

Using Uncover Mark in your CU



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What is the vision of Uncover Mark?

Explaining his purpose, Jesus said, 'For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.' Mark 10:45

This is the great news of the gospel, freedom from sin and death, through the cross and resurrection of Jesus!

How will students hear this great news?

Imagine if there were Christians studying in every university and college in the UK.

Imagine them in every faculty and society across campus life.

Imagine if they came together to encourage and help each other live and speak for Jesus.

This year, **imagine** if they each asked three friends to uncover Jesus for themselves from Mark's Gospel.

Imagine what God may do in answering their prayers for their friends, opening their hearts to believe the good news about Jesus.

You and your CU are entering into a momentous year! 100,000 copies of Mark's Gospel are about to be unleashed. Eight 'seeker Bible studies' are included, written to help your friends discover the good news about Jesus for themselves. Videos, web sites, study guides and drama are ready to go.

And the vision is simple: **Pray for 3 | Give to 3 | Read with 3.** Imagine it, every CU member introducing three friends to Jesus using Mark's Gospel.

That's Uncover. It's a movement to see the good news of Jesus in the hands of over 50,000 non-Christians across the UK. And it begins with one step, as one CU member prays for three friends and invites them to look with them at who Jesus is in the pages of Mark's Gospel.

Will you be part of this?

**The Uncover vision:
Pray for 3
Give to 3
Read with 3**

'After John had been put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. The time has come near. Repent and believe the good news!' Mark 1:15

Why this approach?

7 reasons to use Uncover Mark with non-Christians

- 1. Mark was written to bring people to Jesus.** Mark wrote his Gospel with the express purpose of letting the world know the good news about Jesus the Messiah and Son of God (Mark 1:1-2). Mark's Gospel is the closest in time to Jesus. His Gospel is thought to be based on the eye-witness accounts of Peter. In Mark's narrative we are meeting the Jesus of history, listening to His words, seeing what He did.
- 2. God speaks through His Word.** Jesus called people to repent and believe the good news (Mark 1:15). As we sow the seed of this Gospel Word, Jesus encourages us to trust that some will receive the Word and enter the kingdom (Mark 4:20). God always speaks through His Word. We need to pray that our friends will be the kind of soil that accepts that Word with joy.
- 3. Mark's Gospel is a cracking read!** Mark's account is the shortest of the Gospels and the most action-packed. He tells his story simply but with great emotional power. Mark draws us into engaging with Jesus by telling us true stories of how ordinary people encountered Jesus and how he changed their lives. In a compelling way, Mark asks us 'who is this Jesus? What might he do for you?'. His gospel comforts the tender hearted and appeals to the tough minded.
- 4. Mark is all about the amazing Jesus.** So often we want to talk about Jesus but the conversation stalls on another issue – science, suffering, other religions. But by studying Mark together Jesus takes centre stage, the conversation is about Him. And people start to see what the eyewitnesses saw, what an amazing person He really is (Mark 1:22, 2:12, 5:20, 6:51, 7:37). In Mark, our friends meet Jesus face to face.
- 5. God uses ordinary people.** The Bible was not written for professionals. You don't have to bring your friends to your minister or Staff Worker or act like a 'Guru With All The Answers'. It doesn't matter how long you've been a Christian. You can come alongside your friends, and through Mark, help them see who you've seen.
- 6. Friends matter.** Yes, God does touch the lives of strangers, but most students come to Jesus because they see how much he means to one of their friends. Close friends know you're not perfect, but they see how much Jesus means to you. Uncover is relational: mix Uncover with food, or a pint or a coffee. Get pizza in for your friends and invite them to see for themselves who Jesus is.
- 7. It is simple.** Your initial thought might be, 'I could never do that' but studying Mark with a friend is much easier than you think. The eight studies in the back of the Gospel do the work for you. They are written in an imaginative way for you and your friend to uncover Jesus in Mark together. It's not a one-way monologue, you are both seeing for yourselves.

'Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else – to the nearby villages – so that I can preach there also. That is why I have come."' Mark 1:38

*Remember that Uncover Mark is not a 'silver bullet', it won't solve all the issues with evangelism in CU. Uncover won't make a CU missional but it will wonderfully serve the mission of the CU. It needs to be part of a wider CU strategy of evangelism involving training on personal evangelism and a year-round CU strategy involving personal, small group and public evangelism. If your CU is lacking any motivation for mission or lacks a clear strategy please get in touch with your CU Staff Worker, they will be able to help.

What is Uncover?

Uncover centres around copies of Mark's Gospel with eight studies at the back of the Gospel written with the non-Christian in mind. There are extra materials to make the vision of reading it with three friends a reality. Here's the full round-up:

For non-Christians

- Uncover Mark Gospels
- Uncover.org.uk
- The Mark Drama

For Christians

- Uncover prayer bookmark
- Uncover Mark leaders' guide
- Uncover apologetics materials
- Making the most of Uncover: CU leaders' manual

Resources for non-Christians

Uncover Mark Gospels

- They are **creative**. The care and creativity that has gone into producing the Gospels reflects the creative God we worship who does all things well. They are meant to look desirable and intrigue your friends so that they want to read what Mark has to say. They are high quality, you won't be embarrassed to pass them on to friends.
- They are **interactive**. Blank pages are for your friends to scribble questions, make comments, draw pictures or doodle. There are URL links to online videos and other resources.
- They contain **eight seeker studies** to help your friends uncover the heart of the gospel for themselves. These studies have already been used by students with their mates, so we know they are engaging for people who are not Christians.
- Uncover Gospels and other resources will be available to order from UCCF National Forum 2018.

Uncover.org.uk

- A website designed and created for seekers. You'll be able to access the text of Mark's Gospel, the studies, and a host of accompanying resources like our spoken word video and apologetics articles to help you think further.

The Mark Drama

- A dramatic presentation of Mark's Gospel performed by CU members. Performed in the round, a Mark Drama performance lasts for 90 minutes.

The script is almost the whole of Mark's Gospel word for word.

The Mark Drama is being used by CUs all over the world to powerful evangelistic effect.

