



## Growth Group Guide

Guide number: 2 of 7 Date: Jan 21-28, 2018

Passage(s): Mark 3:1-6, 4:35-41, 5:1-20

### Connect

Start your time together with a warm-up question:

- Have you ever seen a miraculous situation in your life in which you just knew the Lord had performed a miracle? If so, share some of these stories.

### Read

Read Mark 3:1-6, 4:35-41, and 5:1-20. 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:

- In 3:1-6, the Pharisees are trying to trap Jesus. How were they trying to trap Him? What are their intentions? Their response? What does this say about the Pharisees?
- In 4:35-41, the disciples responded in fear and awe. Why this reaction? What did Jesus just reveal about Himself in calming the storm? What are the disciples learning about Him?
- In 5:1-20, the local people, who were Gentiles, were not interested in Jesus sticking around. Compare this to Mark 7:31-37 and Matthew 15:29-31, when Jesus returns the region of the Decapolis. How did the people's response change? What role do you suppose the demon-possessed man played in this change?

**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:

- In 3:1-6, the Pharisees respond to Jesus with anger and hardened hearts. In 4:35-41, the disciples respond initially with little faith and then with great awe. In 5:1-20, the (formerly) demon-possessed man responds with a desire to follow Jesus and public proclamation of what Jesus had done for him. Consider your personal response to Jesus. Pray about this. Consider how your response to Jesus influences or affects how you relate to or engage with people in the church or in the community.
- 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 4:41. Reflect on what the disciples have just experienced in this event and why they respond the way they do.
- 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 situation. 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: