



## Growth Group Guide

Guide number: 3 of 7 Date: Feb 4-11, 2018

Passage(s): Mark 5:21-43, 6:30-52

### Connect

Start your time together with a warm-up question:

- In this sermon series, we've been talking about the idea of "serving regardless." So far, how have the sermons and discussions influenced the way you do or think about service? What are some big ideas you're taking away from this series?

### Read

Read Mark 5:21-43 and 6:30-52.

### 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 5:21-43, two people come to Jesus. It was likely socially unacceptable for either of them to do so. Jairus, the synagogue ruler, was deviating from other religious officials who were hostile toward Jesus. The woman was lawfully unclean and should not have been in public let alone pushing her way through a crowd to touch a religious leader. Yet their desperation drove them, and Jesus responded. What does this say about them and about Jesus?
- In 6:52, Mark notes that the disciples' hearts were "hardened" regarding the miracle of the loaves. How do you suppose this hardening was revealed in their response? What should their proper response have been?

**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.



- In 6:31 and 6:46, we see Jesus desiring and taking steps to have times of rest and times alone with God. And though the planned time of rest in this particular case was interrupted (6:33), personal rest and prayer still were important to Jesus (see, for example, Mark 1:35 and 14:35). What does this indicate about the importance of rest and prayer in service? What can we take from this?

### **Go**

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

- The synagogue ruler was among the social elite of his day and he was desperate for Jesus. The bleeding woman was a social outcast in her day and she was desperate for Jesus. Consider your sphere of interaction. Who in your sphere would be similar to these two people? Consider ways of reaching out to them and serving them. Pray about this and act on it.
- We see Jesus doing and modeling service in these instances. In at least one case (6:34, but likely in the other cases as well), Jesus served out of a sense of compassion. Reflect on Jesus' compassion toward you. Consider your sense of compassion and how it leads you (or doesn't lead you) to serve the people around you. Talk to God and with a trusted friend about this.
- 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 5:34. Reflect on the importance of faith in Jesus' healing of the woman. Contrast this with the disciples' hardened hearts in 6:52. Let this lead to prayer and reflection.
- Pick one of the 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: