



MARK 1 :35-45

Pursue

- Jesus often slips away to desolate places to spend uninterrupted time with the Father in prayer. This opportunity to rely on and be refreshed by the Father is clearly treasured by Jesus. What does seeing Jesus' prioritization of his relationship with the Father reveal about our relationship with God? What does this dependency and refreshment look like in your own life? If this has been absent in your life, what is one step you can take towards this this week?
- Jesus had been healing and casting out demons from many people before he went to pray. The disciples sought Jesus out to continue this ministry of healing & exorcism, but Jesus reminds them of his ultimate purpose saying, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out." While Jesus was after the hearts of the people (eternal healing), most of the people only longed for their physical healing (temporal healing). Do you long more for the temporal or eternal healing of Jesus? Examine your prayer life; how might they change with his heart for yours in mind?
- Despite saying his purpose was to preach, Jesus then heals a leper. The unclean leper pleads, "If you will, you can make me clean." Culturally, this man would have made anyone he touched ceremonially unclean and would have been banished from the house of God & His people. Jesus, moved by compassion, touches the leper, articulates his desire to heal him, and the leper is made clean.
 - What does seeing Jesus' **compassion and desire** for this man to be healed and restored in relationship with Himself and His people show you about the heart of God? Do you struggle to believe that God desires or cares to heal you?
 - How does seeing that Jesus **can** heal and restore the leper inform your relationship with Him? Is there an area of sin in your life that you struggle to believe God can make clean and restore?

Practice

LEADERS, YOU WILL LIKELY ONLY HAVE TIME FOR ONE OF THESE ACTIVITIES.

- **OPTION 1 | Confession Exercise.** Break into men & women. Spend time in these groups confessing areas of sin that need the cleansing and restoration of Jesus. Perhaps things we have given up hope for the compassion and work of Jesus on our behalf. Spend time confessing these things to one another and talking through what walking in repentance in these areas will look like.
- **OPTION 2 | Followers & Enemies Chart.** Our Bible Study classes received this document, and this could be a great tool to use throughout our study as well. Throughout Mark, we will see two main types of people: followers of Jesus and enemies of Jesus. While the narrator will not often explicitly label someone as a follower or enemy, the reader can use the actions or responses described in the text to determine if someone is a follower or enemy. Use this linked chart to keep track of the characteristics of both types of people and how they specifically respond to Jesus. Use this list as an opportunity to consider your own character and actions: Which category do you think best describes you? Where might God be calling you to repentance or growth?
 - We watched several responses to Jesus this week, unclean spirits, the crowds, and the followers of Jesus. What can you note about them in this chart?

Proclaim

- We had each group member choose one person in their life to intentionally pursue with gospel conversations. Follow up on these evangelism relationships.
 - Were they able to share the gospel with them, encourage them, or pray with them this week?
 - How can the group pray?
 - What is one next step they can take with this person? Can they ask them to church? To come to community group? Read the Bible together? Etc.