

BIBLE TEACHING AND WORSHIP GUIDE



FOR THE HOME-BASED CHURCH

Produced Weekly

Jesus Faces Conflict
Mark 2:1-17; 3:1-6

Copy this sheet for the Gathering Time, Bible Study, and Worship Experience leaders for the next meeting of the church.

Leaders' Responsibilities:

Important: Each person who will be leading one of the three parts of a session during a Unit of sessions needs to have access to the "Basic Information for Leading the Unit of Study". That information is often provided at the beginning of that Unit of sessions. The weekly session "Background" located in the Teacher Preparation is much more specific to that day's study.

1. **The Gathering Time Leader** will gather all of the people together and help them prepare their minds and hearts for a wonderful worship experience before God. His/her responsibility is to introduce the congregation to the theme (content) and the Scripture that will be central to their worship experience for the day.

2. **The Bible Study Leader** will then help the people understand what the Scriptures have to say and teach us about the content of the study for the day. He/she will guide the people to make a general application of the study (ie: How does this Bible study apply to people today?)

3. **The Worship Time Leader** has the responsibility to use the theme and Scriptures to guide the congregation to make personal commitments to God's will for each one in regard to the study for the day. He/she will use others to lead in the music, taking the offering, ministry moment comments, and other activities and parts of the **Worship Time** that can aid in participatory worship.

Prior to this Coming Session:

Gathering Time Leader:

If possible, bring a copy of the book, *The Little Engine That Could*, to share with the group. Read the statement referred to in the text.

Bible Study Leader:

Worship Time Leader:

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Ask someone in the group to lead the Ministry Moment. Ask them to think about prayerwalking ahead of time and how it could be implemented by the group.

Music Sources:

“Standing on the Promises”, #335 **Baptist Hymnal**; many hymnals

“Majesty”, #215 **BH**, many praise and worship songbooks

“Because He Lives”, #407 **BH**, many praise and worship songbooks

“Surely Goodness and Mercy”, #422 **BH**

“Jesus, Name Above All Names”, #47 **Maranatha! Praise Chorus Book**, 3rd Edition

Gathering Time: (Suggested time: 15 minutes)***Jesus Faces Conflict******Focal Text***

Mark 2:1-17; 3:1-6

Background Text

Mark 2:1-3:6

Main Idea

Jesus' challenge of religious traditions brought him into severe conflict with the religious leaders.

Question to Explore

What thoughts, actions, and traditions of ours conflict with who Jesus is and what he did?

Teaching Aim

To lead the class to identify current counterparts to the various conflicts Jesus faced in the focal text.

Gathering together:

Choose a praise song that exalts the power of God.

Ask any children in the group if they have read the book, The Little Engine that Could. Ask the group if they remember the most famous phrase in the book. ("I think I can, I think I can, I think I can --- I thought I could, I thought I could, I thought I could")

First thoughts:

Have you ever tried to put limits on God? Have you ever said, "That cannot be done?" Or, have you said, "I can't do that?" There are many ways to put limits on God. "We have never done it that way before." "That will cost too much." "Where is the money coming from?" "We don't have enough people."

To ask such questions or to make such statements is to try to “put new wine into old wineskins.” It is very important to listen to what God says to you when he comes to you with a new assignment. It is also very important to believe him and to trust him.

Have you ever made the statement, “That is not my gift?” That too is to put limits on God and what he can do. It also focuses on you. That will cause you to miss who God is and what only he can do.

Maybe a better question would be, “Do I have the faith that Jesus will see and because of it, he will touch those I bring to him” (2:5)? Remember, to follow Jesus, to obey him, is to see God do what you cannot do. He will show himself through your obedience (2:22). He will do it in ways you have never seen before. True faith responds to Jesus in this way. Everything Jesus does is based upon his authority and his word. Everything he does is a demonstration of his authority.

Another important truth is this; to obey Jesus will cause him to receive the glory, not you. It is not necessary to discover your gifts. You need to simply follow him. The Holy Spirit will give you the gift or gifts needed for the assignment God gives you. It will not be according to what you think you can do. To spend time trying to discover your gifts will probably cause you to miss much of what God wants to do through you.

Closing the Gathering Time:

Ask yourself, Do you always try to decide what you are able or not able to do? Remember, God is the one who calls you to follow him. If you can figure out how something can be done on your own, God probably has nothing to do with it.

Another good question to ask is, “What is God’s will?” Leave yourself out of the question. Today, we will study how Jesus taught the way to live in God’s will.

Take time at this point to mention items of prayer concern for the church, announcements of ministry or activities, and anything else that needs to be shared with or by the congregation. Pray for these needs. Remember to praise God in prayer.

Break time! Take five minutes between sessions. Encourage children to use the washroom so that they won’t need to leave during the Bible Study time.

Distribute youth/adult Bible study outlines or paper for note-taking, if available.

Also hand out the activity sheets for preschool and younger children to use during Bible Study and/or worship.

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Copy this section for the Bible Study leader.

Note to the Bible Study Leader: Suggested teaching time for the Bible study should be about 35 minutes. Use the “Teacher Preparation” for your personal study during the week before the session. Use the “Bible Study Plan” for the actual session.

Teacher Preparation

Jesus Faces Conflict

Focal Text

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Teaching Aim

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Introduction to your personal study:

As a boy, I remember thinking, that when I could afford it, I would buy a watch made in Switzerland. It would be a quality watch with parts handcrafted in the Swiss watch builder’s tradition. Swiss watches were famous for their mechanical operation and quality the world over. Years later I heard this story about Swiss watches. One day some men who worked for a Swiss watch builder came forward with a new timing mechanism that did not ‘tick’. Inside, it had no wheels, springs, or visibly moving parts. The watch builders thought that a watch that did not ‘tick’ was foolish. They thought it was so foolish that they told the men to take the idea away. In fact, they told them they could have all the rights to the silly idea. That silly idea was the quartz crystal watch mechanism. Yes, the idea seemed foolish. Yet, in years to come, because of the

quartz crystal mechanism about 50,000 Swiss watch builders were put out of work. Today, nearly all watches and clocks use that new technology.

The Pharisees and scribes of the day were so locked into their paradigm (a pattern) of laws and tradition, mostly self-imposed, that they were not able to see that a 'new' shift in God's plan was taking place. They were not able to see that their self-imposed religious rules were not God's plan but their own. The plan of Salvation is so simple; but these religious rulers made it difficult by imposing new rules.

Background:

Please ask for and read the information contained in the “**Basic Information for Leading the Unit of Study**”, found at the beginning of this Unit. Whoever downloaded this session for you should have that material for you as well.

Mark is such an eager writer to share the action and the 'Good News' that there is an evangelistic undercurrent in his writing that could be overlooked. This current flows through the Bible passage in such a quiet fashion that most readers miss the presentation of the Gospel; faith shown by the paralytic; commitment demonstrated by Matthew; belief as demonstrated by the man with the withered hand.

Focusing on the Meaning:

Mark 2:1-12 Faith

The Webster dictionary defines faith as “unquestioning belief”. In the story of the healing of the sick man with palsy the question is: Who had the faith?

2:1 The story takes place as Jesus returns to Capernaum after his tour of the Synagogues. As the news of his return spread through the countryside throngs of people started to come to Jesus bringing their sick.

2:2 The custom of the people was to open their doors in the morning and any one wishing to enter could. This story probably takes place in a home of a humble family; therefore there was no entryway or hallway. The house opened right on the street. Therefore a crowd could have gathered there quickly, knowing that Jesus was there.

2:3 As the crowd gathers, four friends arrive carrying their sick colleague to see Jesus. As the friends approach the home they find a large crowd already gathered in and around the home and there is no way to reach Jesus with the paralytic.