It delivers a low cost, highly effective and dramatic retelling of Mark's account that engages the audience in a powerful way. *The Mark Drama* provides a natural opportunity to invite friends to study Mark using the seeker studies.

The cast requires 15 CU members, plus a producer. CU leaders will be able to see *The Mark Drama* performed at the UCCF National Leaders' Forum at the end of August. UCCF will provide a trained

Mark Drama Director free of charge to CUs that wish to stage a production.

The following links will take you to videos of students talking about *The Mark Drama*:

- Gez, Royal Holloway student who plays Jesus character [goo.gl/V4iE1c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4iE1c)
- Joe, Royal Holloway student who produces [goo.gl/r1NKBo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r1NKBo)
- Nathan, Royal Holloway student who acts and invites a friend [goo.gl/e9GVmV](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e9GVmV)

For Christians

Uncover three-a-day prayer bookmark

- A vital daily tool to help all CU members pray daily for three non-Christian friends. Keep them in your Bible. Use them to pray.
- Will be available to order through your Staff Worker or online at the UCCF website.

Uncover Mark leaders' guide

- Available online, a question-by-question guide to leading the seeker studies.

Uncover apologetics material

- Of course, your friends will have questions. You will find plenty of helpful material that will equip you and that you can pass on to your friends at www.bethinking.org
- Supporting resources to help CUs publicise Uncover Mark and stage *The Mark Drama* that will be available to download from www.uccf.org.uk/uncover

Making the Most of Uncover: CU leaders' manual

- You're reading it right now!!

How do we motivate our CU to use Uncover Mark?

OK, so you made it to Regional Forum and National Forum and you are excited about Uncover Mark. But that doesn't mean others will be. How can the whole CU get behind Uncover Mark and use it with three friends?

Enthusiasm

Seen a great film recently? Found a new band? If you're passionate about them, others will catch that. But tell people in a monotone they, 'must see a film because it's kinda ok', and no one will go. Be passionate as a leadership team about reaching the campus using Uncover Mark and your CU are as good as motivated already.

Convictions

What you believe drives how you behave. So above all, seek to move people's hearts by wonderful truth, not only feel-good stories. Here are just a couple of core convictions to get your started:

- That a loving, missionary God loves your friends and sent His Son in to the world so we could know Him (Mark 9:37)
- That the Word of God is not chained; by the Holy Spirit it is able to change the hardest hearts and accomplish all God desires (Mark 4:13-20, 2 Tim 3:15-16, 1 Pet 1:23, 1Tim 1:13-16, Isa 55:11)
- That our inadequacy is not a weakness to overcome; using people who feel inadequate is the way God so often works (2 Cor 12:9-10)

Confidence

Don't be apologetic about what you're offering. Base your confidence on your convictions above. But also have confidence in the materials themselves:

- Very high quality: Design, layout, printing, hardback. This is not cheesy Christian kitsch but something people will value
- Excellent content: great videos and interactive content
- Proven seeker studies: Mark seeker studies that have already proved so helpful

Stories

Sharing stories and hearing testimonies helps motivate people by encouraging them to believe that 'God can use me too'.

- Identify 'early adopters': those in CU that will have a go with their mates straight away so that you will have up to date stories early in the year. Ask them, 'Will you have a go at Uncover with your mates and tell your story to the rest of CU?'
- Use different stories – stories of how people asked their mates, stories of when their mates said 'no', stories of when their mates said 'yes' and the first studies, stories of friends coming to faith.

**“For Christ's love compels us,
because we are convinced
that one died for all” 2
Corinthians 5:14**

- There are videos of stories available from previous Uncover projects at goo.gl/dGphBG and stories of Uncover being used by students in other parts of the world at goo.gl/VM9PH9.

Social media

You can create energy and buzz by using social media effectively:

Tell and share stories: use social media platforms to tell up to the minute stories of Uncover, both Christians using it and non-Christians impacted by it. Mark's Gospel is full of accounts of people meeting Jesus, responding to Him and talking about Him. They are people from all walks of life, with very different approaches and reactions to Jesus. From the Uncover social media platforms, we'll share stories from students who approach and react to Jesus in different ways – hopefully you and your friends can find common ground with them and join the community of people using Uncover to explore who Jesus is.

Get your CU to follow Uncover on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to join our Uncover community. Invite your friends to be part of a community of people reading Uncover and having conversations about Jesus, wherever they stand and whatever stage of the journey they're at. We'll also be sharing behind-the-scenes interviews with The Mark Drama actors and helping you engage with the story that Mark tells in loads of different ways.

Sharing Uncover digital resources: We'll be sharing lots of digital resources that correspond with the studies – photographs, spoken word videos and additional historical context. Use these to help you bring Jesus into your online and offline conversations! Encourage CU members to share a video with a friend to start or follow up a conversation you've had about big issues. Or perhaps as a CU you could share our introductory videos to advertising an upcoming Uncover session?

Make your own: tell your own stories about Jesus. Invite your friends to participate, and share your perspectives and experiences with the rest of the Uncover community. Let your CU be fascinated by who Jesus is and encouraged by stories of people who have met Jesus in Uncover.

Example

Leaders who have a go at asking friends and leading studies will be more motivational – it's obvious. Pray as a leadership team for your friends, ask three friends and have a go. Your stories will be very powerful.

How to launch Uncover Mark

KISS your audience

The best advice to any speaker is to, 'Keep It Simple, Stupid!' Don't clutter up what you're communicating. Keep the main thing the main thing and get across the vision: Pray for 3 | Give to 3 | Read with 3.

Try to make using Uncover a step, rather than a giant leap

Almost all of the first years coming into CU will have no idea what an Uncover study is. Most will find the prospect of inviting a friend to study the Gospel a giant leap. It is important to try and make this a small step. Telling stories will help but here are three ideas that have proved invaluable in previous Uncover projects:

- Using the seeker studies in CU small groups. Yes, that right, getting the Christians to go through the studies together in their CU small groups is essential. It helps Christians become familiar with the material and realise how easy and enjoyable the studies are. Asking a friend then becomes so much easier. Why not have a meal together as a small group before studying Uncover Mark to make the whole experience more relaxed and relational?

If you do not have small groups in your CU, then use the eight seeker study passages as the topic of study in your main meetings. You might get a speaker to speak on each passage of the seeker studies, breaking the time in to a 20-minute talk and then 15 minutes looking at the study in small groups. If your CU is a small group then study the passage together. The case study of Leeds Beckett Uni (see page 16) is an excellent example of Uncover being used effectively in a small CU.

- A great launch in CU that as many as possible attend. This builds a sense of momentum and togetherness in reaching the campus and trusting God (see page 11).
- Simple training. Without doubt the biggest obstacle people have is inviting their friends. Some training on the convictions above and then training on who to invite and how to do it is the most important training you can give. And it doesn't need long! Again, your CU Staff Worker can help with training in these and other areas of evangelism and using Uncover.

Without doubt a good launch of Uncover at CU can go a long way in helping CU members use Uncover with their friends. A good launch event will pull the CU together, saying, 'This is what we are going to do. Together we will do better than each of us on our own.' A good launch will communicate why and how. And it'll lay out what to do next.

With anything new, psychologists will tell you that 20% of people in a group will be enthusiastic and quick to jump on board, 20% will be hard to budge, and the middle 60% can be influenced either way. So don't be surprised or dampened by negative comments. Don't give them air-time. Instead, seek to move the majority of the group forwards positively.

When should we launch Uncover?

Since the vision for Uncover is to get every CU member reading Mark with three friends, this is not something to launch just before your events week or in second semester. It needs to run through the year and therefore you need to get your CU onboard soon after freshers' week.

Talk with your Staff Worker, but you could consider:

- Launching in week 4 or 5 of the Autumn term
- At your weekend away if it is in October/early November

By far the best way of launching Uncover is to give over a CU main meeting or main session at house party to the launch. Don't try and launch Uncover in a 10-minute notice. There is too much to communicate. A whole CU meeting gives you enough time to communicate the vision, have some Bible teaching on key convictions, introduce CU members to the Gospel, do some training and pray. You will want to plan a 'refresher' re-launch in January, particularly so you can explain how Uncover will mesh with your mission/events week.

How should we launch Uncover?

Be creative at your launch. Mark has written in a journalistic style, rapidly moving from one story to the next. The Gospels are designed to reflect this 'photo-journalistic' style. How could you use this style as part of your launch?

Before the launch night

- Make sure you have ordered enough: Gospels and three-a-day prayer bookmarks
- Make sure you have videos downloaded and ready to run
- Prepare well what you want to get across. Remember you can't say everything, so decide what you will leave for the following week(s)
- If you also have a speaker that night, explain what you're doing and make sure what they're speaking on will reinforce what you're saying

At the launch

As well as sung worship, including Olly Knight and the Forum worship band's song for Uncover 'You are the Christ', the following ideas should help to make your CU launch successful:

- Put a Gospel and 3-a-day prayer bookmark on every seat
- Play the Uncover Mark launch video which will be available at www.uccf.org.uk/uncover
- Explain the heart of Uncover
 - Make the vision really clear: the vision of CU is to give every student at our uni the opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - The vision of Uncover is to help us do this with our mates using the Gospels.
 - Repeat the simple vision: pray for 3 | give to 3 | read with 3.
 - Explain why this approach. Now is a good moment to talk about core convictions – God is the missionary hearted God who wants people to come to know Him, God's Word is powerful, Mark's Gospel is written for our non-Christian friends, God uses weak people for His glory. If you are having a speaker, get them to speak on some of these convictions.
 - Tell stories, have student testimonies and give examples that illustrate it is possible and it 'works'. If you have some 'early adopters' of Uncover Mark, or if you have students who have used Uncover in the past or become Christians through Uncover, use their stories. You will find lots of video testimonies at facebook.com/UncoverJesus/videos.
- Talk people through the Gospels
 - Show how the quality of the Gospels makes them attractive to give to friends.
 - Get students to look through them and pick out the key features – video links, studies etc.
 - Refer specifically to the studies in the back of the Gospel and give students a few minutes in pairs to have a go at a study. This is especially important in helping to build confidence.
- Help people see how they can be part of this
 - This is for everyone in the CU, yourself included and CUs across the UK are involved.
 - Explain this is something we will do together: praying, encouraging, being accountable.
 - Describe the flexibility of doing Uncover seeker studies with a group of friends as well as one-to-one
 - Address unspoken objections ('I'm inadequate; I don't have close friends'). See training on page 20.
 - Remind them the CU is studying Mark (e.g. in hall groups, faculty groups or main meetings) to help us gain confidence in the Gospel.

- On the spot training: depending on how much time you have, do some or all of these (see below):
 - Who are my three friends?
 - How do I invite them?
- You might want to explain some of the other Uncover resources listed above. You need to decide how much to say at this point because too much detail can quickly send everyone to sleep. You could explain all this at a later meeting.
- Pray; don't just talk about praying and how important it is!
 - Give people time to think about who they might invite and ask them to try and put at least one name and hopefully three on the three-a-day prayer bookmark.
 - Pray in threes, each person naming one friend they've put on their bookmark.
 - Pray in threes that together you will commit to this and that our ever-gracious God would bring many students to know Him this year.
- As you conclude, repeat the pray|give|read vision and the vital importance of praying using the three-a-day prayer bookmark.

How to keep the CU motivated week by week

Once you've launched Uncover, you will need to keep it in the hearts and prayers of your CU members. Here's how.

Vision leaks

Just because you've said something once, don't assume everyone's got it. Vision leaks like water through a sieve. The vision to get every CU member to pray|give|read with three friends is easy to grasp but hard to keep fresh. You need to keep saying it and keep saying it. And that means finding a broad tonal range of ways to say it because getting this under people's skin takes much more than a t-shirt slogan.

Little but often

Find a way every week to put Uncover in front of people, verbally as well as visually. After an outstanding launch (!) keep dripping the convictions, stories and details out to people week in, week out using social media and in CU meetings. Ensure you have at least five minutes at every main meeting after your launch for creative encouragement, stories and training. If you don't have many examples of how Uncover has been used by CU members your Staff Worker will have examples of how God has used Uncover in other CUs.

Be creative

We worship a creator God who made a startlingly diverse and abundant world. Does He delight in things that are half-prepared or naff!? There's no excuse for killing great news by being dull! So, give some thought to being creative. If that's not you, use others in the CU to help. That way your weekly drip-feed won't feel repetitive but will be refreshing and interesting. And different approaches will appeal to the differing personalities who make up the CU.

Use stories

Stories get past the defences of our hearts and help us to believe that God might use even us. So use people in your CU to share their stories of using Uncover. Here are some examples:

- How one hall group is praying weekly and holding each other accountable for their friends
- How one person asked a friend to study Mark and what they said
- How someone overcame their feelings of weakness and had a go
- How the first study went for someone and how their friend found it
- How one person finished the Uncover studies. How did it go? What were their questions? What did you learn about God? How should we pray?

Practically, it is often easier to interview people rather than give them total control of the microphone. It helps keep the stories snappy rather than waffly or repetitive.

- How one person became a believer!
- Use graduates who are still around, they may well have stories of how God helped them to use Uncover John

'I could never do that!'

When people are confronted by the whole vision it can be overwhelming. Their reaction is to think, 'I can't do all that!', and the shutters go up. So, break it down into bite-sized chunks. That's why the vision is: pray|give|read. You're not expecting everyone to spend three hours from tomorrow in seeker Bible studies.

Five-minute training slots

Include in your CU meeting a short, sharp training slot. Here are some examples and your Staff Worker should be able to help with these:

- How to get involved in wider university life
- How to be a good friend
- How to deepen friendships
- How to invite someone to do an Uncover study
- How to prep for a study
- How to lead a study
- How to use questions in your evangelism
- How to answer difficult questions
- How to lead someone to faith in Jesus Christ

'What do I do next?'

This will be the next unspoken speech bubble floating above every CU member's head. Many great ideas never get put into action because the leader has not helped others join the dots. Remember you need to keep answering and repeating the 'what do I do next?' steps throughout the year.

So, after every Uncover notice and training slot, give people two or three actions points they can take away and do:

- Meet up with a friend in CU to start praying weekly for your three friends
- Go and join another society
- Spend more time building the friendship you already have
- Give Uncover Mark to someone
- Ask someone to study Uncover Mark

Pray

Again, so important it has its own section in this handbook. But at every weekly opportunity, pray for Uncover.

Case studies

Make it normal

By regular prayer, stories and practicalities, just make it seem utterly normal that this is what the CU is doing this year. They'll catch that. And freshers who have never known anything different will be on board from the beginning.

Remember your own example

This is incredibly powerful. You will be taken more seriously if you are walking the walk. So, who are you praying for? Who are you giving a Gospel to? Who are you asking to read it with you?

Uncover Mark is our third Uncover project. Here are two examples of CUs who used Uncover John brilliantly to introduce their friends to Jesus

1: Uncover in a small CU

Leeds Beckett University has 26 000 students studying across two campuses. The CU has 20 members who meet weekly for the CU main meeting.

On the planning day for the new exec committee, the CU leaders were honest about Uncover. They felt Uncover has been offered to the CU without enough help. It had not gone well. With the help of their Staff Worker they decided to have another go because they could see that Uncover had huge potential to help them share Jesus with their mates.

At their main meeting in the third week of term the CU launched Uncover John. The talk from John 1 emphasised that when we understand who Jesus is, we cannot keep it to ourselves. Andrew invited Peter. Philip invited Nathaniel to 'come and see'. He was met with scepticism and hard questions but persevered. Friendship evangelism is nothing new. Introducing friends to Jesus is not a "CU thing". Uncover is powerful tool because God speaks through His Word about Jesus by the power of the Spirit.

The CU then looked at one of the seeker studies each week in their main meetings. Before each meeting the Staff Worker called the speaker to make sure they understood what Uncover was and how they could help the CU get into the study. Each speaker then either took the CU through a study or did a talk on the passage and referred to some of the study questions.

Each week the CU had Uncover open and were engaging with it. The CU did three weeks on Uncover followed by a 'Go' event which helped to solidify from the very beginning that CU was all about being a mission team. Every week the CU also prayed for their non-Christian friends by name.

The weekend away was critical. The teaching was from the life of Gideon emphasising how God uses us in our weakness. As a small CU, the group at times felt both weak and weary. Prayer response was offered at the weekend – 'if you feel weak but want God to use you this year, please stand for prayer'. After the weekend many students started inviting their friends to study Uncover with them.

The testimony of a current Leeds Beckett student using Uncover with her friend was especially important in motivating the CU at the weekend away. This student had done a one-to-one with the CU Staff Worker for some months. This helped her study Uncover John with her friend. Her testimony was crucial, it illustrated that it was possible for a student to do Uncover at Leeds Beckett.

The CU effectively used a WhatsApp group to share stories. Students would ask for prayer just before they invited their friends to study or before they led a study. Sharing stories in this way was very significant in building and maintaining momentum.

The CU Staff Worker and Relay Worker would meet up with CU members to pray for their friends before they invited them to study Uncover John.

Around 12 of the CU are now involved in seeker studies with their friends. At their Christmas event 60 people came which was unprecedented for Beckett. 40 of them were non-Christian mates of CU members. Uncover has led to wider changes in CU, more members now bring their mates to really excellent events.

2: Uncover in a large CU

Bristol University has more than 23,000 students studying across several campuses. The CU has 180 members and an average of 100 attending the CU main meeting. Uncover John has been central to the missional strategy of Bristol CU, both in CU events and in personal evangelism. The following factors have been important in achieving this:

- **The whole committee attending the national launch at Forum**

Having a good number of students at Forum meant that the vision and direction of Uncover was clearly understood by a core group of students, who could then communicate the vision to the CU. Uncover was made to feel like something that is very every day, rather than a daunting prospect. At the launch, Graham Daniels made the prospect of sharing Jesus through Uncover the best thing we could do with our mates.

- **Uncover was used by student leaders**

Before Uncover was launched in CU a number of the CU committee started Uncover with their mates. This made a difference because at the launch the CU had real examples of Bristol students using Uncover with their mates.

- **Small groups**

CU hall groups and small groups went through the Uncover John seeker studies in the Autumn term. This had two effects. Firstly, CU members felt more confident to invite their friends and confident to use Uncover with their friends. Secondly, some non-Christians attended the small groups and really had content they could engage with.

- **An Effective launch in the CU**

Uncover John was launched in CU towards the end of October. Surrounding the event was a good deal of social media hype to build anticipation, including a daily countdown on Facebook and Twitter. The evening focused first on showing how the Good News of Jesus had saved us. Therefore, it must be the best news we can share with friends. Uncover was then presented as a fantastic way of doing this. Gospels were distributed, the vision communicated, and the challenge of 'pray for 3, give to 3, read with 3' given. This was all lead by the then CU president, which helped foster student ownership. The CU Staff Worker then took everyone through the first few questions of one of the studies so that everyone could see how easy Uncover would be to use. The bookmarks were given out and the CU started praying for friends.

- **The importance of convictions**

Many in Bristol CU have a deep conviction that Scripture changes lives in the power of the Spirit. Therefore, using Uncover with friends was 'pushing on an open door'. Those new to this idea were convinced by the testimonies of Bristol students who had used Uncover with their friends.

- **Testimonies**

Stories of Uncover in action were used widely. In prayer slots in regular term time and during mission, students prayed for people reading Uncover with friends and shared stories of its impact. A number of student have come to Christ for whom Uncover has been a central part. This has served to spur on students and help others to persevere.

- **Follow up**

Uncover has been used effectively in follow up. Whilst the CU runs a well-known seeker course corporately, Uncover has become the go-to option for one-to-one follow up. The CU has been strong in inviting seeking friends to investigate and read, often in local coffee shops and over lunch.

- **Keeping the momentum going**

Every year the CU hall groups study Uncover John. This introduces all the first years to Uncover. Every Autumn term, usually around week 5, the CU has a main meeting devoted to the importance of personal evangelism. At this meeting Uncover is relaunched. Testimonies of students using Uncover and/or becoming Christians through Uncover always feature.

Overcoming common barriers to using Uncover

Imagine that you've made it to National Forum and you and your CU leaders are excited about Uncover. But then reality bites: 'Can I really do this with my mates? Won't they find it weird? And will the CU get behind this?' Maybe you feel a bit terrified? Many in the CU might think, 'this is not my thing.'

Ultimately it is your convictions that will help you overcome the fear you have. It's important to keep reminding your own heart and the CU that **if we have discovered who Jesus is, it cannot be something we keep silent about.** Good teaching that builds convictions about Jesus and the goodness of salvation, together with prayer, are essential.

And here is the amazing thing, when friends do Uncover they find it interesting, enjoyable and they appreciate a context in which they can ask their questions.

Here are some common barriers people have and how you might respond to them.

“Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” So, the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.’

- **‘I don't know what to say'**

The hardest part of getting started is asking our friends. Sometimes it is a case of praying, trusting God and being courageous. If you need help finding the right words, there is a section below that will help with asking friends.

- **‘My friends have no interest in spiritual things'**

You might be right, but how will you know unless you ask them? Pray and trust the Spirit to be working in the hearts of your friends. If you are struggling for non-Christian friends, try engaging more with course-mates or join another uni society. A great book to read that might help is *Out of the Saltshaker* by Rebecca Manley Pippert.

- **‘My friends will find Uncover weird and boring'**

Here's the shock – the Gospel of Mark is a good read and Jesus is amazing. God has given us true, imaginative stories in the Gospel that people do find engaging.

- **‘I've not got any experience in leading a Bible study'**

Leading Uncover really is straightforward. Help CU members realise this by using the studies in small groups and arranging a short training slot either in a main CU meeting or on the house party.

- **‘Why study a Gospel when I can talk to my friends about Jesus?'**

There are many reasons to use the Gospel – friends engage with the real Jesus in the eyewitness accounts, the Gospel of Mark is written to help non-Christians meet Jesus, and above all God's word through the Spirit is powerful.

- **‘I've asked three people and they all said no!'**

This can be disheartening, but we have to persevere. Why not ask more widely trusting the Spirit to work?

- **‘I'm too busy'**

Uncover is easy to use and takes little time to prepare. Ultimately this is a question of priorities. Do we want our friends to meet Jesus for themselves? It has to be worth an hour of our week!

- **‘I've been hurt before when trying to speak about Jesus'**

Jesus was very honest, that being a Christ would involve some opposition, Mark 8:34. Knowing this doesn't make it easy. Why not make a list of people you think you could ask and then start praying with a friend? We are all weak and God does use us in our weakness.

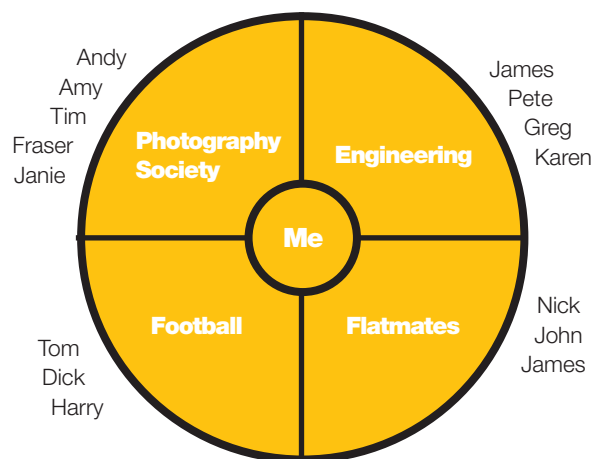
Key Training Ideas

The biggest barrier to doing Uncover with someone tends to be about who to invite and how to invite them. Here are some simple training notes on those two issues that you can use with your CU.

Use one or two of these at your launch event, save the others for use in the next few weeks.

