

**INTRODUCTION**

**SCRIPTURE**

Mark 2:1-3:35

**Bottom Line:**

1. Light on \_\_\_\_\_ (Mark 2:1-17)

2. Heavy on \_\_\_\_\_ (Mark 2:23—3:1-6)

**Application:**

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**Bottom Line:**

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**Application:**

Community Group Curriculum  
For the week of January 26, 2014  
"News of the Kingdom Will Ruin Your Life"  
Mark 2:1 - 3:35

**BIG PICTURE**

In chapter 1 Jesus called men to follow him, and they did so immediately. He preached and the people flocked to him. He healed the sick and exercised authority over evil. Beginning in chapter 2 opposition began to develop. As Jesus began to speak more freely about the meaning of his message and the significance of his healing ministry, he provoked confrontation by challenging not only the authority of the religious leaders, but their whole way of life. Let's dig in!

**LET'S DIG IN!**

1. Read Mark 2:1-12

When Mark says Jesus saw "their faith" (v. 5), is he referring to the faith of the paralytic's friends, or the faith of both the paralytic and his friends? Was the faith Jesus recognized necessary for forgiveness of sins? Explain your answer.

The first thing Jesus says to the paralytic who is brought to him has nothing to do with the paralysis: "Son, your sins are forgiven" (v. 5). What does this tell us about the deepest problem – the deepest "paralysis" – needing healing, not only in the paralytic but in all of us?

In Mark 2:9, in response to the scribes' protests at Jesus' claim to forgive sin, Jesus asks which is easier – to tell the paralytic that his sins are forgiven, or to tell him to rise and walk? This is somewhat perplexing. Which is easier?

2. Read Mark 2:13-17

What did Levi stand to lose by leaving his work and following Jesus (v. 14)? Why do you think people of "ill repute" were so attracted to Jesus (v. 15)?

In his reply to the Pharisees' complaint about his eating with sinners and tax collectors, Jesus specifically compares himself to a doctor (v. 17). How has he acted as a doctor throughout this passage?

3. Read Mark 2:18-22

In this passage what is Jesus' answer to the people on why Jesus and his disciples did not fast? How do Old Testament passages such as Isaiah 62:5 and Hosea 2:19-20 clarify Jesus' answer?

4. Read Mark 2:23-28

David broke the Law of Moses concerning the holy bread. Jesus' disciples broke the Pharisees interpretation of the Law concerning the Sabbath. In your own words, tell why both David and Jesus' disciples were justified in breaking the Law. Why do you suppose Jesus says that he is "Lord even of the Sabbath" (v. 28)?

5. Read Mark 3:13-21

In this passage Jesus calls the 12 apostles. Knowing that Mark views Jesus' coming as the fulfillment of Old Testament expectations, what might be the significance of Jesus choosing 12 men? Note Revelation 21:12-14.

Jesus' family thought he was crazy (v. 21). Put yourself in their position and discuss how you might have felt under similar circumstances.

6. Read Mark 3:22-30

From this passage, what do you think is the "blasphemy of the Holy Spirit" of which Jesus speaks in verse 29? See Matthew 12:31-32. HINT: See "Key Definition".

### **PRAYER PLEASE**

- Pray that God would give you eyes to see others as he does and to act toward them as he does.
- Offer prayers for strength and understanding in the face of opposition. Give thanks for being a part of God's family.
- Pray for an open heart to draw Jesus closer to you as we study the wonderful book of Mark.

### **KEY DEFINITION**

**"Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit"** (Mark 3:28-29; Luke 12:8-10) – Key to understanding this is the distinction between the extreme case of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit and the lesser case of speaking in a dishonorable way against the Son of Man. One who asks to be forgiven for disrespectful words hastily spoken against Jesus will be forgiven. But blasphemy against the Holy Spirit – that is, the persistent and unrepentant resistance against the work of the Holy Spirit and his message concerning Jesus, will not be forgiven. The person who persists in hardening his heart against God, against the work of the Holy Spirit, and against the provision of Christ as Savior, is outside the reach of God's provision for forgiveness and salvation. Christians often worry that they have committed this sin, but such a concern is itself evidence of an openness to the work of the Spirit.