

THE GOSPEL OF MARK - GUIDE 3

FOLLOWING FULLY

MARK 7:24 - 10:52

NAME:

MARK 7:24-37

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What do you think Jesus meant by saying “dogs” to this woman?

Have you ever had your faith tested in a way you did not understand? How did your faith grow through that experience?

What can we learn from the different interactions Jesus had with people who asked for healing and the varying methods he used to heal? How have you experienced God’s grace in different ways throughout your life??

FAMILY QUESTIONS:

What do you think the woman was feeling when she went to Jesus for help?

Sometimes we might feel like our prayers aren’t answered right away. What can we learn from the woman not walking away from Jesus when he didn’t help right away?

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MARK 8:1-10

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Can you think of a time when you didn't feel adequate to overcome a certain challenge, but God multiplied what you had to give? How did you see God's faithfulness through that experience? How did he provide for you?

How do you typically respond to the needs around you or in your own life - with hope and expectation or with doubt that God can provide? Why do you think that is?

What experiences or tools have helped you to discover your spiritual gifts? If you're not sure what your spiritual gifts are, what experiences of service or the Christian walk have spoken to your heart the most throughout life?

In what practical ways can you support others in our church community as they discover their spiritual gifts?

FAMILY QUESTION:

What has God given you that you can thank him for? What has God given you that you can share with others?

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MARK 8:11-21

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Jesus reminds the disciples of the two miraculous feedings and asks, "Don't you remember?" (Mark 8:18-21). Can you think of a time when God clearly provided for, guided, or sustained you? How might remembering that experience help you trust him in your current circumstances?

The disciples were worried about having only one loaf of bread, even though they had recently witnessed Jesus feed thousands. What situations tend to test your trust in God the most?

Jesus warns the disciples to "beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and of Herod." In what ways can unbelief, fear, cynicism, pride, or the desire for control quietly influence our thinking and relationship with God today?

The disciples were only focused on what they lacked. Where are you tempted to focus on scarcity, limitations, or uncertainty rather than the presence and faithfulness of Christ?

FAMILY QUESTION:

The disciples had seen Jesus feed huge crowds, but they were still worried about bread. Why do you think it is sometimes hard to remember what God has done for us? How can remembering what God has done for us help us to not worry about the future?

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MARK 8:22-30

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

The blind man was not able to see fully at first as Jesus' healed him. Looking back on your story, has it ever taken time to recognize God working slowly in your circumstances?

Jesus and the disciples faced a lot of hostility and unbelief throughout Mark. Why do you think Jesus led the blind man out of the village to be healed?

Jesus asks his disciples, "Who do you say I am?" How have you answered that question differently at different stages of faith throughout your life?

Peter confesses Jesus as the divinely anointed Messiah. What does this mean in your own life? How do you confess Jesus as your Messiah?

FAMILY QUESTIONS:

Peter calls Jesus the Messiah, which means he is the One God's promised and sent to save us. What does it mean to you that Jesus is our Savior?

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MARK 8:31-9:1

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Why do you think Peter struggled to accept Jesus's suffering and death, and how can we fall into similar thinking today?

What does "deny yourself and take up your cross" practically look like in everyday life?

In what ways does our society encourage us to "save our lives" rather than surrender them to Christ?

How does the cross and resurrection of Jesus give us courage to follow him faithfully, even when it is costly?

What is one area of your life where Jesus may be calling you to deeper trust, surrender, or obedience?

FAMILY QUESTION:

Jesus says that following him means putting him before ourselves. What can you do to put Jesus first this week? What can we do to put Jesus first as a family?

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MARK 9:2-13

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

In Mark 9:2-13, the disciples briefly see the glory of Jesus on the mountain. What are some moments in your own life when you noticed God's presence more clearly or deeply than usual? How did that experience affect your faith afterward?

Peter wanted to stay on the mountain and preserve the moment (Mark 9:5). In what ways do we often choose spiritual comfort or certainty instead of following Jesus in the ordinary challenges of life?

God's command in this passage is simple: "Listen to him!" (Mark 9:7). What voices or distractions compete most for your attention right now, and what might it look like to listen more intentionally to Jesus this week?

One of the main themes of the Transfiguration is that the glory of Jesus is revealed not apart from suffering, but through it. How can remembering who Jesus is help sustain us through seasons of pain, uncertainty, or discouragement?

FAMILY QUESTION:

The disciples didn't understand everything Jesus told them about what was going to happen. What can we do when we don't understand what God is doing or something we read in the Bible?

