

Compass – Introduction to Christian faith and membership of the Church (Confirmation)

A seven-week introduction to Christian faith, the Bible and the life and work of the Church in preparation for Confirmation on Sunday 7 November 2021. Guides for the weekly reflections will be *Tokens of Trust* (Rowan Williams, 2007), *Love Makes No Sense* (Strawbridge, Mercer and Groves, 2019) and *Pictures of the Early Church* (Nicholas King, 2016). We will also read and respond to Mark's gospel over five weeks (WEEK 2 to WEEK 6). All sessions will be on Zoom and last for 1½ hours (7:30 to 9pm).

From WEEK 2, each session is divided into 45-minute sections, one for thinking about faith/belief, suitable material from YouTube (about 10-minute clips) will also be used. The second half will be for responding to Mk's gospel.

Plan to read Mark over five weeks:

Week 2	1:1-15
Week 3	1:16-4:41
Week 4	5:1-8:26
Week 5	8:27-10:52
Week 6	11:1-16-8

WEEK 1 – 23 September

Personal introductions, expectations, personal definition "faith is ...", difference between faith and belief, introduction to reading Mt 5:38-41 (eye for eye, strikes cheek, taking coat, extra mile).

WEEK 2 – 30 September

- 1 Who is Jesus? Who (what?) is God? Holy Spirit?
- 2 Responding to Mark 1:1-15.

WEEK 3 – 7 October

- 1 Introduction to the bible. Reading the Old Testament, New Testament and Apocrypha.
- 2 Responding to Mark 1:16-4:41.

WEEK 4 – 14 October

- 1 Introduction to the creeds. What is a creed? Why do we have creeds? Overview of Apostles' Creed and Nicene Creed and other contemporary creeds.
- 2 Responding to Mark 5:1-8:26

WEEK 5 – 21 October

- 1 Ecumenism in Milton Keynes and denominations. Story of the church and its divisions.
- 2 Responding to Mark 8:27-10:52

WEEK 6 – 28 October

- 1 Members of the Christian community (what is the Church?). Engagement with slavery, women, BLM, gay-rights movement, climate change ... the world
- 2 Responding to Mark 11:1-16-8

WEEK 7 – 4 November

Review the work of the last six weeks and look at the confirmation liturgy.