

# FIVE MARKS OF MISSION

Sermon Series Booklet

St Mark's Gillingham  
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# Series Introduction

## [Matthew 28: 16-20]

### The Great Commission

**16** Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. **17** When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. **18** Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

# Mark 1 | Tell

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

## [Luke 9:1-6]

### Jesus Sends Out the Twelve

**9** When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, **2** and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. **3** He told them: “Take nothing for the journey—no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra shirt. **4** Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that town. **5** If people do not welcome you, leave their town and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.” **6** So they set out and went from village to village, proclaiming the good news and healing people everywhere.

# Mark 1 | Tell

## QUESTIONS

Just as Jesus was sent by God to be among us, loving us, so we are ‘sent’ to share the good news of life in Jesus with others. We also have the promise that he is with us – and goes ahead of us (Matthew 28:20).

1. The language of verses 1, 2 and 6 can seem strange to modern ears. What do you think these words might mean today?
2. Verse 3 is urging us to travel light. What ‘baggage’ might we be carrying that can hold us back from sharing our faith – whether in word or deed?
3. Verses 4 and 5 seem to be about relationships: about staying where we are welcome, and knowing when to move on. Discuss the relevance that words, deeds and relationships play in mission.
4. How do we proclaim the good news of the kingdom to a world already cynical and closed to the Christian message?
5. To share in the gospel is a great privilege, but not necessarily easy. From where do we draw strength when we are dejected or rejected?
6. What are you taking home from our time together?

# Mark 2 | Teach

To teach, baptise and nurture new believer

## [Luke 24:13-27]

### On the Road to Emmaus

**13** Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles[a] from Jerusalem. **14** They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. **15** As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; **16** but they were kept from recognizing him.

**17** He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?”

They stood still, their faces downcast. **18** One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”

**19** “What things?” he asked.

“About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. **20** The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; **21** but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. **22** In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning **23** but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. **24** Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.”

**25** He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! **26** Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” **27** And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

# Mark 2 | Teach

## QUESTIONS

1. Do we ever have all the answers? Have we ever changed our minds about what we believe? There are many mysteries in our faith that even seasoned Christians struggle with. In some ways, faith is both instantaneous and involves a lifetime of learning.
2. The two travellers are full of questions and they feel sad (v17). Being a believer can sometimes feel bewildering and disorientating. Examine what Jesus does to support the travellers in their confusion?
3. What for you is the essence of your faith? Does belief consist of head knowledge only or is it something more?
4. How do the insights from our reading inform how we might nurture new believers?
5. Given the vastness of the mysteries in God, it could be said that relatively speaking, we are all beginners. How might we support each other in our ongoing exploration of faith? Imagine what you could do beyond study and reading.
6. What are you taking home from our time together?

# Mark 3 | Tend

To respond to human need by loving service

## [John 13:3-15]

**3** Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; **4** so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. **5** After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

**6** He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

**7** Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

**8** "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

**9** "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

**10** Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." **11** For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

**12** When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. **13** "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. **14** Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. **15** I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

# Mark 3 | Tend

## QUESTIONS

Washing feet was a common and necessary act of hospitality in a hot and dusty environment, and would normally be done by a servant.

1. Simon Peter was reluctant to be on the receiving end of a generous act. Why do you think this is so?
2. More generally, why do some people – perhaps ourselves included – react against being helped? How might this inform our approach to mission?
3. We sometimes hear that loving God or others is a Christian duty or responsibility. But if love is a duty is it genuine love? How can we show loving service to someone we don't love?
4. Love cannot be forced. 'Freely you have received; freely give' (Matthew 10:8b, NIV). What have you received from God, from your faith and from your experience of the church that you would like to share with others? In a more general sense, what are you grateful for?
5. Individually and collectively as a church, consider how we might – in big or small ways – begin to share more of our blessings with others?
6. What are you taking home from our time together?

# Mark 4 | Transform

To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation

## [Isaiah 58: 1 – 10]

### True Fasting

58

“Shout it aloud, do not hold back.