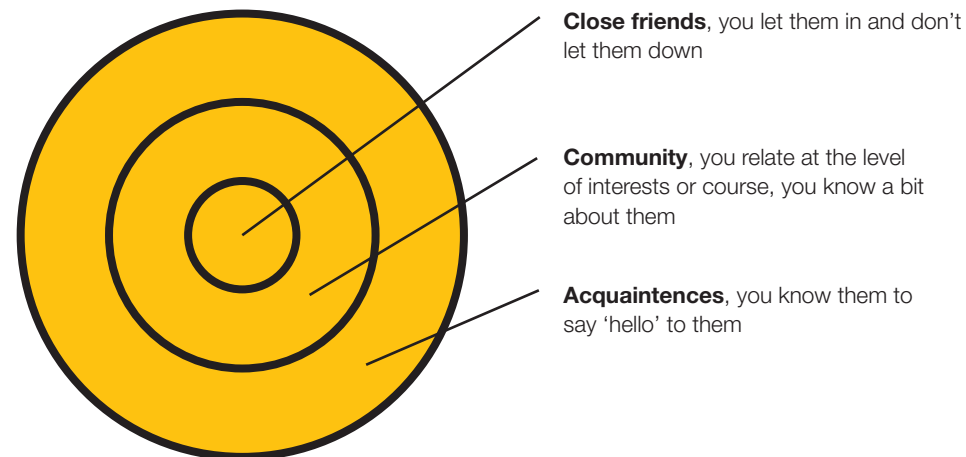
Who are my friends?

Either during the launch or in a subsequent meeting, help CU members identify non-Christians they could invite to study Uncover. You may think this is too obvious to be worth doing, but you'll be surprised how many appreciate this help. Here are two different ways of approaching this issue. These are not techniques to build artificial friendships-with-an-agenda! God has placed students in their places of study so that, through Christian friends, they might reach out and find Him (Acts 17:27). Made in the image of God, we have so much in common with other not-yet-Christian image-bearers He also made and loves.



Who has God put in my life?

- Give everyone a few minutes to draw a circle with 'me' at the centre, then divide it up between the main parts of their week or things they get involved in. This example only has four segments; you probably have more
- Who has God put in my life? What friends do I already have who are similar to me? Who shares my interests?
- **Challenge:** How can I deepen those friendships? Who should I pray for? Who could I give an Uncover Gospel to next?



Moving friendships on

- Give everyone a few minutes to draw three circles and put initials of friends in each circle.
- Close friends are the ones who really know your hopes and fears; who can often tell how you're doing without being told!
- Now underline initials of non-Christians; often there will be few or none in the inner circle(s).
- Challenge: how can I build deeper, real relationships with non-Christians so that our friendship is more than superficial? How can I pray for, open up to and enjoy spending time with specific non-Christian friends?

Ideas for taking friendships further

- Make time. Trust only grows through the investment of time. If you are always rushing away for a Christian meeting, that's a problem
- Make time for a pint or a coffee
- Eat a meal together
- Find common interests, friendship develops through shared experiences
- Ask questions that take things a bit deeper, about their background, their hopes and about their personal beliefs
- Involve friends in the Christian community. If your small group or CU are doing something social, invite non-Christian friends along
- If you haven't done so already, find a way of letting people know you are a Christian

As you invest in friendships, people can move forward towards faith in Jesus. For many people learning to trust a Christian is the first step in their journey to faith. The better the friendship, the easier it will be to ask someone to do Uncover Mark.

How do I ask my friends?

Having named three friends, the thought of actually inviting them to study Mark can be a major mental block. There are three things that help most:

Prayer for friends – definitely! This is why praying in CU, praying in CU small groups, and using the three-a-day bookmarks are so important.

Becoming familiar with the Uncover Mark studies. This builds confidence and helps doing Uncover become a step not a leap. So, do plan to study the Uncover studies in CU small groups or CU main meetings before launching the project. Becoming familiar with the theme of each study is very helpful in another way. When an issue such as hope, identity, suffering, truth or good and evil comes up in conversation with a friend, if CU members are familiar with the themes of the studies, they can easily invite a friend to look at a study which addresses that issue.

Have words to say prepared in advance to invite friends. This sounds a bit artificial but working out what to say ahead of time can get people over the obstacle of asking a friend. The following training exercises might help people find their own words:

- Do a sketch of how not to ask someone!
- Have someone share how they asked, perhaps clumsily, but got a 'yes' from their friend
- In pairs ask CU members to think how they might invite people in the following different scenarios:
 - Someone who is unknown to you but comes to an event and is interested in finding out more
 - A course mate who you don't know that deeply but spend time with during breaks
 - A friend who you know well but they have never shown interest in your faith
 - A friend who is an atheist and who has quite strong views about Christianity
 - A close friend who knows you are a Christian and you have talked to about your faith a few times
 - A group of friends/house mates that you could study Uncover Mark with together

- Give people a form of words to use. The above exercise will hopefully get people thinking about how they might invite their friends. But still people appreciate being given concrete examples of the kinds of sentences they might use. Here are some examples:

- 'Fred, would you like to look at the evidence with me, one of the original eye witness accounts of Jesus, so that you can make up your own mind for yourself?'
- 'Anna, you know you have always given me a hard time for being a Christian. How about we sit down and look at one of the original accounts together so that you can understand where I am coming from and you can say that you've at least looked at the evidence.'
- 'Paul, we've had a couple of conversations about Christianity but I was wondering whether you might be prepared to sit with me and look at one of the original biographies about Jesus because I think that getting your mind around him is the only way to really understand Christianity.'
- To your house mates/tutor group/sports team, 'Hey everyone, you know being a Christian is important to me. In the CU we are giving people the opportunity to think about Christianity for themselves by looking at the original texts, would you like to look through it with me once a week over a pint/a coffee/over dinner (I'll cook!)?'

You will find examples of CU members who have asked their friends to study Uncover at UCCF's YouTube channel, at www.youtube.com/uccfmedia

Using Uncover at lunchbars, mission weeks and carol services

By now you will be mumbling the vision for Uncover Mark in your sleep: Pray for 3 | Give to 3 | Read with 3. How then does this work with lunchbars or mission events where one of the major goals is to invite strangers in to hear the gospel? You don't want to water down the vision by spamming everyone on campus with Uncover Gospels. This will devalue the Gospel as an esteemed gift for a friend. But you can give copies out at any point where there is a meaningful encounter with the Gospel. Here are some ideas:

- put a Gospel on every seat at a lunchbar, carol service, mission event
- make sure the speaker refers to the Uncover Gospels and explains what they're about
- invite visitors to take the Uncover Gospels away and read them
- offer the opportunity to investigate the Gospel together with a CU member or in a small group using feedback forms (below)

Remember, this is all about relationships!

