



## READ MARK 3:7-19

### Pursue

- Our scripture this week contrasts the crowds who are amazed by Jesus and the disciples who follow Jesus. Jesus has come to preach the gospel, but the greatest attraction for the crowds seems to be his healing ministry. Those with demons are in fact the people in these first verses six verses who truly understand who Jesus truly is and respond appropriately by bowing to Him.
  - In what areas of life are you aware of and desperate for the healing ministry of Jesus? What do you think that ministry should look like in your life?
  - In what areas of your life do you struggle to recognize the authority and Lordship of Jesus? In what areas of your life do you need to surrender to His Lordship of you?
- In contrast, our scripture this week also depicts the calling of Jesus' disciples or apostles.
  - According to verse 13, whom did Jesus call to be his disciples? Read Revelation 3:20. One of mankind's deepest desires is to be wanted. How does seeing the initiating love of Jesus towards His disciples inform your relationship with Jesus?
  - Jesus states that he calls His disciples for two reasons. (We will talk about the second reason in the "proclaim" portion.) The first reason is that they "might be with Him." What do you think this means? How have you enjoyed your relationship with Jesus this week? This is an invitation into relationship, not a check-list; however if you've struggled to cultivate that relationship this week, how can your group encourage you and keep you accountable?

### Practice

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

- **Option 1 | Let the Redeemed of the Lord Say So.** Psalm 107:1-3 says,

*Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever!  
Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,  
whom he has redeemed from trouble[a]  
and gathered in from the lands,  
from the east and from the west,  
from the north and from the south.*

We saw the initiating love of Jesus this week as He called his disciples to Himself. Testimony of His faithful and steadfast pursuit of us is a powerful encouragement! For those in the group that are believers, have them complete a 15-second testimony. Here is how you do that:

Think of **TWO WORDS** that describe your life before you met Jesus.

Think of **TWO WORDS** that describe what Christ did for you.

Think of **TWO WORDS** that describe how Jesus changed your life.

Then share as follows:

*"There was a time in my life when I was (insecure) and (angry).  
But Jesus showed me that because He loved me, He (died for my sin) and (has forgiven me).  
Now I am (secure) and (full of joy)."*

Use a pillow, a ball, or something safely tossable. Whoever is holding that item shares their testimony and tosses it to another person in the group, who then shares and tosses it to another person in the group. Consider going through everyone in the group who created a story a couple of times! For those who aren't believers in your group, have them take note of some of the things they hear from others that they want to hear more about. Encourage them to pray for those things to the Lord!

- **OPTION 2 | Followers & Enemies Chart.** 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. Continue to add to this chart things you noticed this week about the followers of Jesus and things you noticed about the enemies of Jesus.

## Proclaim

- **OPTION 1 |** The second reason Jesus states He has called His disciples is to empower them to do the work of ministry He has been doing, to proclaim the gospel, and to cast out demons. He calls them to send them like he has been sent! If you are a follower of Jesus, you have also been called to and empowered for this awesome work!
  - Your group may have practiced 15-second testimonies this week; if you did, try this week to share this testimony with one person.
- **OPTION 2 |** Prayer for the Nations. We saw this week that the crowds came from every direction to meet Jesus. Likewise, there are people from every nation who need to hear the goodness and hope of Jesus. Let's pray for them! Check the tags in the back of a few group members' shirts, and pray for salvation in the countries those shirts were made in!