Raise your voice like a trumpet.

Declare to my people their rebellion

and to the descendants of Jacob their sins.

2 For day after day they seek me out;

they seem eager to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that does what is right

and has not forsaken the commands of its God.

They ask me for just decisions

and seem eager for God to come near them.

3 ‘Why have we fasted,’ they say,

‘and you have not seen it?

Why have we humbled ourselves,

and you have not noticed?’

“Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please

and exploit all your workers.

## Mark 4 | Transform

4 Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife,  
and in striking each other with wicked fists.

You cannot fast as you do today  
and expect your voice to be heard on high.

5 Is this the kind of fast I have chosen,  
only a day for people to humble themselves?

Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed  
and for lying in sackcloth and ashes?

Is that what you call a fast,  
a day acceptable to the Lord?

6 “Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:

to loose the chains of injustice  
and untie the cords of the yoke,

to set the oppressed free  
and break every yoke?

7 Is it not to share your food with the hungry  
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—

when you see the naked, to clothe them,  
and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

8 Then your light will break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing will quickly appear;

then your righteousness[a] will go before you,  
and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.

## Mark 4 | Transform

**9** Then you will call, and the Lord will answer;  
you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.

“If you do away with the yoke of oppression,  
with the pointing finger and malicious talk,

**10** and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the oppressed,

then your light will rise in the darkness,  
and your night will become like the noonday.

# Mark 4 | Transform

## QUESTIONS

Isaiah's prophetic voice will not allow the people of God to seek repentance without their participation in justice. These indicate God's people have been crying out for deliverance, answers and divine presence. The cries are not unlike those echoed in the 21st Century.

1. In **v.3-5**. Isaiah warns us that our seeking after God is inhibited by the economic injustices in our midst. Isaiah has no patience for a fast of the kind that indicates a personal faith far removed from the concerns of our neighbour. We are invited to view our world with new eyes – God's eyes. How might we view our world with God's eyes?
2. Looking at your local community, pool ideas regarding local situations that you consider unjust. In each case, try to imagine the experience of oppressors and those on the receiving end of injustice. What seems to be the reason for the injustice?
3. What could we change – locally or nationally – to transform the issue?
4. v.9-10 gives the impression that any desire for personal or national restoration must be sought through seeking justice and care for the afflicted in our midst. Discuss.
5. What are you taking home from our time together?

# Mark 5 | Treasure

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

**For the director of music. According to *gittith*. [b] A psalm of David.**

**1** Lord, our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory

in the heavens.

**2** Through the praise of children and infants

you have established a stronghold against your enemies,

to silence the foe and the avenger.

**3** When I consider your heavens,

the work of your fingers,

the moon and the stars,

which you have set in place,

**4** what is mankind that you are mindful of them,

human beings that you care for them? [c]

**5** You have made them [d] a little lower than the angels [e]

and crowned them [f] with glory and honor.

**6** You made them rulers over the works of your hands;

you put everything under their [g] feet:

# Mark 5 | Treasure

7 all flocks and herds,

and the animals of the wild,

8 the birds in the sky,

and the fish in the sea,

all that swim the paths of the seas.