The Gospel is about a loving relationship with Jesus. Make sure your events reflect this! Make sure that as a CU you are good at welcoming visitors. Be intentional: talk with CU members beforehand about what this communicates

- Be interested in newcomers. Smile and ask questions.
- As you read Mark, notice how often Jesus is at a meal! Meals are something we share with friends. Use good food or quality snacks at your events.
- Follow-up always works best where there is relationship. It's brilliant when a CU member brings a friend to an event. You may need to sit with the CU member and help them take the next steps with the person they brought along, 'have you offered to do the seeker studies in the Gospel with them? What help do you need? How can we pray for your friend?'

Following-up people who are interested

Year after year this is one of the most key parts of any CU event or mission to get right. Uncover can really help CU follow up to be effective.

Feedback forms

- Put a form and a pen/pencil on every seat for every evangelistic event

Feedback form: Thank you for coming today! We'd love to know what you thought:

Name: _____

Mobile: _____

I came with: _____

Count me in!

Tell me more!

Comments _____

- Keep your form brief and simple. Use this example
- Use two tick-boxes to indicate how people might respond to what they've heard
- Make sure your speaker knows about these and will explicitly refer to them. They should get everyone to pick it up and explain it, including what the tick boxes are about
 - 'Count me in' for those who want to follow Jesus
 - 'Tell me more' for those who want to discover more
- Appoint someone/a few people in the CU to be responsible for follow-up
- Promise to make contact within 24 hours
- Get mobile numbers, not email addresses. Emails are usually seen as cold and formal and you won't get many replies. If the visitor has taken the effort to come and write on a form, they'll be happy for you to phone them. So be friendly! Speak to them!
- Only text if you can't get through
- Get the name of the CU member they came with (if any) as that friend will usually be the best person to follow up or do an Uncover seeker study
- Be patient and persistent
- Pray by name for those who have responded
- Do not offer too many follow up options because it becomes confusing and easier for people to opt out:
 - Offer one central course, it could be Uncover Mark as a course, Alpha, Christianity Explored, The World we all Want, etc – but offer one!
 - Encourage one-to-one follow up with friends using the Uncover Mark studies.
- CUs have found it useful to make a simple video to explain what the follow up course is, where it meets and what people can expect.

Follow-up courses must strike while the iron is hot, eg on the Monday after the mission/events week if not before! That's why some CU members must be responsible for follow-up and be not over-committed during the mission/events week itself.

Praying for Uncover

You will pray only when you know who God is and who you are

Motivating by guilt or increasingly frenetic notices is easy. And it works! You will get a brief flurry of activity. But it makes God look desperate and CU members feeling disheartened by failure. And it never lasts.

Your CU will pray when they have the right convictions about **who God is and who they are**.

Our main problem with prayer is that we don't know **who God is**. He's the taskmaster you have to keep pleasing; the one noticing where you slip up; the one who favours the obedient righteous people.

But that's not the God of the Bible. He knows our sins and secrets, but still loves us and welcomes us in Jesus and only in Jesus.

God doesn't tick off attendance lists or award golden stars stickers to those who turn up, but loves to hear from His children. So we delight to pray because God is gracious, kind, loving, merciful, generous and welcomes us in Jesus. We pray because we want to be with this generous God!

And **only God can open the hearts of our friends to believe**

(Acts 16:14, 2 Cor 4:6). But **we should be expectant** that He will do this, because He is the God who does not want anyone to perish, but for everyone to come to repentance, 2 Peter 3:9. So pray, expectant that God will be at work.

But even knowing who God is, you need to motivate your CU to pray because we very quickly forget **who we are**.

We think we can get through most of life okay but need to pray when things get desperate. But, we give thanks because our next breath is in God's hands. We pray because we are helpless creatures, dependent every moment on our good God. God is God and we are not.

Help your CU come as dependent children, simply asking their loving Father. How exciting to come to the one who is our life and breath and everything; who has more resources than we possibly need and is abundantly generous to those who just ask!

Prayer is relational. It brings together a loving heavenly Father with the forgiven sinner who has been adopted as his child. A child speaking to their Father is a world away from an employee speaking to their boss. You and your CU will pray the more you know who your God is and how you stand in relation to Him.

Help your CU see **who their God is**, and prayer becomes natural and attractive, not a duty or guilt trip.

Jesus is our best picture of true humanity in the Bible, but He lived a life of absolute and total dependence, expressed in prayer Mark 1:35, 6:46, 14:32,35,39

For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, father.' The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. —Romans 8.15-16

When will you pray?

Prayer is an expression of our moment-by-moment relationship, not a 999 call! Remember the key is an attitude of humble, thankful dependence and for as many of the CU as possible to be gripped by this, not merely the quantity of prayers being uttered (Matthew 6:7).

So here are a few examples:

- **Main meetings:** model prayer at the one point in the week most CU members are together. See below for ideas on how to do this with variety.
- **Regular prayer meetings:** whether weekly prayer breakfasts, Tuesday nights or daily through the mission/events week.
- **Dedicated days or times:** set aside a day to pray for Uncover. Or have a half-night of prayer (from 6pm-midnight) once per semester. Do this as a flat-crawl where you pray for different aspects of Uncover as you spend an hour in different people's flats and finish with pizza!
- **Small groups:** these are key for Uncover! This is where you meet with the same group every week in your hall or faculty groups. Help each other be accountable for the names on your Uncover 3-a-day prayer bookmark. 'Did you manage to give Sam a Gospel as we were praying last week? How did that conversation go? How can we pray this week?'
- **Pray with three for three:** promote prayer triplets, three friends together who meet each week to pray for each other and for Uncover over breakfast or at lunch time.
- **On your own:** encourage every CU member to keep their Uncover three-a-day prayer bookmark in their Bible and another copy pinned near their bed.

For many more pages of teaching, creative ideas and help to get your CU to pray, go to: uccf.org.uk/cu-leader/prayer-coordinator.htm

Your CU will pray when they are well led

Make sure the convictions above drive your prayer times. But then plan well what you will pray for. Use variety week by week (see the link for ideas about how to do this).

