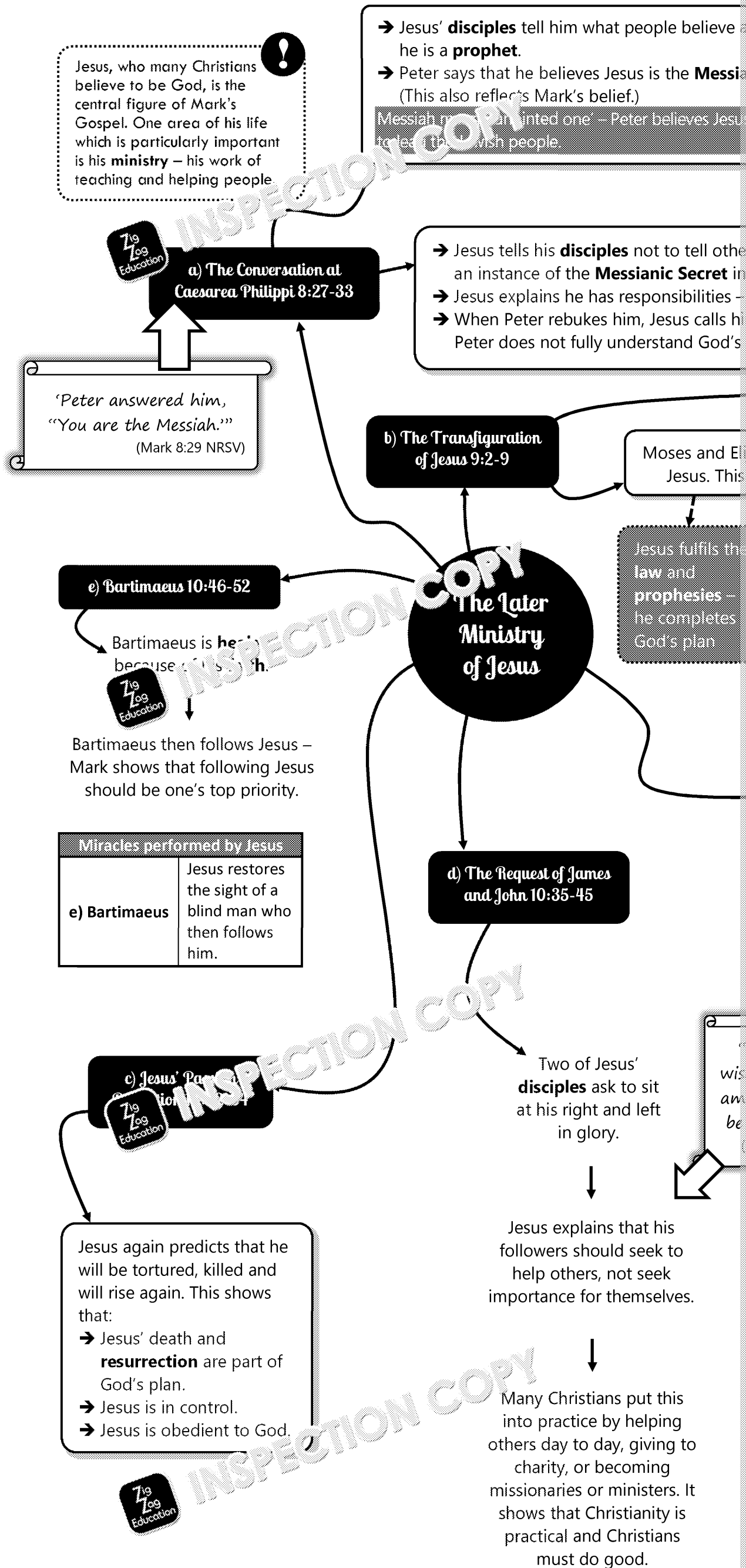
Lack of belief in Jesus appears to result in him being able to perform fewer miracles – so the importance of **faith** is emphasised again.

