

Small Group Study: Week 2

Welcome to week two of the "Jesus Said" Small Group study. Over the six weeks of this study, we pray this guide will help you and your group further grasp the words of Jesus and what they mean for your lives today. This study will build on each weekend's sermon, so please make it a priority to listen to the sermon before meeting with your group each week. If you were unable to catch the sermon this weekend, check it out at firstdecatour.org/sermons. Also, if you need an online Bible, please download the YouVersion Bible App from the App Store or Google Play.



Getting Started

As we revisit the words of Jesus in this week's study, we are reminded of the powerful way God connects with us through scripture. Jesus always seems to speak to us using simple, easy to understand stories, yet His words also carry deep and sometimes heavy messages. His parables usually uplift, comfort, and give us renewed hope and courage, but at the same time, we are often challenged, convicted, and quieted at the depth of His message.

- ▶ As you begin your discussion this week, have each person in your group share personal insights as to what Jesus' stories mean to them.
- ▶ As you reflect on the sermon and your reading of Mark chapters three and four, how did Jesus' words challenge you this week? Were you uplifted? Did you learn something new?



Read Mark 3:1-6

Pastor Wayne shared his father's cancer story and his niece's ongoing medical tribulations. Situations like these cause us to reflect on the first two chapters of Mark, which dealt a lot with healing - the healing of the unclean spirit, Simon's mother-in-law, literally everyone who was sick, including the leper, the paralytic, the man with the withered hand.



Watch

- ▶ Watch the "Jesus Said Week 2 Small Group Video" video as a group. This video is available on the leader blog here: <https://fccgrowtogether.org>. If you are able to stream videos to your TV, that would most likely be the best method. If not, consider showing the video on a laptop or tablet. Please let Pastor Jonathan know if you have any difficulties.



Talk About It

- ▶ Mark chapter three begins with Jesus' controversial healing of the withered hand in the synagogue on the Sabbath. As you reflect on this passage and Pastor Wayne's sermon, share how you view supernatural healing.
- ▶ How do you reconcile Jesus' healing in this passage with the command we have to obey the Sabbath? How did those around Jesus respond?
- ▶ In the video, Pastor Wayne talked about inconveniencing someone else because of your faith. How do you feel about that? Are there times when that is an appropriate response?

Jesus Said



Talk About It Continued - Mark 4

This is one of those weeks when questions will likely bubble to the surface as you discuss Jesus' words. When listening to a parable, we (much like His disciples) may ask ourselves, "What is His message here."

As you move through chapter four, read each parable one at a time, and then answer the questions below regarding the parable. Re-reading them aloud will help bring-to-mind some of the sermon points and act as a springboard to spawn insightful discussion as well as additional questions. Allow the words of Jesus to sink into your heart as you listen together.

- ▶ The Sower (Mark 4:1-20) – does this story call to you to participate in spreading Gospel seeds? How so? And what about the ones (referred to as rocky ground) who received the word gladly (Mark 4:16-17) – does 'received' mean 'saved'?
- ▶ Light on a Lampstand (Mark 4:21-25)- Consider sharing a time when you may have hidden your lamp instead of letting it shine. Was it because you pre-judged the outcome? Was it because of insecurity? How might we encourage each other to put our light on a lampstand?
- ▶ Mustard Seed (Mark 4:30-34)- this story reminds me of the man who said, "I have faith – help me in my unbelief". Why do so many prayers seem to go unanswered if all it takes is a mustard seed of faith? How do you respond when you don't get what you pray for? Discuss this mustard seed faith and what it means to you.
- ▶ Faith in the Storm (Mark 4:35-41)- are we like the disciples in the storm? We see the waves, and we become fearful. When has Jesus calmed a storm or walked on the waters of your disbelief? Share your stories to encourage others in your group to be more trusting in the storms.
- ▶ As you wrap up your discussion, have each person share their personal take-away from the conversation.
- ▶ As you reflect on these passages and your discussion, what questions remain for you?



Pray

As you close your group time this week, thank God for His word and for His work in our lives. Thank Him that He did not leave us to flounder, and instead gave us an account of His care for us. Thank Him for revealing His heart to us in a way that we can understand.



Bible Reading Plan

We desire that each person in your group would read the book of Mark over the six weeks of this series. As you prepare for next week, please read Chapters five and six and jot down some notes to bring with you to small group.