

# Simple - Studies in Mark

## Session Four: Believe - Part 2

Welcome, opening prayer and worship

(5–15 minutes)

Introduction

(5 minutes)

The good news of the Gospel is that Jesus came down to earth to solve a problem that He didn't create. In this session we see that He is both 'just' (the judge) because He knows that something must be done about our sin, and 'justifier' (the one who pays) because He is the one who takes our sin away. The power of that good news is available to all who believe.

Bible study

(15 minutes)

### Mark 4:1-11

1. Although they were not fully aware of it, the disciples had been given the 'secret of the Kingdom of God'. What is the simple point of this parable?
2. See answer to question 1. There are different ways to do this. Name a few.
3. See vs 5. How do we prevent being seeds that fall on rocky places (shallow soil)?

Movie Clip

(15 minutes)

Questions and discussion

(30 minutes)

1. Was there anything from the DVD that was new to you, or had an effect on you? Did you hear anything that raised more questions in your mind?
2. Think about all the advertisements you get for 'free offers'. Have you ever received anything 'free'? What hidden catches have accompanied the free offers?
3. Read Romans 3:23-24. Does it make sense that the most valuable thing of all, a right standing before God, is available for free, with no strings attached? Why would people turn down this real free gift?
4. Read Romans 3:25. While it was free to us, making us acceptable cost Jesus dearly. He was the sacrifice on our behalf. How do you feel about what Jesus went through for us? What does it tell you about the enormity of this gift?
5. Read Romans 3:26. God is just. Sin had to be taken care of and yet God knew that we were powerless to do anything about it. So through the sacrifice of Jesus, all sin was taken care of, both the sins committed in the past and the sins of the future. How does this impact your understanding of the seriousness of sin and the character of God?
6. Some argue that Christianity is narrow and exclusive. But a right standing before God is available to all who believe. What does this mean for our neighbours, friends and family?
7. Do you believe that Jesus is the unique one and only from God? If you do, what led to this decision? If you do not, what aspect of belief are you wrestling with?

Prayer ministry and closing prayer

(15 minutes)