For example, here are a dozen bite-sized topics you could use over the course of a semester. This way your prayers for will cover a range of areas vital to helping the vision to pray | give | read result in new believers!

1. Pray that we as a CU would be confident in God's Word
2. Pray that we as a CU would have hearts set on fire by the gospel so that we would long to share Jesus with our friends
3. Pray that we as a CU would be willing to open up Mark's Gospel with a friend, and have boldness to take opportunities to do so
4. Pray that God would bring to mind specific people who we could ask to study

How to pay for Uncover

- Mark with us, either as a group or one-to-one
5. Pray for receptive hearts around campus, and for people to have a desire to want to know more of Jesus
 6. Pray for specific friends by name that they would be willing to take an Uncover Gospel
 7. Pray that God would remove any practical obstacles in the way of people being able to read an Uncover Gospel
 8. Pray that as people open Mark's Gospel they would understand who Jesus is, understand what he came to do, and respond to His call
 9. Pray that we as a CU would be living and speaking for Jesus
 10. Pray that we as a CU would be willing to suffer rejection for Jesus
 11. Pray for hearts to respond with joy to God's Word
 12. Pray that those who have read through Mark would come to mission/events week, and that many who come would want to read Mark. Pray that they would see Jesus for who He is and trust Him.

Prayer supporters of CUs have already given incredibly generously to create and print the Gospels and the other Uncover Mark resources. They want CUs to be unhindered in using them to reach lost students. They are convinced of the vision of Uncover and the potential when God's Word is unleashed on campus. They are praying for you.

So be bold! Seek to raise the money you need to make this project fly, so that every CU member is helped to pray|give|read with three non-Christian friends.

What do you need to pay for?

- The Uncover Mark Gospels will be available free of charge to CUs for the next two academic years. You will need to cover postage costs and if you're able give a donation which will enable the Gospels to be distributed to even more students. It will be made clear at Forum where to order your Gospels online.
- Everything else is free!
 - This includes: downloads, bookmarks, and all the interactive content
 - And it includes *The Mark Drama*

For many more pages of ideas and help on how to fund your vision for mission, go to: uccf.org.uk/cu-leader/treasurer.htm

How do you order resources?

Talk with your Staff Worker so that you order all the resources you need in good time

- **Gospels:** will be available to order from Forum. Your Staff Worker can help you work out how many Gospels to order. Remember you will need four per CU member (one for them and three to give to friends) plus stock to use at events (lunchbars, carol services, missions, etc). Make sure your Staff Worker helps you not to over-estimate what you need. What you don't want is lots of boxes of Gospels stored under beds when they could be used by other CUs!
- Other resources: bookmarks, and other Uncover resources will become available as we build up to Forum. Your Staff Worker will keep you informed.

What else will you need money for?

- Speakers' costs (travel, gift)
- Publicity
- Room bookings
- Food, drinks
- Ambiance (book a nice room, put up softer lighting and fairy lights, make it look like somewhere you'd want to go)

Many CUs find local churches very willing to supply excellent home-made food for events! Talk to them in good time so they can plan. They will also pray for you because they're involved.

Ambiance, food and content matters!

Non-Christians can tell the kind of God you know before you open your mouth.

Here are two scenarios for an evening event:

- Create a feeling of celebration with tasty food/snacks, sit around tables so you can chat, use soft lighting, and have a band from a neighbouring CU playing before the talk. This is not a trick to hook people, but a warm and enjoyable evening that flows from the creative, generous God we know. Someone who is not yet a Christian is likely to think, 'these people are like me, value the things I value, and they value me being here'.
- Use a lecture theatre with plastic cups of squash and just a talk, and you end up saying something about the greyness of the God you worship!

Which do you think will help your friends know a good, loving, creative God?

Which would you rather be at?!

None of this needs to cost much, particularly if you use your imagination!

At any event, you should be able to say to non-Christians: 'Even if you disagree with everything we've said, we hope you've had a brilliant evening!'

Where will the money come from?

Share the vision

- People will give when they catch the vision for what you're doing and your convictions about the God who speaks.
- Share the vision, build convictions, tell stories.

CU members

- Those in CU whose hearts are on fire with the vision will not find it difficult to give £3 so they can pray | give | read with three friends – it's the price of a medium cappuccino!
- You are not asking CU members to increase their student loans. If necessary, challenge them to give up something (e.g. a coffee a week).
- Share the vision for attractive events and mission weeks that they would want to be at with their friends.

During this past three years, many parents and churches across the UK have used Uncover Luke seeker Bible studies as a result of CU members going back to their churches and families with testimonies of how God has worked through His Word!

Churches, parents, graduates

- Write a prayer letter to the churches in your city. Ask CU members to send it to their parents and home churches. Send copies to recent graduates.
- Lead with the vision for what you're doing, the convictions about why, and some stories of how God has been at work.
- Ask for prayer, as well as financial help.
- Don't leave this till the last minute. Write it now for the year ahead. Follow up with more letters and feedback during the year, and definitely write in good time before the mission/events week.
- Churches will pray for you when they are captured by the vision and kept informed.
- Finally, don't assume the churches will write the cheques if you as a CU are not prepared to give or pray.

The Uncover study passages and titles

Uncover Mark will be launched at the UCCF Forum conference 28 August – 1 September 2018. *The Mark Drama* project will also be launched at this event. Anyone who is a leader in CU, part of a team in CU or who has influence in CU is welcome to attend. Please speak to your CU Staff Worker for more details. Most CUs will be planning their programmes well before Forum. To help with your planning, here are the eight passages used in the seeker studies which will be included at the back of the Uncover Mark Gospels:

Study A: The world we all want is nearly here!

Mark 1:14-45

Study B: Bursting bubbles

Mark 2:1-22, 3:1-6

Study C: No one's beyond hope

Mark 5:21-43

Study D: Partially sighted

Mark 8:27-33; 9:30-35

Study E: Glory and power

Mark 14:22-72

Study F: Only human after all

Mark 14:22-52

Study G: God forsaken

Mark 15:16-41

Study H: The opening

Mark 15:42-16:8

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