

Home Group Leaders' Notes

Week of January 18, 2026

Mark 2:1-3:6

As you have noticed, the notes are different. Because some groups have invited new people into their group, we have chosen to simplify the preparation and conversation questions. The idea is that you can learn and discuss the book of Mark in the same setting.

For this week, Mark chapter two continues to focus on Jesus' identity and therefore authority. As the Son of God, the Spirit is empowering Him to preach, heal, cast out, and lead like no other. The people are responding well and the leaders are already skeptical and critical.

Chapter two has four stories that reveal more of Jesus' character, mission, identity and authority. This should be the focus as we too respond to Jesus.

As the answers to the questions below are answered in observations of the text, I will have little comment. The discussion questions follow the thought of the questions: Jesus is the Son of God and Messiah and has come that we might turn to God and find reconciliation, true life, healing, and fullness when we repent and believe.

By this time in the book of Mark, Jesus has launched His public ministry. The following actions have revealed important things about him:

- He was introduced by a man (John) who fulfilled prophecy from 700 years prior.
- He was affirmed by God the Father from heaven and God the Holy Spirit.
- He was tempted by Satan and yet stayed true in obedience.
- He preached that the “kingdom of God has come near” and called people to “repent and believe the good news.”

Following Jesus introduction and His teaching regarding God's kingdom, Jesus

- 1) called people to follow him as disciples,
- 2) cast out demons and healed many people,
- 3) traveled with disciples,
- 4) healed a man with leprosy, and
- 5) saw many people traveling for miles to be with him.

LET'S LEARN FROM THE BIBLE (also called God's Word)

Read through Mark chapter two.

In 1:38, Jesus said his mission was to teach. Who was in the audience in each story and what was taught?

- 2:1-12
- 2:13-17
- 2:18-22

- 2:23-27

What did Jesus demonstrate or reveal about himself in each of these stories?

- 2:1-12
- 2:13-17
- 2:18-22
- 2:23-27

Jesus' actions could be described as 'authority that reveals his identity.' How was Jesus' authority seen in each of the four stories? What does this indicate about his identity?

- 2:1-12
- 2:13-17
- 2:18-22
- 2:23-27

DISCUSS WHAT WE ARE LEARNING ABOUT JESUS

We have learned much about Jesus in these first two chapters. What stands out to you? Which of his actions or teaching is significant to you personally?

Personal response question

If Jesus were to walk through our community, where would you expect to find him? Why?

Jesus' actions and words should inform our answer: "When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?"¹⁷ On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

I am moved by this story and Jesus' answer. Am I being intentional to be with the people that need Jesus?

In one story, the Pharisees asked, ""Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" What do we learn about Jesus? What might we learn from the Pharisee's attitude? How might this story inform our daily attitudes and actions?

It is all too often that my attitude is judgmental rather than compassionate, grace-filled or gospel moved. Yes, we see the same people Jesus sees who are all sinners. I want to be like Jesus who was intentional to show them grace, truth, and compassion.

Thank you for your partnership.

Steve for the Home Group Core Team

APPLY IT THIS WEEK

As you look at these stories, can you identify with any of these people? Is there something that Jesus said or did that you need to apply to your own life? He heals, forgives, and teaches. He has called us to follow him in a love relationship. Spend time this week talking to God about your needs and watch and listen as you pray and read the Bible.

PRAYER NEEDS

- There are many people in our worlds who need a friend, healing, or to meet Jesus. Pray through your week expecting God to reveal people for whom you can pray.
- Please pray for our partners in ministry and mission. Include those serving local and internationally. Ask God to keep them encouraged and strengthened.