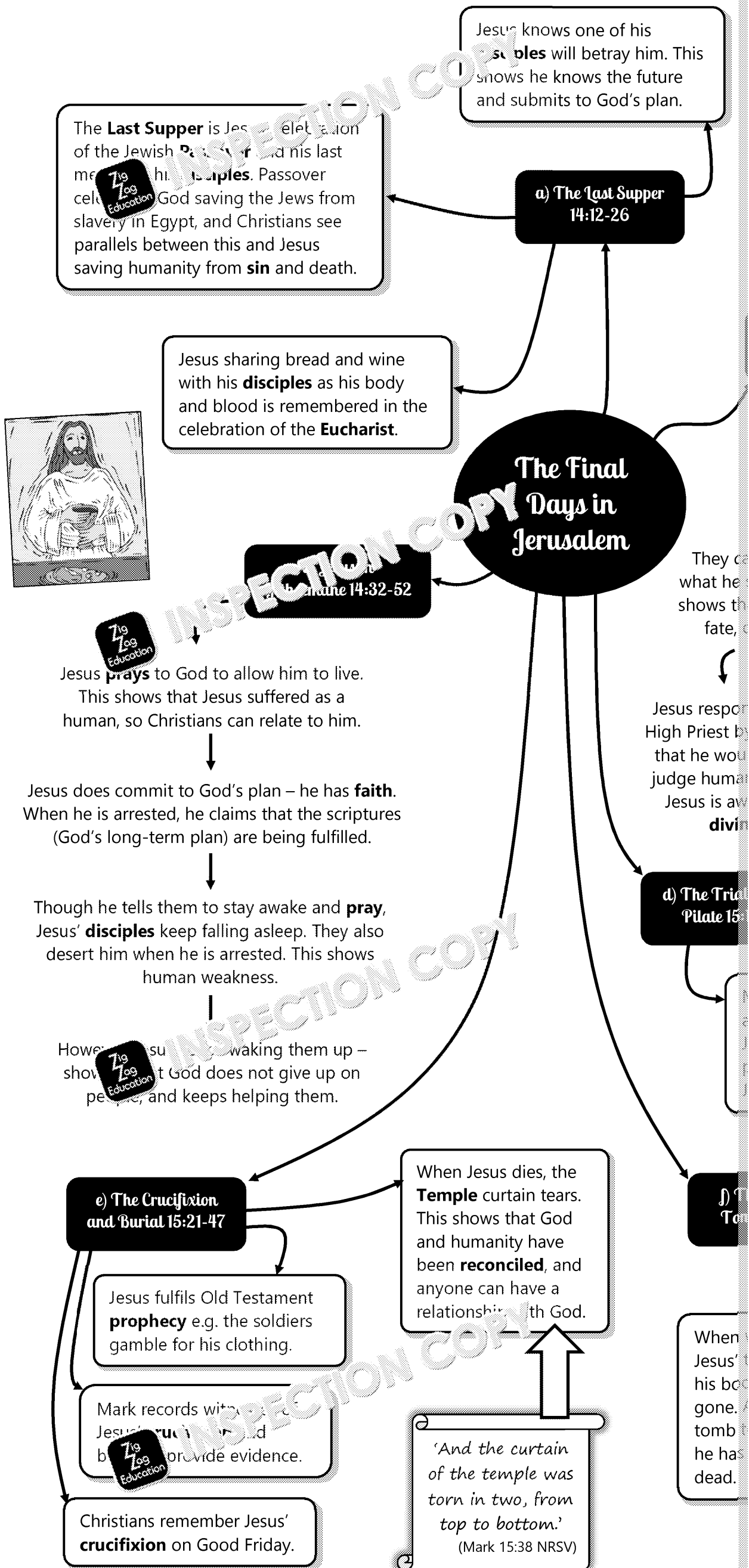
'Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe."' (Mark 5:36 NIV)

