



Life Group Discussion Guide

January 12 – Mark 2 --- Clarifying Events

Life Group Leaders,

During our *100 Days with Jesus*, you will have two approach options to guide your group in studying Sunday's text. We encourage you to try both methods over the next few months.

1. **Discussion Questions** – Each week, you'll receive a set of questions related to the text. If you choose this option, feel free to *select the questions that best fit your group's needs* and dynamics.
2. **SEEDS Discovery Bible Study** – This method introduces a Bible study format designed to empower participants to engage deeply with Scripture. The goal is to equip your group members with a practical tool for exploring the Bible with others, aligning with our mission to *Advance the Kingdom* with Jesus.

Both options are designed to enrich your group's experience. Experiment with each to discover what works best for your group. Thank you for leading and serving so well!

Discussion Questions:

Mark 2:1-12 --- Jesus Heals a Paralytic

1. What does the faith of the paralytic's friends reveal about their belief in Jesus' authority? How can their example shape our approach to interceding for others?
2. Why do you think Jesus addressed the man's sins *before* healing his paralysis? What does this teach us about priorities?
3. How does Jesus demonstrate his authority to forgive sins, and why was this controversial?
4. In verse 12, the crowd glorified God after witnessing the miracle. What can we learn from this?

Mark 2:13-17 --- Jesus Calls Levi

5. Why might Levi's occupation as a tax collector make Jesus' call to him significant? What does this reveal about the nature of Jesus' ministry?
6. How does Jesus' response to the Pharisees about eating with sinners and tax collectors in verse 17 shape the way we engage with people outside the church?
7. What does it mean for Jesus to come for the "sick" and not the "righteous"? Who might the "sick" be in today's context?

Mark 2:18-22 --- A Question About Fasting

8. Why do you think Jesus uses the imagery of a bridegroom, unshrunk cloth, and new wine to explain the difference between his ministry and the practices of fasting?
9. What do the metaphors of old and new garments and wineskins teach us about embracing change or transformation in our faith?

Mark 2:23-28 --- Jesus Is Lord of the Sabbath

10. How does Jesus' reference to David in verses 25-26 help explain his disciples' actions on the Sabbath?
11. What does Jesus mean when he says, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath"? How can this principle guide our understanding of rules and traditions in faith?
12. What does Jesus' declaration that he is "Lord of the Sabbath" reveal about his identity?

Application and Reflection

13. In Mark 2, what themes do you see about Jesus' authority and how people respond to him?
14. How do these texts challenge or encourage your understanding of faith, grace, and obedience?
15. What practical steps can we take to apply the lessons from this chapter to our daily lives?

SEEDS Bible Study:

The Discovery Method works most effectively in small groups of three to four people. For larger gatherings, consider breaking into smaller groups to encourage deeper discussion. Here's a simple format to follow:

- **Form Small Groups:** Divide the larger group into smaller groups of three to four people.
- **Pose Questions:** Present one question at a time for the smaller groups to discuss. Allow a few minutes for meaningful conversation.
- **Share Insights:** Invite groups to share their thoughts with the larger group, if they feel led. This step fosters collective learning and reflection.
- **Repeat for Additional Questions:** Continue the process with the next question, following the same structure.
- **Close in Prayer:** Conclude the session with prayer, either within the smaller groups or together as a large group.

This approach encourages participation, reflection, and shared learning while keeping the conversation focused and engaging.

Discussion Questions:

Share

- What are you grateful for?
- What is stressing you out?

Explore

- What stood out to you from the sermon?
- Read the text twice (Select a portion of this week's text to focus on for your group's discussion.)
- Retell the passage in your own words.

Examine

- What questions, observations, and thoughts do you have about this passage?
- What does this text say about God, Jesus, and humanity?

Do It – Either alone or with others in the group.

- If the text is true, what are you sensing God saying to you?
- Write an "I will" statement.
- What does that look like for you?

Seek God's Kingdom

- **Tell:** Is there someone in your life you can share this text/truth with?
- **Give:** Is there someone in your life that you can serve this week?
- **Pray:** Close in prayer: God, thank You for planting SEEDS in us so we can share those SEEDS with others as we Advance the Kingdom!