2:4 The Palestinian homes often had a flat roof with the supporting beams about three feet apart. The spaces between the beams were packed with brushwood and clay with a marl coating (a mixture of clay, sand and calcium carbonate used to make bricks). This area was often used for rest and relaxation, so an outside staircase would have

been common. The roof was made up of earth material so grass commonly grew on it. The four friends took to the steps and created a hole in the roof. Then they lowered their friend down before Jesus.

2:5 Jesus observes the faith of the five men. Jesus' love, compassion, and forgiveness flows out to the paralytic. He heals the man of his greatest need and that is the forgiveness of his sins. The belief of the man and his friends was demonstrated and Jesus accepted the demonstration as an outward example of his (their) faith.

2:6 The teachers of the law, who were thinking of their own teachings, reasoned that illness is due to some sin and that you can not be healed until God has forgiven the sin.

2:7 This is the first of several questions that are asked. ***“Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”***

Under the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus had just healed a man and forgiven that man his sins. The teachers of the law were accusing Jesus of performing a miracle under the power of some satanic power.

2:8-10 The teachers of the law reasoned quickly that anyone could say your sins are forgiven because it could not easily be proven. Jesus understands their thinking and is about to catch the teachers of the law in their own misunderstanding. This starts the chain of events that would lead to his crucifixion.

The “Son of Man” was Jesus’ favourite phrase to describe himself. This phrase connects Christ’s divine power with his earthly identity without the label “Messiah” and all the expectations that this label would conjure up.

2:11-12 The man who was carried in had to demonstrate his faith by obeying Jesus. Question: Was he healed before he started to get up or when he got up?

Jesus simply takes their reasoning, that man can not be healed until his sins are forgiven, and says to the paralytic ***“Get up, take your mat and walk”***. Jesus showed clearly, using their own reasoning, that he must be God, because only God can forgive sins and have the power to heal the man.

Mark 2:13- 17 The Following

In this passage we see the calling of Matthew and the subsequential meal with sinners.

2:14 Tax collectors were feared in those days much like we fear the words “tax audit” today. Matthew (Levi) most likely collected taxes for Herod the Great’s son, Herod Antipas, who ruled Galilee rather than the Romans since Palestine had been partitioned up. Tax collectors in Galilee were most likely very wealthy because Galilee was on the crossroads to the known world and taxes were set at the discretion of the collector.

Matthew heard the call of Jesus and left everything to follow. Matthew should be our example to follow: 1) He left everything. He cut all ties with his old life when he walked away from the table. Unlike the other disciples who could return to their boats and fishing Matthew could not return. 2) Matthew immediately holds a dinner and invites his friends to the meal to see Jesus. He invited “sinners”, people who were not considered clean according to the scribes, and Jesus came to eat with them.

2:15 The custom of the days was that if you had a special guest for a dinner, others besides your invited guests could enter the home. These extra persons would stay on the fringe of the function and simply listen to the conversation. Once again the Pharisees are watching Jesus and asking the disciples questions.

2:16 *“Why does he eat with tax collectors and ‘sinners’?”* The Jewish leaders asked this question of the disciples.

2:17 However, Jesus answered for the disciples by asking a question: *“Who needs a doctor, those who are sick or those who are well?”*

The answer is clear, the ones that are sick. Therefore, who needs Jesus? The sinners need Jesus. We would all be like Matthew’s friends except for the saving grace of Jesus’ love that has come into our lives. Like Matthew, we must share that love with those who need it.

Jesus once again embarrassed the scribes and Pharisees. They were not prepared to step outside their rules and comfort zones to reach into the lives of the people who so desperately needed to have a relationship with God. The scribes and Pharisees defined sinners as people who would not observe religion in the same fashion that they believed. Their religion was legalist and ritualistic, thus forbidding the association with people that would not follow “the rules” as they had set out.

Jesus, on the other hand, defined sin as a refusal to love God and other people more than a religious system.

Mark 3:1-6 Doing Good on the Sabbath

Once again Jesus runs up against the paradigm of the synagogue rulers. The Pharisees and scribes had about 650 rules for behaviour on the Sabbath. Jesus’ healing of the man with the withered hand was a crucial contradiction of the rules. This healing on the Sabbath would be a significant step down the road to the crucifixion.