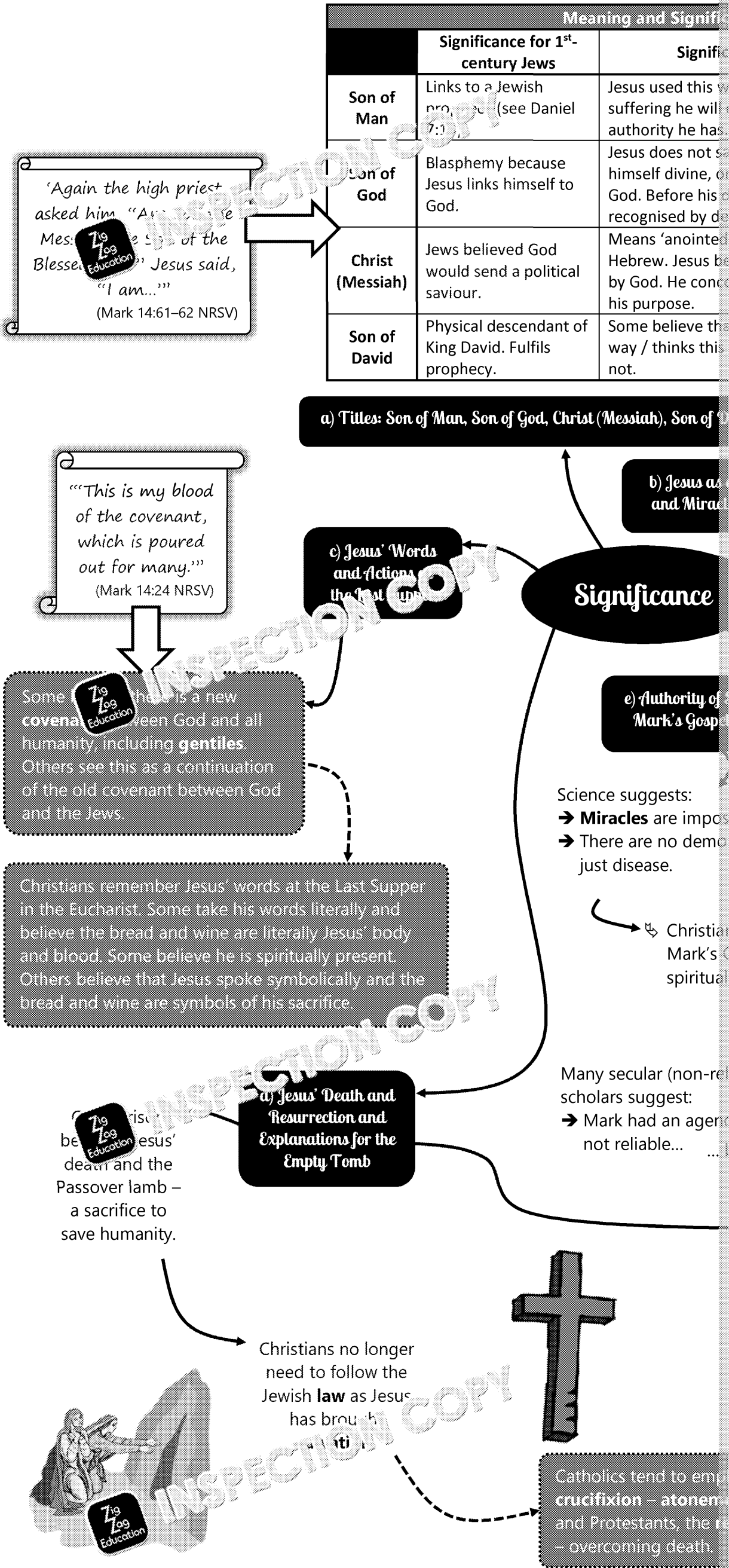


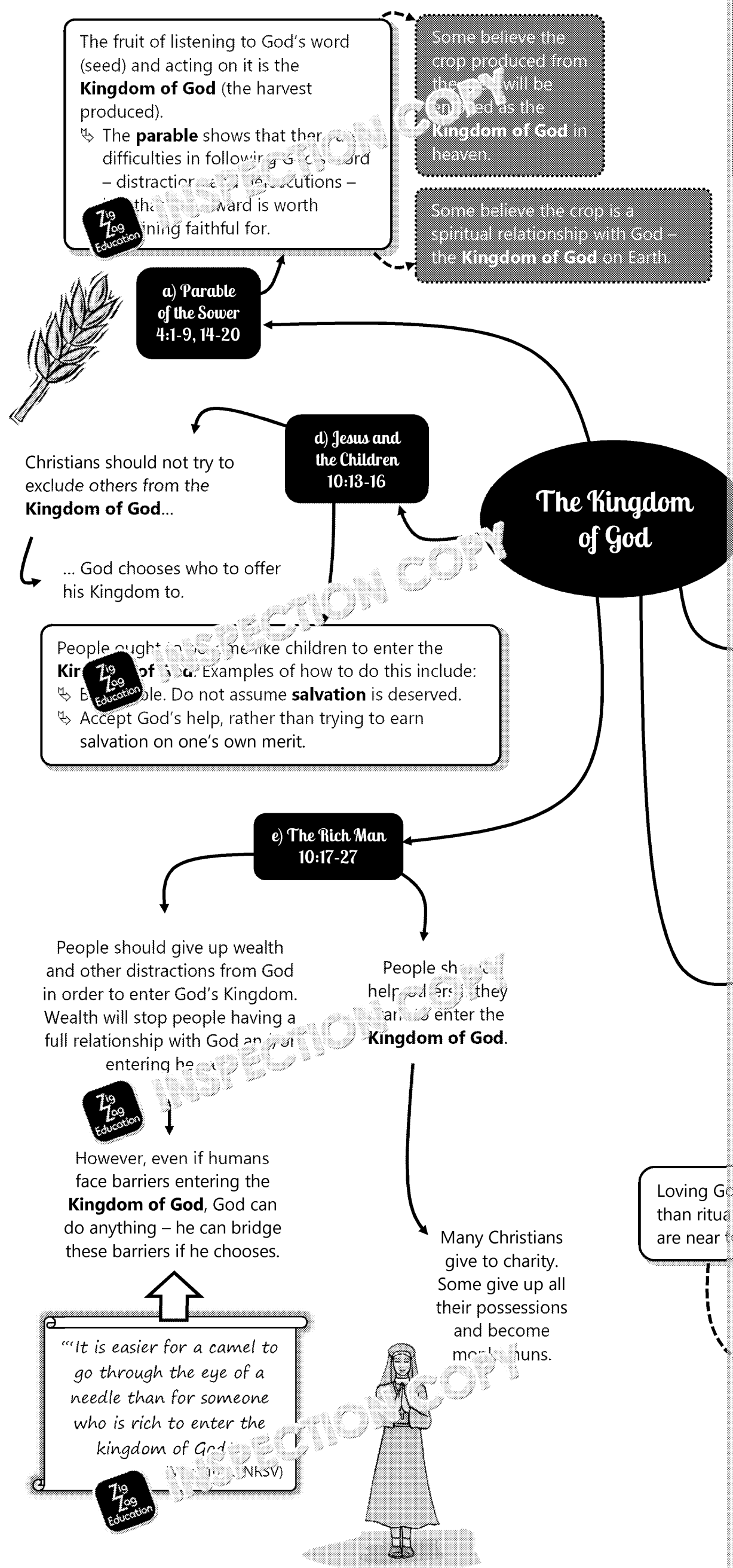
Some people believe the girl was in a coma, rather than dead.

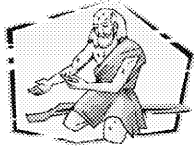
Some draw a link to **salvation – gentiles** who have **faith** may be saved too.











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 allows 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.

a) The Man with Leprosy 1:40-45

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

A gentile woman asks for healing. 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.

d) The Epileptic (Demon-possessed) Boy 9:14-18

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 able!— All things can be done for the one who believes."' (Mark 9:23 NRSV)

Also, **disciples** need to remember to rely on God and **pray** for his help, as well as to have **faith** in him.

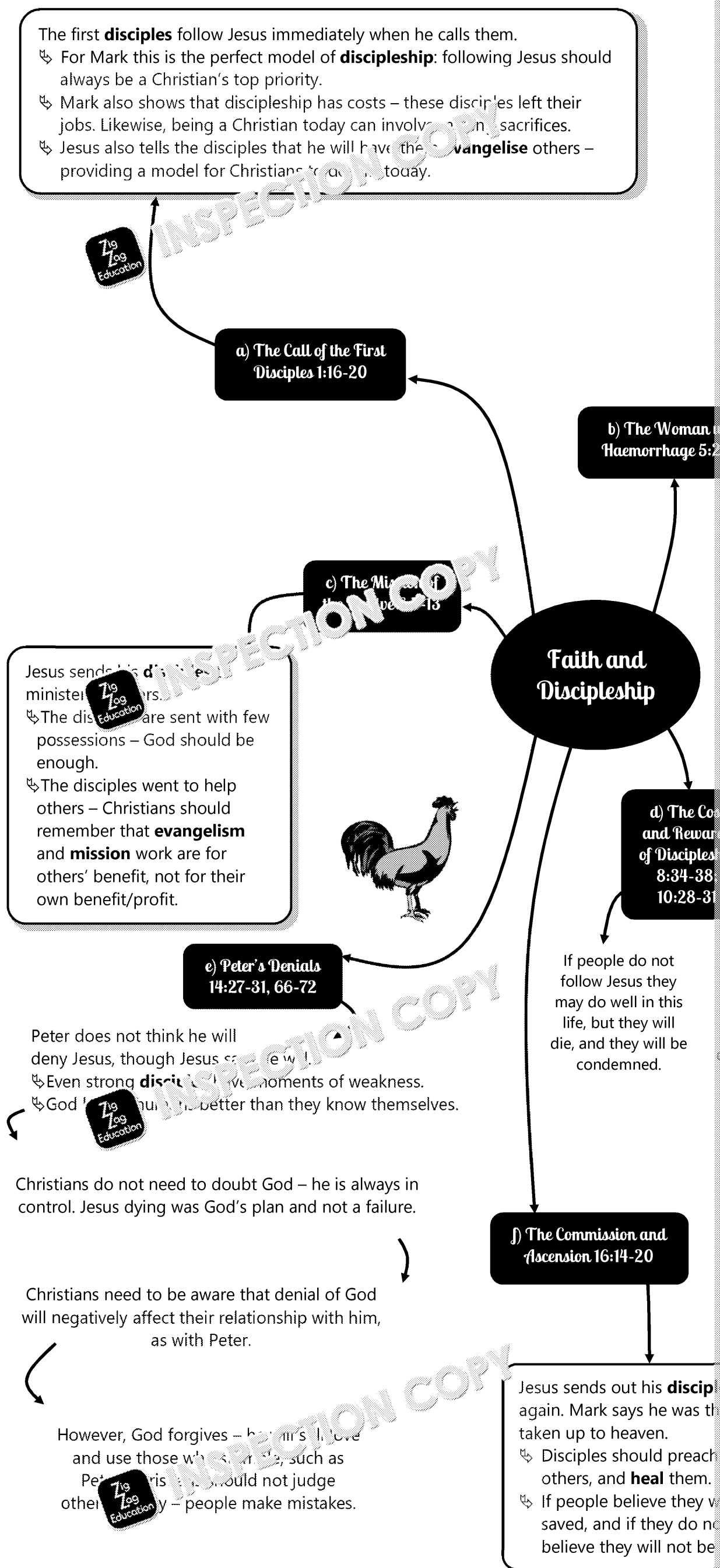
Every one of us to work at a relationship with God.

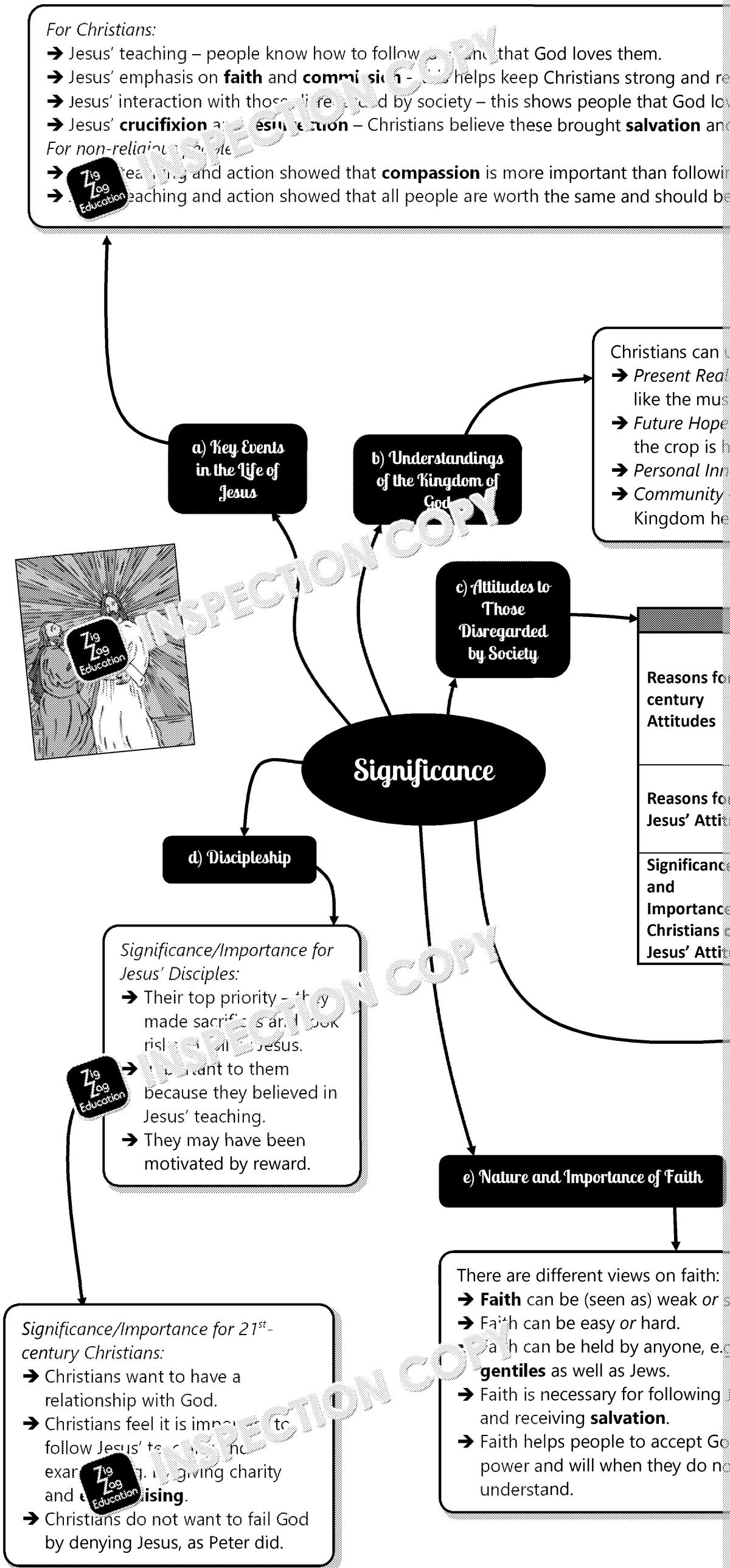
Jesus calls a tax collector, who was a sinner, to follow him. Mark again emphasizes that **faith** is important and that people must have faith in anything at all following Jesus.

