



Life Group Discussion Guide

January 19 – Mark 3

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:

Overall: As you go through this chapter, and all of Mark, note the approaches the religious leaders use to attempt to discredit Jesus. Also note the responses from Jesus.

Mark 3:1–6 --- A Man with a Withered Hand

1. The Pharisees were looking for a way to accuse Jesus by seeing if he would heal on the Sabbath. What does this reveal about them?
2. How does Jesus' question in verse 4 challenge the Pharisees' understanding of God's purpose for the Sabbath? What is God's view vs the Pharisees' view of the Sabbath?
3. Look at the emotions Jesus expresses in verse 5. Why do you think Jesus reacted so much?
4. Why do you think the Pharisees and Herodians plotted to kill Jesus after this healing?
5. What approach was used to discredit Jesus? What was Jesus' response?

Mark 3:7–12 --- A Great Crowd Follows Jesus

1. Think of a time when you went out of your way to see or investigate someone based on their reputation? (politician, minister, financial wizard, etc.) What drew you to see them?
2. What do the crowds of people indicate about Jesus' ministry?
3. Why do you think Jesus orders the unclean spirits not to tell that he is the Son of God? How might this connect to His broader mission?

Mark 3:13–19 --- The Twelve Apostles

1. Jesus appointed the 12 apostles from those people who were following him. What lessons can be drawn from Judas Iscariot's inclusion in the Twelve, knowing he would later betray Jesus?

Mark 3:20–30 --- Blasphemy Against the Holy Spirit

1. How does Jesus respond to the accusation that He casts out demons by the power of Beelzebul? What logic does He use to refute this claim?
2. What is the significance of the metaphor about binding the strong man (v. 27)? How does it relate to Jesus' mission?
3. Why is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit described as an unforgivable sin?

Outside material from Christianity.com:

Definition of "Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit" – Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is attributing to the devil what has clearly been done by the Spirit. It is considered a persistent and unrepentant refusal to acknowledge the divine source of God's work, especially as revealed through the Holy Spirit. It goes beyond mere words or actions and involves a hardened heart that rejects the convicting and transformative work of the Holy Spirit.

4. What approach was used to discredit Jesus? What was Jesus' response?

Mark 3:31–35 --- Jesus' Mother and Brothers

1. What does Jesus' response to the message about His mother and brothers teach about the nature of spiritual family? Is this an elevation of relationships where God's will is the center point, more than a demotion of the biological family?
2. How can we apply Jesus' teaching in verse 35 to our own lives?

Application and Reflection

1. How does Mark 3 as a whole demonstrate the growing tension between Jesus and the religious leaders?
2. What is Jesus trying to communicate to the people in this chapter?
3. Ask yourself: How can I incorporate these messages of Jesus from this chapter into my life? How can I live out what I'm learning so I can be formed more closely into His image?

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, the Holy Spirit 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!