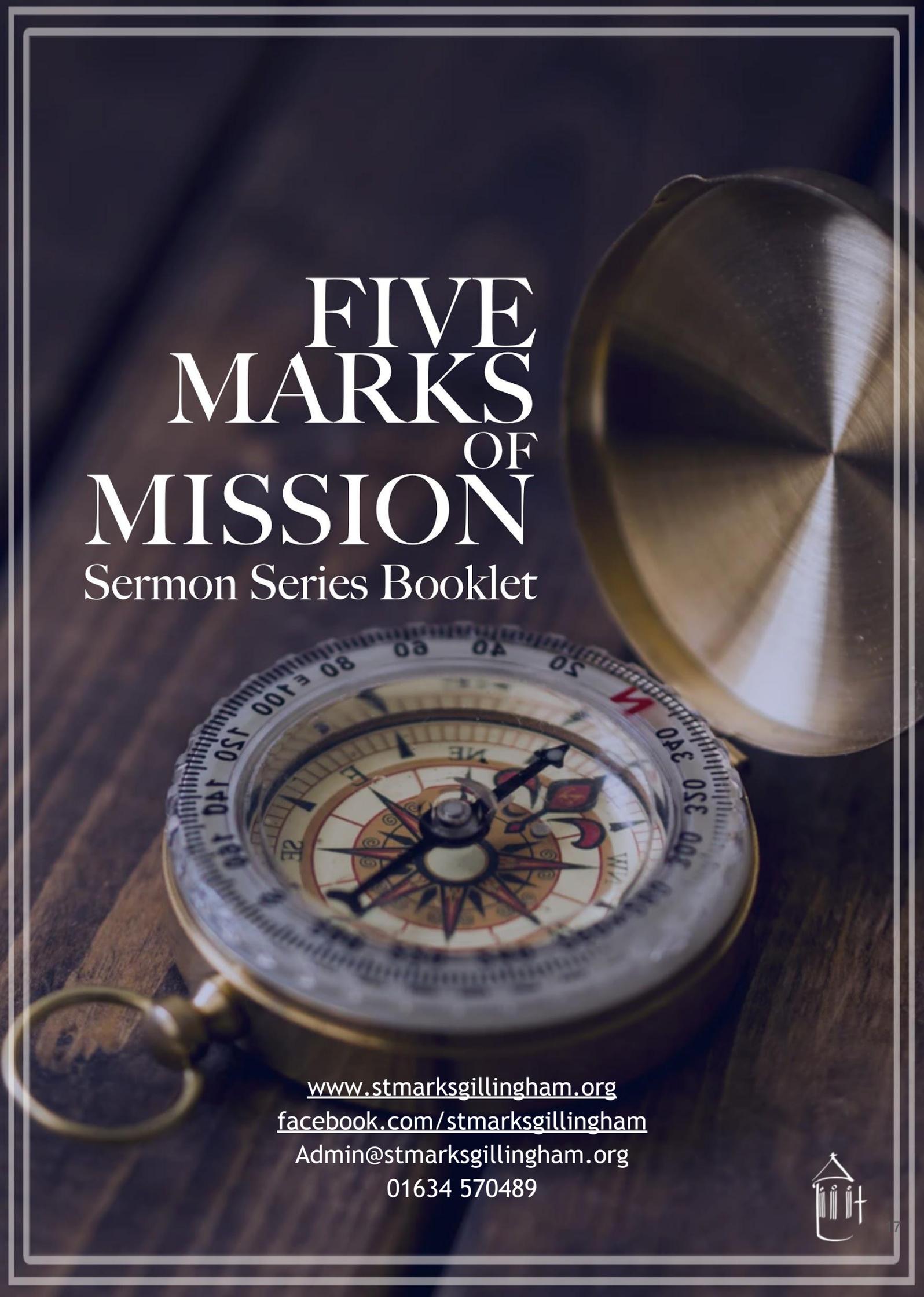
9 Lord, our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

# Mark 5 | Treasure

## QUESTIONS

1. Is there a place where you have been that speaks to you of the majesty of our creator God? Or a verse in our readings that best expresses for you God's glory and the need to treasure his gift of creation?
2. Choose an ecological issue that concerns you, perhaps energy use, water scarcity, deforestation, oil and mineral extraction, global warming or climate change. Is there a small thing you can do that will make a difference?
3. Are there lifestyle changes that you could implement as an individual, as a family, or as a parish that could help reduce the burning of carbon-based fuels, reduce waste, share resources, or reduce consumption? What might stop you from putting these into effect?
4. Consider that the creation that God entrusted to humanity was very good; then ask one another how different this is to the earth we now inhabit? Take the opportunity to pray for the healing and redemption of creation.
5. What are you taking home from our time together?



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