Illness:
Man with Leprosy
Epileptic Boy
Unpopular
Forgotten:
Levi/Widow
Gentiles:
Greek Woman
Women:
Greek Woman
Widow / Woman
Bethany

Jesus gives a lesson on the Temple's value and what people should do that is good.

As Jesus begins to be recognized, he becomes more popular. He is not afraid to be recognized by the people.





Theme D Topic on a Page Activities

The Early Ministry of Jesus

- 1) See summary sheet.
- 2) For example:
'But he answered them, "You give them something to eat."' (Mark 6:37 NRSV)
- 3) See summary sheet.
- 4) See summary sheet.
- 5) See summary sheet.
- 6) See summary sheet.
- 7) For example: Mark emphasises that faith is important – Jesus heals people because of their friends/family, e.g. the paralysed man. He also tells people to have faith in his miracles, e.g. when he raises Jairus' daughter.
- 8) For example: I think the Gospel starts this way to show that Jesus' ministry is part of God's plan and is part of God's plan – this provides a strong basis for believing the teaching of the Gospel.
- 9) For example: I think Mark spends a lot of time covering Jesus' miracles because they show his authority and point to his divinity. They also give Mark ways of emphasising how Jesus is compassionate and cares about faith.
- 10) For example:
 - The feeding of the five thousand was important for Jesus' disciples because it showed that Jesus not only did Jesus help people when he wanted to, but he taught and fed them to spend some time alone.
 - The feeding of the five thousand was important for Jesus' disciples because it showed that Jesus needed to help others and that they should rely on God to do everything. It showed their responsibility and that they should put their faith into action.
 - 'But he answered them, "You give them something to eat."' (Mark 6:37 NRSV)

Accept 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 Gospel.

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

The Later Ministry of Jesus

- 1) See summary sheet.
- 2) For example: In Matthew's account of the Transfiguration, Jesus' face shines as well as his clothes shine.
- 3) See summary sheet.
- 4) See summary sheet.
- 5) See summary sheet.
- 6) See summary sheet.
- 7) For example: Christians may become sisters/friars, belonging to religious orders, working in the world and helping people (e.g. Mother Teresa). Christians may minister to those in prison, to help them.
- 8) For example: The Transfiguration has convinced some Christians that Jesus is God (as well as with Moses, the receiver of the law), and so this means that they feel they do not only Jesus. The Transfiguration has also influenced many Christians in believing that Jesus is God and should be worshipped and followed, which reinforces their faith in him.

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- 9) For example:
- If Jesus' identity was known the people might make him king, so he would not
 - If the priests heard Jesus was calling himself the Messiah they may have killed him to finish his ministry of teaching and healing.
 - If everyone thought Jesus was the Messiah and could perform miracles, it might be hard for him to move around and teach, as people would crowd him, and only want to see miracles.

- 10) For example:
- One argument with justification
 - Different arguments for and against, with justification
OR Several linked, justified points for one position
 - Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together
 - Very well argued, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together, leading to a reasonable conclusion.

Points and Justification for

- Christians believe that they are saved through Jesus dying to atone for their sins, and rising and overcoming death.
- Jesus often predicted his passion and said that this was his purpose.
- Jesus may have kept the Messianic Secret so that people would not protect him from Jewish authorities, so he could not die.

Points and Justification against

- Jesus' death and resurrection were important, but Jesus also came to teach about the Kingdom of God or taught people to serve others, people might not have needed his death for a relationship with God.
- Jesus' miracles were also important – they demonstrated his authority and the importance of faith.
- The recording of Jesus' ministry in Mark's Gospel allows people to relate to him. Jesus was also to live on earth so that humans could know God through him.

Accept any relevant point or justification.

The Final Days in Jerusalem

- 1) See summary sheet.
- 2) For example: I think that Jesus tells the High Priest he is the Messiah because he knew he would be killed and he believes that this is part of God's plan.
- 3) See summary sheet.
- 4) See summary sheet.
- 5) For example: I think having a risen Jesus at the end of a Gospel would be more like what had happened, but the empty tomb is better at testing faith, as Christians have to believe in something that has not been confirmed.
- 6) See summary sheet.
- 7) See summary sheet.
- 8) For example: Jesus says that he will come in glory to the High Priest; Jesus has died, betrayal and death; Jesus' tomb is found empty...
- 9) For example: I think Mark may want to emphasise that Jesus died for religious reasons, as many Jews were persecuting Christians at the time when Mark was writing, and to show the bad feelings between Christians and Jews. Mark may have wanted to show the bad feelings between Christians and Jews.

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10) For example:

- Mark's account of Jesus' crucifixion is important to Christians today, because of Jesus' death that humans and God can have a relationship. Christians believe that God and humanity (sin) which was removed when Jesus died. Not only can we have a relationship with God, but so can everyone else – Christians believe this was symbolised by the fact that Jesus died, removing the barrier between God and humanity.
- 'And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.' (Mark 15:38)
- Mark's account of Jesus' crucifixion is important to Christians today because through this that Jesus atoned for their sins. Christians believe that the punishment for sin is death, and because Jesus died for them, they no longer have to die (permanently).

Accept any relevant points on 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 view is mentioned, maximum 2 marks + 1 mark for reference to Mark's Gospel.



Significance

- 1) See summary sheet.
- 2) See summary sheet.
- 3) For example: Because Jesus says that his blood is poured out for many, not all, so that not everyone is saved. Those who are excluded from salvation through Jesus' sacrifice – maybe God has predestined others.
- 4) See summary sheet.
- 5) For example: 'But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. Through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being, so all will be made alive in Christ.' (1 Corinthians 15:20-22, NRSV)
- 6) See summary sheet.
- 7) For example: I think that Mark's Gospel is written for a trusted generally – that Mark had experienced Jesus' ministry and that he wanted to communicate Jesus' purpose. He has known everything that Jesus did, and he was not (always) there, and he probably wrote it so he was as completely factually accurate.
- 8) For example: Bartimaeus refers to Jesus as the Son of David, and as he has faith, many people with faith see who Jesus truly is (even if they are physically blind like Bartimaeus).
- 9) For example:
 - Many Christians believe that the tomb was empty because Jesus rose from the dead, and that this achieved a victory over death so that Christians can have eternal life.
 - Atheists do not believe that Jesus was raised from the dead, and so many believe that there is some other explanation for the empty tomb. They may feel that if they believe in the resurrection, they are in order to pretend that he had been resurrected.

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*, or there is not a clear Christian (religious or non-religious) view, maximum 2 marks.



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Theme E 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 concerns.
- 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 – for example, 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 follow Jesus. In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus says that it is hard for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God, as they have worldly belongings to the poor. Christians who want to have a good relationship with God should do this, as they should not let worldly wealth 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 salvation is a gift from God, and they do not earn it. It reminds them to be humble and not to look down on others, because it is God who offers his Kingdom to all, and not just to a select group.
 - '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.