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MARK 9:14-29

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

We may shudder to think there is evil in our lives like there was in this boy, but whether it is concealed or visible, we live in a spiritual battle. Where do you see the destructive grip of evil in your life?

The father pleads with Jesus to have pity. Do you sometimes question whether or not God would want to work in your life? Do you find it easier to imagine God working in someone else's life but not your own? How might God be working in ways you cannot see or understand?

What parts of your spiritual life feel more mechanical, like things you check off a list, rather than relational? How can prayer help your faith be empowered by God?

FAMILY QUESTIONS:

What does this story teach us about how Jesus treats those who are hurting or those who are worrying?

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MARK 9:30-50

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

In what ways do you see the disciples seeking greatness through status or recognition, and how does Jesus redefine greatness in Mark 9:35?

Jesus welcomed a child—someone considered lowly and unimportant in that culture. Who are the “least” or overlooked people God may be calling you to notice, welcome, and serve in Christ’s name?

The disciples were jealous when others ministered in Jesus’s name (Mark 9:38-40). How can pride, comparison, or spiritual competition hinder unity and humility within the body of Christ?

Jesus speaks seriously about sin and calls his followers to deal with it radically. Are there attitudes, habits, or influences in your life that are pulling you away from wholehearted obedience to Christ?

How does Christ’s humility, sacrifice, and resurrection encourage you to follow him more faithfully this week?

FAMILY QUESTION:

How can we make others feel welcomed and valued the way Jesus welcomed the children who wanted to come to him?

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MARK 10:1-16

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

The Pharisees wanted to debate what was permissible, but Jesus pointed them back to God's design and character. What does this teach us about the difference between asking, "What can I do?" and asking, "What honors Christ?"

Jesus describes marriage as a covenant that reflects God's own faithfulness. How does God's unwavering faithfulness to us encourage us to be faithful in our relationships, commitments, and daily lives?

Jesus met people with both truth and grace. Why is it important for the church to hold onto both when ministering to people who carry the pain of broken relationships or other failures?

Jesus said we must receive the kingdom of God like a little child. What qualities of childlike faith do you think Jesus was highlighting?

Where do you most need to receive Christ's grace today, and what is one step you can take this week to walk more faithfully with him?

FAMILY QUESTION:

God is faithful, which means he keeps all his promises. Why is it important for us to keep our promises?

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MARK 10:17-31

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

The rich young ruler seemed sincere, moral, and successful, yet Jesus revealed that something still held his heart. What are some good things in our lives that can quietly become more important to us than Jesus? What would be hardest for you to give up if Jesus asked for it?

Jesus looked at the man and loved him before he challenged him. Why is it important to remember that Jesus confronts us out of love rather than condemnation? How does that change the way you hear this passage?

Jesus warns about the spiritual dangers of wealth, not because money is evil, but because it can become something we trust more than God. How have you seen money create fear, anxiety, or a false sense of security in your own life or in our culture?

Jesus promises that those who follow him will receive far more than they leave behind. What have you gained through following Jesus that money could never buy?

FAMILY QUESTION:

Why do you think Jesus asked the man to give up his possessions? What does it mean for us to put Jesus first in our lives?

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MARK 10:32-45

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How can we fall into the same temptation that James and John experienced by seeking security or reward from Jesus?

How can knowing that there is a reward eternally for a life of servanthood help you in times when you feel empty?

How have you witnessed the damage that can come from a selfish pursuit of power?

How does Jesus exemplify a different kind of power? What does it look like practically for us to be formed by Jesus' kingdom-definition of greatness and follow his example of servanthood daily?

FAMILY QUESTION:

How is Jesus' idea of greatness different than the world's definition?

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MARK 10:46-52

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Why do you think people rebuked and silenced Bartimaeus? Did he do something wrong by shouting out to Jesus?

What can we learn about his level of boldness? Do we find ourselves afraid or uncomfortable to live out our faith in this way?

Can you identify any blind spots in your faith journey? How can our own spiritual blindness become a hindrance to the work of the gospel? How can our blindness become a hindrance to our thanksgiving?

Where has faith made you well? Have you or someone you know experienced divine healing like Bartimaeus?

FAMILY QUESTION:

Why do you think Bartimaeus kept calling out to Jesus even when people told him to stop? What does this teach us about bold faith?

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MEMORY VERSE

MARK 8:34-35

“Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.”

FOR CHILDREN:

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”

FAMILY CORNER

As the Family Activity Bingo Card ends in September, families are encouraged to use the new Family Questions throughout the guidebook for meaningful discussion and application at home!