

The Unexpected King: The Gospel of Mark

A study for Community Groups to use the week of March 15th

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Series Guide** to complete foundational questions in the book for week 5 using the scripture below.

Week 7: Mark 2:23-3:6

Overview

Mark doesn't just tell us what Jesus did; he shows us who Jesus is in a way that forces us to rethink the world we're living in and the stories we're being sold every day.

"The Pharisees made the Sabbath a strait jacket that inhibited the Jews. Jesus pointed out that God gave the Sabbath as a good gift. He designed it to free His people from ceaseless labor and to give them rest. Sabbath observance had to contain enough elasticity to assure the promotion of human welfare. Jesus' point was the following. Since the Sabbath was made for man, He who is man's Lord . . . has authority to determine its law and use. Only Mark recorded, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath" (v. 27). One of his concerns in this Gospel was the welfare of mankind." – Constable's Notes

Questions

*In the Series Guide you will find basic questions we want all to use as they begin to look at the passage. Questions such as; *Who have you had the opportunity to BLESS this week? What does this passage reveal about God? About people? About the life He has planned for us?* These additional questions relate to the passage specifically for your benefit.

- In Mark 2:27–28, Jesus says, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath... the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.” What does this reveal about God’s intention for the Sabbath and about who Jesus is? How had the Pharisees turned a gift meant for rest into a burden? Where do you see the temptation in your own life to treat following God more like performance than a place of rest?
- In Mark 3:1–5, Jesus heals the man with the shriveled hand on the Sabbath and asks, “Which is lawful: to do good or to do evil?” What does this moment reveal about what matters most to Jesus? Why do you think the religious leaders stayed silent instead of answering? What might keep people today from stepping in to do good when they have the opportunity?
- Across both stories, Jesus shows that true rest and restoration are found in Him, not simply in rules or routines. Where do you tend to look for rest when life feels overwhelming? What might it look like this week to practically come to Jesus for the rest and wholeness He offers instead of trying to carry everything yourself?