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2. Jesus' Relationship with Those 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, saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter."' (Mark 7:28–29 NRSV)
- 6) See summary sheet.
- 7) See summary sheet.
- 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 out how 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 following Jesus is about what is important, not someone's social status.
- 10) For example:
 - Jesus' relationship with those disregarded by society is important to Christians. 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 7:28–29 NRSV)
 - Jesus' relationship with those disregarded by society is important to Christians. Christians what their priorities should be. Jesus healing the man with leprosy violated Jewish law. He also ate with sinners, which was frowned upon. This shows that his concern should be to help others, rather than follow rules or the status quo.
 - 'Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, "Be clean!"' (Mark 1:41 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 Gospel reference.

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 cares for them, and 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." (Mark 16:7–8 NRSV)
- 8) Baptism.
- 9) For example: I think Mark places such an emphasis on Jesus calling and sending the disciples to show them a model of how to behave – he shows them that they must prioritise Jesus and follow his teachings, and help others.

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10) For example:

- One argument with justification
- Different arguments for and against, with justification
OR Several linked, justified arguments for one position
- Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together
- Very well argued. Well-justified arguments for and against, linked together and leading to a reasonable conclusion.

Points and Justification for

- Jesus in Mark's Gospel often emphasises that people are healed because of their faith. This is important for people to have faith, and this is why they are healed.
- Jesus in Mark's Gospel emphasises that those who have faith, regardless of whether they are Jewish or Gentile, can enter the Kingdom of God.
- Jesus in Mark's Gospel implies that those who have faith in God and follow him will receive the Kingdom of God, which is shown to be an important goal.
- Jesus in Mark's Gospel tells Peter that he [Peter] will deny him [Jesus], and all the other disciples for lacking faith. This shows that faith is important to him, and he expects his disciples to have faith.

Points and Justification against

- Jesus in Mark's Gospel emphasises that people should give up their possessions and follow him. This is a difficult requirement, and it is not clear if giving up possessions is necessary for everyone.
- Jesus in Mark's Gospel emphasises that it is important to follow him. This is a difficult requirement, and it is not clear if following him is necessary for everyone.
- Compassion is very important to Jesus in Mark's Gospel. He heals the epileptic boy, and the man with leprosy when touching him. This shows that compassion is important to him, and he expects his disciples to have compassion.

Accept any relevant point or justification.

4. Significance

- 1) See summary sheet.
- 2) See summary sheet.
- 3) See summary sheet.
- 4) See summary sheet.
- 5) See summary sheet.
- 6) See summary sheet.
- 7) For example: I think if Christians believe that Jesus' teachings are from God, then Jesus' teachings have authority. Otherwise, they might not be justified, as there is no record of Jesus' teachings accurately, and there are also many differences between the Gospels. So people might believe his teachings are no longer relevant.
- 8) For example: I think discipleship is harder in many ways today than in the time of Jesus. While early Christians were persecuted and scorned by many Jews, they also had a close relationship with Jesus. Religion was also more central to daily life than it is in the twenty-first century. People were expected to be religious, as many people are not and there are many modern distractions. Christianity was also more central to daily life than it is in the twenty-first century. In some areas. It is also harder to follow some of Jesus' teachings, such as giving away everything. In the Western world, everything requires money and people are expected to work for money. Furthermore, Christians may be unsure how to be good disciples, as there are many different interpretations of Christianity.
- 9) For example: I think the best understanding of the Kingdom of God is as a future reality. Jesus was trying to explain that those who followed his teaching would go to heaven when they died. This makes it sound as if the Kingdom of God is a future reality. If people are close to the Kingdom of God, I think this means they will be able to enter it. If people are not close to the Kingdom of God, I think they will not be able to enter it. So people would be likely to go to heaven when they died, rather than enter the Kingdom of God on earth.

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10) For example:

- Christians believe that Jesus' teaching as presented in Mark's Gospel has spiritual relevance as Jesus was God, and so anything which he taught has ongoing spiritual relevance. Christians believe that everyone should be treated well regardless of their religion or social status and so they apply this in their lives.
- Many non-religious people do not feel that Jesus' teaching as presented in Mark's Gospel has spiritual relevance as they do not believe that Jesus was God, so his teaching does not have spiritual relevance. They believe that the teachings were not recorded accurately by Mark and so that some of the teachings are not relevant in the twenty-first century.

Accept any relevant point.

1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4).

If *only* beliefs are contrasted OR the two beliefs are not *contrasting*, or there is no contrast between the religious or non-religious view, maximum 2 marks.



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