The Pharisees were one of the three main Jewish sects. Sadducees and Essenes were the other two. The Pharisees were the most formal sect, with the highest standards, but later its standards were lowered with inferior membership. This sect interpreted the laws of Moses and other pronouncements.

One example of a Sabbath day rule that the Pharisees imposed was this. You could not put an egg in the sand on the Sabbath just in case the sun heated the sand and cooked

the egg. Therefore you would be guilty of cooking on the Sabbath and thus breaking the religious rules.

3:1-3 This last situation is a test, not only for the religious leaders, but also for the man whose hand was healed. The Pharisees were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus and they challenged Jesus about the healing on the Sabbath. Again the rules cause these men not to see God's grace and love for man.

3:4 Jesus, I am sure, desires us to worship God on the Sabbath, but he does not want ritual to stop us from doing 'good' to our neighbour.

3:5 The man with the withered hand, while hearing Jesus, still had to demonstrate some faith when Jesus asked him to stretch out his hand. The passage does not speak of the man's faith but it makes it appear that the hand was not healed until the act of obedience was carried out.

3:6 This was the last straw for the Pharisees. They could not tolerate this Jesus because his behaviour would cause unrest within the population. Therefore they now actively sought to kill Jesus. Jesus had broken their most important rule by healing on the Sabbath, while using their rules against them.

The Herodians were a Jewish party that supported Herod's family as rulers. Due to the support of Herod and their desire to please the Romans, the Pharisees would have opposed them. Due to their mutual desire to kill Jesus, the Herodians and the Pharisees became allies.

Your Goal as the Leader of this Bible Study:

The unifying thought is that Jesus ran up against people who were set in a traditional order that placed rules and ritual above the desire to show compassion and forgiveness. It is interesting that while this passage shows Jesus confronting the Pharisees about answering a cry for help; it also shows the steps to salvation: **Faith, Forgiving, Following, and Loving.**

For Personal Reflection:

- 1. What have I learned from this study?**
- 2. What personal experience does this lesson bring to mind?**

3. **What is one action I will take this week to apply this Scripture passage to my life?**

Bible Study Plan (Suggested time: 35 minutes)

Jesus Faces Conflict

Regroup the church after the Gathering Time and break by singing a chorus that young children can relate to—or another praise chorus if your congregation does not have children. Children who go to their own Bible teaching session should stay with the group until after this song. Have the preschoolers and children accompany the hymn with rhythm sticks, maracas, bells, etc. Children who stay with their parents in the Youth/Adult study should have the material on worship as suggested in **The Children's Corner** at the beginning of this **Unit** of studies. (Ask your leader who downloads the studies for those suggestions).

Begin by helping the group locate the Focal Text in their Bibles. Also, share with them the Main Idea to be learned from the Scriptures, and the Questions to be Explored by the group.

Focal Text

Mark 2:1-17; 3:1-6

Background Text

Mark 2:1-3:6

Main Idea

Jesus' challenge of religious traditions brought him into severe conflict with the religious leaders.

Questions to Explore

What thoughts, actions, and traditions of ours conflict with who Jesus is and what he did?

Teaching Aim

To lead the class to identify current counterparts to the various conflicts Jesus faced in the focal text.

Connect with Life:

1. Set out a few familiar board games. Ask the members to share some of the rules from one of the games on the table.

Ask: “What would happen to the game if the rules were changed to make them more restrictive?”

Comment: “In our study today Jesus is faced with a society where the rules were changed and the people lost sight of the worship of God as Lord.

Ask: “Do we have some beliefs, rituals or traditions that draw attention away from Jesus’ love and forgiveness?”

Guide the Study:

Note to the Study Leader: This is a simple story and can be easily passed over superficially. As the leader, you can help the group to consider it in a more profound way by using the Bible study time to ask the group a series of questions that will make them think of the many teachings of Jesus in the story. Remember to not let one person dominate the discussion. Encourage everyone to participate.

