

Mark 3

1. Icebreaker

What is something you've done that made your family or friends wonder if you were crazy?

2. Opening Prayer

Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer

3. Tell the Story

Go ahead and assign someone to story Mark 4 for next week.

Make sure the person storying doesn't look at their notes. Also, everyone's Bibles need to be closed while they are listening to the person storying.

4. Read the Story (Mark 3)

Read out loud as a group, 4-5 verses per person, let everyone know they can opt out if they want to.

5. Breaking it Down

Questions to be used (as appropriate based upon meeting dynamics) to facilitate discussion and understanding

5.1 This is the fifth act of confrontation with the religious leaders. What did Jesus have the man with the shriveled hand do in verse 3? (1---6)

Had him stand up in front of everyone.

Why would he have him stand up in front of everyone?

As with the paralytic Jesus once again take a deliberate action to force the confrontation with his questioners. He didn't shy away from their accusations but took action to expose the foolishness of the charges of his opponents.

What emotions did Jesus experience in verse 5?

Jesus looked around at them in anger and was deeply distressed.

Why did Jesus feel anger and deep distress?

Jesus felt strongly about the injustice of a system that sacrificed the genuine needs of people for religious traditions that had nothing to do with God. Their problem is that their hearts (the center of their beings) have hardened.

5.2 Where did the people come from to see Jesus? (7---12)

They came from near (Galilee) and far, from the north (Tyre and Sidon), south (Idumea), and east (the regions across the Jordan was called Perea). They came from Jewish and from Gentile regions. They came from the country regions (Galilee) and from the heart of the nation (Jerusalem).

What motivated the crowd to seek out Jesus?

They were coming because he had healed many. The lake provided a barrier against the crowds as well as a natural amplifier for his voice. His teaching ministry, the reason why he has come (Mark 1:38), is overshadowed by the demands of the crowd that he served as a healer.

When the evil spirits saw Jesus what did they do?

They fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God." They name him because in ancient times it was thought that knowing a person's true name gave you ability to control that person. Jesus exerts power over these evil forces and silences them, lest they stir up the crowds to follow him as the Messiah who will lead them in revolt against Rome.

5.3 How many were appointed as apostles? Twelve (13---19)

Is twelve a significant number? Twelve is not an arbitrary number. As Israel was founded by the twelve sons of Jacob, so Jesus chooses twelve men to indicate that he has come to inaugurate the new Israel.

What do you find interesting about the twelve that are appointed? Peter's name heads each list of the apostles; Judas' is always last. There are two (possibly three) sets of brothers and several sets of friends. Some of these men are strong-willed and hotheaded (the Sons of Thunder, who want to consume a village with fire in Luke 9:51-56); some are so invisible they are known only from the lists (e.g. Thaddeus). There are two natural enemies: the pro-government tax collector Matthew (Levi) and the anti-government...Simon the Zealot.

5.4 What did his family and the teachers of the law say about Jesus in verses 20 through 22? (20---30)

His family said that Jesus was "out of his mind." The teachers of the law said that he was possessed by Beelzebub. His family took a 30-mile journey from Nazareth to Capernaum to charge of him. The teachers of the law came all the way from Jerusalem to the northern province of Galilee. This illustrates how widespread Jesus' reputation had become.

What is the point of the three parables that Jesus tells in verses 22-27?

Jesus begins by pointing out the fundamental flaw in their argument: the power of Satan cannot be used to undo the power of Satan. He drives home this point by telling the three brief parables. A kingdom or a house that wars against itself will fall. His exorcisms reveal that he has used his power to bind Satan (the strong man), as demonstrated by the fact that he is undoing Satan's works every time he heals or casts out a demon.

Note: Someone may ask about what does it mean to blaspheme against the Holy Spirit. If a person persistently attributes to Satan what is accomplished by the power of God that person cannot be saved. If someone assumes that God's testimony about Jesus is satanic, it's impossible for such a person to receive forgiveness. Another way of saying it is a person who persists in hardening their heart against God, against the work of the Holy Spirit, and against the provision of Christ as Savior, is outside the reach of God's salvation.

6. Application

Sample questions (as appropriate) to tie to life application

- 1) What does this passage teach us about God?
- 2) What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- 3) What is a command to obey in this passage? What has God revealed in your life that needs changing? What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

Personal Reflection/Application:

1. The twelve apostles got to be with Jesus. What motivates you to seek Jesus? What does it mean to you to be "with him"? To be "sent out" by him?
2. What do you need to do with your life before Jesus can more fully be the Master of your life?
3. Have you ever experienced a conflict between what God wanted for you and what your family expected of you?
4. What relationship do you need to work on the most – your relationship with Christ, your biological family, or your spiritual family? How will you do so?
5. How can you improve the way you relate to your "brothers and sisters" in the family of God?

7. Prayer Requests

Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the Life Group. What happens in Life Group, Stays in Life Group

8. Closing & Prayer

*Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (Mark 4) if you haven't already done so.*

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