

# The Gospel of Mark

**Group Guide:** Week 8, Mark 3:7-35

## INTRODUCTION

Not long after Jesus is confronted by the Jewish authorities (chapter 2) he begins to gather and send out his apostles. Those who are not willing to follow Jesus' teaching are making themselves evident. There is already a conspiracy in the works to kill Jesus but now Jesus begins to be publically rejected. In the midst of rejection from both the Jewish authorities and his family Jesus creates a new family of those who will follow up. Mark is asking the readers a question. What compels you to follow Christ?

## PRAYER

## READ

Ask two group members to read Mark 3:7-35.

## SUMMARIZE

Ask two group members who didn't summarize last week to summarize the passage this week.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do you typically handle confrontation? Do you typically resort to fighting or running from the confrontation? Explain.
2. At this point in the narrative of Mark the crowds have been gathering around Jesus for many days. But now Mark points to the reason they were following him... "They heard what he was doing...for he healed many". Are there times in your life where the need for relief causes you to run to Jesus more enthusiastically than normal? What are those times?
3. In verses 13-21 Jesus calls his first apostles. Verse 14 mentions two reasons he calls them... "So that they might be with him and he might

## N.T. FURTHER READING

Matt. 9:34, 10:1-4, 12:24-31;  
Luke 6:12-16, 11:15-22, 12:10;  
2 Cor. 5:13, 1 Peter 4:2

## O.T. FURTHER READING

Isa. 49:24-25; Psalm 69:8; 2  
Kings 1:2

## FURTHER STUDY

As you read write out any words in this passage that would be helpful for you to look up in a dictionary.

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send them out to preach...”. Although Christians today are not apostles in the same sense, we too are called to be with Christ and sent to proclaim the gospel. Share one area you need to grow in dwelling with Jesus and one area you need to grow as one sent.

4. Take a closer look at the 12 Jesus called. Matthew, who is a tax collector, and Simon the Zealot would most likely have been enemies during the 1st century. Jesus is making a statement about who he calls to himself and those who become reconciled when they come to him. Since becoming a Christian have you noticed any changes to the way you relate to people or people groups different from you? Share what has changed for you. What attitude changes do you feel still need to change?

5. Reread verses 20-35. In the development of the story notice there is an “in” group and an “out” group with Jesus. Those on the “in” are the ones who “do the will of God” like he taught his apostles earlier. However, there are two types of “out” groups described in this text, those who outright reject Jesus (the scribes) and those who think Jesus is a little “crazy” (his family). Have you ever felt rejected or crazy because you follow Christ? Share your experience with the group.

6. Is there a fear of being rejected or seen as crazy that keeps you from following Christ more faithfully? Share.

7. Look back at verses 31-35. How does Jesus’ statement about is his “brother and sister and mother” affect your view of the church? Share one way this should change the way you think about your church family.

## NOTES

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## RESPONSE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*Personal:* Discuss and share with your group one way you are going to grow in spending time with Jesus this week (something you are not doing faithfully at the moment).

*Church:* Discuss ways your group can grow in seeing your church members as brothers and sisters the same way Christ viewed them in Mark 3:35

*World:* Discuss and share one way you will live “sent” into the world this week. (At work, school, with family, neighborhood. )

## SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION:

Mark 3:34-35

## PRAY TOGETHER

