

A servant leader who offers you personally:

Mark 2

Forgiveness Mark 2:1-12

Fulfillment Mark 2:13-22

Freedom Mark 2:23

A servant leader who brings about a new way.

Mark 3, 4

New **nation** Mark 3:13-19

New **family** Mark 3:20-12, 31-35

New **kingdom** Mark 3:22-30, Mark 4:1-34

NEXT STEPS

Use these study questions to turn a message into a conversation.

Food for thought

Read Mark 2:1-12

Imagine that you are the paralytic being lowered before Jesus. How do you feel, especially when Jesus announces, “Son, your sins are forgiven”?
How do you feel after you have been healed?

In what ways does Jesus’ healing of the paralytic answer the questions raised in the minds of the teachers of the law?

The paralytic’s friends provide a model of caring. What are some practical ways we can follow their example?

Contrast the Pharisees’ attitude toward tax collectors and “sinners” with that of Jesus.
In his reply to the Pharisees’ complaint, Jesus specifically likens himself to a doctor. How has he acted as a doctor throughout this passage?

Jesus came announcing the kingdom and calling people to follow him. What change would need to take place in these Pharisees before they could answer Jesus’ call?

Who do you consider to be some of the “unlovely” or “unreachable” for God’s kingdom?
What steps can you take to bring your thinking and actions toward them into line with those of Jesus?

Read Mark 2:18-3:35. On what grounds are Jesus and his disciples criticized in 2:18-3:6?

In verses 19–22, how does Jesus explain his disciples' failure to fast?

How are Jesus' and the Pharisees' attitudes toward the Sabbath different?

How do Jesus' comments in verses 27–28 rebuke both too rigid and too lax a view of the Sabbath?

What is ironic about the Pharisees' reaction to Jesus' healing on the Sabbath (3:1–6)?

The Pharisees objected to what Jesus and his disciples did and failed to do. What objections might people today have toward what we do or fail to do as Christians?

How can Jesus' responses to opposition be a model for our own responses?

While the Pharisees and the Herodians are plotting to kill Jesus, how are the common people responding to him (3:7–12)?

Read Mark 4:1–34

Watch especially for words and phrases that are repeated in verses 1–25. What idea or ideas seem to dominate these verses?

What is the secret of the kingdom?

How does the response Jesus gets from telling the parable of the sower illustrate the point he is making?

What insights into kingdom growth do the parables of the growing seed and the mustard seed give us (Mark 4: 26–34)?

Sign up today for a life group!

Our Life Groups help promote spiritual growth and maturity in the Real Life community through the development of significant Christian relationships centered on the study of God's word. (Hebrews 10:24-25 & Romans 8:29)

SHARING Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include some planned "sharing questions". But after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal as our group feels safer and more comfortable.

STUDY Each week we'll study a portion of God's word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon. Our goal is to learn how to apply and live out our Christianity in our day-to-day experiences and relationships.

SUPPORT Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (see John 15:9-13). This care will take many forms such as prayer, listening, meeting needs, encouraging and even challenging one another as needed.

We also have ongoing Bible Studies available at Real Life: See the calendar for details.