

# Discussion Guide

Week of October 14, 2012

Mark 3:7-19

## Passage Overview:

In Mark 1-2, Mark begins by presenting Jesus as the King, whose kingdom comes through the gospel. In ch. 3, we see Jesus found a new community, a people of God who will represent his kingdom. He builds this community by serving people, teaching, preaching, training, counseling, healing, and liberating. Jesus chooses leaders for the new community (3:13-19) and even redefines who his true family is (3:20-21, 31-35).

## Understand God's Word—Read Mark 3:7-19.

- Compare and contrast the religious leaders' response to Jesus (see 2:18-3:6) to that of ordinary people, represented by the "great crowd" (3:7-12).
- Why does Jesus call twelve disciples? Why do you think the number "twelve" is mentioned twice as if it is very significant (vv14, 16)?

## Live and Apply God's Word

- The word "disciple" doesn't appear in 3:13-19, partly because Mark wants to emphasize the "twelveness" of the group. But the word "disciple" means a *serious, committed follower* of a spiritual leader. We are not called to simply believe in Christ, but also to seriously follow him. What do verses 13-19 tell us about how we are to understand and conduct ourselves as disciples?
- Jesus called the twelve "so that they might be with him *and* he might send them out" (v14). We must see ourselves as ministering *out of* time spent with Jesus. Living with Jesus is vital if we are to effectively minister to others.
  - Discipleship is the result of a relationship with Jesus, conducting every part of our lives with Jesus at the center. How have you misunderstood what it means to be a disciple of Christ?
  - What does it look like to balance 'being with' Jesus and 'going out' to minister to others?

## Turn to God in Faith and Repentance

- Notice that when Jesus appoints the twelve, he doesn't call them because they were the smartest, bravest, or most charismatic. In fact, they were slow (4:13), hard-hearted (8:17), and cowardly (16:8). As God said to Israel (Deut 7:7-8): "*I called you not because you were better or larger or greater than other nations, but simply because I chose to set my love on you.*" How do you see (or fail to see) yourself as chosen by grace? Why is the fact that we are chosen by grace alone so humbling? How does it bring security *and* embolden us?
- Discipleship is a call to a community, not just an individual relationship with Jesus. Notice that no disciple can be with Jesus without at the same time being with all the others. Why is community so important for discipleship? How has community (especially your Community Group) aided in your own spiritual growth? Use this time to encourage one another *for specific ways* that they helped you grow in your relationship with Jesus.

## Pray

Ask God to strengthen your inner life of living with Jesus *and* your 'outer' life of ministering to others. Praise God that he has saved you on the basis of grace alone. Pray also for Al & Wendy Wall serving as missionaries with Alaska Bible College.

## Announcements

- Deacon Candidate Q&A (Oct. 17)
- Lunch on the Grounds (Oct. 28; \$5) (*Tickets on sale now!*)