2. Begin by reading Mark 2: 1-12. Read with dramatic emphasis. You want the group to recall the story as they answer the following questions.

Ask the following:

✚ “What was the problem in this story?”

✚ “How did they solve the problem?”

✚ “What did they expect Jesus to do?”

✚ “Who showed faith and how?”

✚ “What was Jesus’ reaction to the men?”

3. Ask: “In verses 6-7, what was the problem the teachers of the law were concerned over?”

4. Ask: “Why did they think Jesus was blaspheming?”

5. Ask: “When Jesus tells the man to rise up and walk, what is he saying?” Insure the members understand that Jesus is God and that he can forgive sins and heal a sick person.

Then ask the members to consider whether the paralytic was healed when Jesus said, “Rise up and go home” or when he tried to get up?

6. Ask: “Why were the teachers of the law upset with the healing?”

7. Ask someone to read Mark 2: 13-17

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Ask the following:

- ✚ "What did Jesus ask Matthew?"
- ✚ "What was the reaction?"
- ✚ "Was there 100% commitment?"
- ✚ "Why or why not?"

8. Ask: "What did Matthew do that we all should do?"

Ask: "What did Jesus do that we all should do?"

9. Have a participant read Mark 3: 1-5.

Ask: "What were they were watching to see Jesus do?" Ask: "Why was Jesus distressed?"

Encourage Application:

If you have two or more youth, this is the time to give them the **Youth!!! Take Ten** page and allow them to go away from the adults and apply the lesson by and for themselves.

10. Say: "Jesus was concerned over the ritual that the leaders had put into their worship of God."

Ask: "Have rituals crept into our worship?" "Have we put rituals or routine before faith, belief and forgiveness?"

Ask members to outline their worship time each week and consider the possibility that there might be ritual in their worship or in the group membership criteria that needs to be re-examined.

11. Ask each person to examine his or her personal life and search for situations where conflict with another might be because of some ritual.

Ask: "Do you feel called and set apart for service in God's work?"

Ask: "What service for the kingdom are you performing or planning to do in the future?"

Take a five minute break to separate the Bible Study and Worship Time. Children may need to use the washroom again before worship.

Youth!!! Take Ten

Bible Study Application for Youth

You may wish to move away from the adults for the final five to ten minutes of the Bible study and help each other as youth to apply the lesson to your own needs.

Jesus Faces Conflict

Mark 2:1-17; 3:1-6

A youth will lead the following activity and comments. No adults need to be present. If possible, teens should take turns in leading the application time.

Why Obey Rules?

These particular verses should speak to teens who are themselves struggling with rules. Rules do bring order into our lives. When we live in community, rules are important so that everyone has the same opportunities to enjoy the benefits available. True moral maturity requires, however, that we move beyond obeying rules just because they exist to obeying the rule because we understand how it benefits the community as well as the individual. Eventually, we obey rules whether there is an external force to make us obey such as parents, teachers, or law enforcement officials. Jesus was demonstrating that his power was greater than man made rules and customs. He was concerned about the healing of individuals – both the physical and the spiritual healing.

Think together about rules you have learned to obey whether they are enforced by someone or not. Start with:

Call home if you are going to be late.

Worship Time (Suggested time: 30 minutes)***Jesus Faces Conflict***
Mark 2:1-17; 3:1-6**Beginning the Service:**

Choose several of the following:

“*Standing on the Promises*”, #335 **Baptist Hymnal**; many hymnals
 “*Majesty*”, #215 **BH**, many praise and worship songbooks
 “*Because He Lives*”, #407 **BH**, many praise and worship songbooks
 “*Surely Goodness and Mercy*”, #422 **BH**
 “*Jesus, Name Above All Names*”, #47 **Maranatha! Praise Chorus Book**, 3rd Edition

Offering:**Praying for the World:**

Prayerwalking is an increasingly important tool for preparing an area for a new church or for a witnessing emphasis. As you think about prayerwalking consider:

Where will you prayerwalk – your neighbourhood, city, or overseas?

What are the prayer needs?

With whom will you pray – teams of two or three seem to work best.

Include praise songs and Scripture reading.

Listen to the Holy Spirit's promptings.

Pray aloud if possible. Use a conversational style of prayer.

Walk slowly to experience sights, smells and sounds of the area.

Don't stop with one experience.

Sharing Guide:

This sharing guide is written to assist the person who directs the worship time to reemphasize the teaching for the day and help guide the congregation to respond to God's call and will for their lives in regard to the scripture studied. The leader may choose to follow the guide closely. Or, he or she may wish to only use it to give direction and a concept for preparing an original message. The leader is free to choose other ways to communicate and share the concepts presented here.

Following God – Letting Him Lead

Written from the teachings of Mark 2:1-36

Introduction

A young pastor along with his wife and children moved from the warm climate of the southern part of the State of California in the USA to Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada to pastor a new small church named **Scarborough Baptist Church**. God used the invitation of that congregation to call them to leave their own nation and move over 2,000 miles north to Canada – to an area of prairie and forest where the winter temperatures often stay far below freezing for weeks at a time. They went in obedience to Jesus. That obedience resulted in the opposition of some of the religious leaders in the city. It seemed that the presence of the “foreign” pastor was a threat to them. Their response was, “We don’t need you here, we don’t want you here – go back home!” (home meaning the USA). By faith the pastor and his family simply did what God was calling them to do. It was not easy. Yet, the Lord enabled them to respond in love to those fellow Christians who seemed angry at their presence. Before many months had passed they became good friends with those who had opposed them so strongly.

What Faith Does!

Faith is the title deed to every single promise of God. Your faith is a response to the call of God to follow him. Your faith and the faith of fellow believers will demonstrate itself in loving, caring, sharing and witnessing to those around you. Your neighbors, relatives, friends and work associates will be touched by your faith.

Jesus followed the Father faithfully and completely. His obedience often caused opposition. Your obedience will often cause opposition. Remember that it is opposition to Jesus and not to you.

Your faith will demonstrate itself in obedience to Jesus. Another truth – Your obedience enables God to do what you cannot do. He will always show himself through your obedience. He will do it in such a way that it will be different than the way he has done it before in your life or in anyone else's life.

Your response of faith and trust in God will also be used of God to impact the lives of others. Non-believers will see the activity of God in your life and will want to have the same thing you have. They will see the joy, the peace, the satisfaction and the

difference in your life. This is the way you lift up Jesus – through the life of obedience that is characteristic of your every day living.

Your faith will also be an encouragement and inspiration to fellow Christians. Matthew responded in obedience to follow Jesus (2:14). His response brought opposition but it also resulted in Jesus demonstrating his power and authority to forgive sin and to heal (2:15-17). The obedience of believers enables him to demonstrate his authority. It will also bring glory to him and not to you. Jesus will always show himself through your obedience.

Your faith that results in obedience will often take you outside your comfort zone. It often causes opposition. These experiences of trust and obedience will always enable God to make you become more like Jesus. He can and will do more through you because he has complete access to your life. Think about the response of Matthew to Jesus' invitation, "Follow me!" He simply left his job and followed him (2:14). Matthew's obedience enabled Jesus to share a great truth, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners" (2:17).

Call to Commitment:

Obey God and he will manifest himself to you and through you in new ways. You should not put ***"new wine into old wineskins"*** (2:22). You should not try to do things the way someone else did something. This is true of a congregation. Follow Jesus and you may see God do things in ways you have never seen before. You will have new experiences in every encounter with God.

Do you have faith that Jesus will see and because of it he will save those you bring to him (2:5)? You, yourself, cannot make people new. You, by yourself, cannot change them. You must simply bring them to Jesus for Him to change.

Concluding the Service:

Give opportunity for the members of the group to share with one another times in which they followed Christ by faith and found that that obedience led to new and wonderful experiences.

Close by singing one of the songs which was sung in the opening of the worship time.