



Growth Group Guide

Guide number: 1 of 7 Date: Jan 7-14/2018

Passage(s): Mark 1:21-28, 1:40-45, 2:1-12

Connect

Start your time together with a couple warm-up questions:

- When you think of Jesus, what do you think about? Why?
- If you were to physically encounter Jesus, what would you ask of Him? Why?

Read

Read Mark 1:21-28 and 1:40-45. Read Mark 2:1-12. Read these passages in at least two different translations if possible.

Observe

Discuss your observations. In these passages:

- Whom is Jesus serving?
- How is He serving them?
- Why is He serving them in these ways?
- What is the outcome/result of the service?
- Who else is impacted by His service and how?

Respond

Let's go a little deeper. Discuss together:

- What do we learn about Jesus from the actions/interactions described in these passages?
- What do we learn about the people with whom Jesus is interacting? What can we learn about people in general?
- Do you see traces of yourself in any of the characters in the passages? How so?
- What kind of response do Jesus' actions/interactions elicit in your heart and mind? Why?
- What do you/we personally need to take away from these passages? What should you/we do as individuals, as a small group, as a church in response to what we see in these passages?

Dig

If you have time for more discussion or if you would like to dig deeper on your own, consider:

- The cleansing of the leper in 1:40-45 would have been recognized by the Jews as a "Messianic miracle," that is, a miracle that only the Messiah could do. What is the significance of this? How do you suppose this miracle affected the people who saw it or heard about it? For more, visit <http://www.messianicassociation.org/ezone48-af-three-messianic-miracles.htm>.
- In 2:1-12, Jesus is indirectly confronting the scribes. Who are the scribes? How does Jesus address them? Why would Jesus confront them? What point is He making? Why is this radical?

Growth Groups at CBC are a key part of our work to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

In Growth Groups, we:

Embrace God, the Gospel, and the Word.

Equip to live, to serve, and to reach out.

Engage each other, the church, the community, and the world.



Go

Consider your response, whether as an individual/family or as a group:

- We see several people serving and being served in these stories. Jesus serves in some surprising ways. How might you serve someone in your Growth Group in the coming days? How might you serve someone in the community/your sphere of interaction in the coming days? How might you as a group consider serving together?

Pray

Spend a bit of time praying together:

- Pray in response to these passages. What kind of prayer do these actions/interactions elicit? Praise? Thanksgiving? Confession? Supplication? Surrender? Talk to God about your response.
- Pray for each other's cares and concerns.
- Pray for the church, the community, and other related concerns.

Extend

Over the next few days, take some time on your own to reflect:

- Memorize Mark 2:9-11. Reflect on what Jesus is saying in these three verses. Consider the point He is making and its significance.
- Pick one of the three stories we looked at in these passages. Take some time to think about it. Picture yourself as a bystander in the room. Imagine the sights and smells and sounds. Imagine the people. View what Jesus is doing and hear what He is saying. Let this lead to a response of prayer and/or service.

Plan

Decide where and when your next Growth Group meeting will be held: