

Ingredient 6, Community - Mark 3:7-19 **Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading**

Notes from the Sermon

If you have been around Genesis for any period of time you know that we stress the importance of our Community Groups. We do this because we authentically believe that life change happens in circles. In other words, in order to make disciples it is vital for us to see people gather in small groups where they turn toward each other to do faith, life, and mission together. Our experience for the most part is that this is where the hard work of Gospel centered discipleship takes place. While there are myriads of models for groups, ours focus on holistic discipleship rather than just on Bible study. Nothing wrong with Bible study, our groups do engage in reading, learning, and applying the Bible together. But they are much more, as groups also emphasize the importance of praying together, sharing meals, serving our city, doing justice, and building authentic relationships. Our groups are also intentionally not based on affinity and are inter-generational. This provides a space to obey the command given by Paul in Titus 2 concerning older women and men pouring into the lives of younger women and men, while the younger challenge and encourage those of us who are getting grey hair and kids are moving out.

Where do we get our model? While we don't overstate this in pride, we did get our philosophy of small groups from the ministry of Jesus, and the multiplication of what He did as revealed in Acts 2:42-47. Our passage today will help us see the importance of being in a small community. We need circles, and if you desire to be a growing disciple being in community will matter. Our text in Mark's Gospel is a general overview of Jesus' public ministry. We find His focus being in two different trajectories. First of all, Jesus had a public ministry that reached masses of people. Mark tells us that people came from, well, pretty much all of ancient Israel to experience the ministry of Jesus and hear His teaching. Jesus did ministry among these crowds, caring for their needs, healing the sick, casting out demons, and showing compassion. Furthermore, He also taught. On at least one occasion the crowd was so great that He had his disciples get him a small boat which became a stage pushed out a few feet into the Sea of Galilee to create some space. Jesus had rows, reaching large groups of people with the message of the Kingdom. On the other hand, the second trajectory was to gather a small band of men to Himself. Jesus was the discipler of these men, pouring His life into them. He taught them, often taking the teaching He gave to the crowd and pouring deeper meanings and understandings into them. Yet, Jesus did more than a Bible study with them. They walked with Him on the way, participated in His ministry. Jesus involved them in His healing, caring, compassion, and teaching ministry. They were present with Him in His public ministry, and also found time to be with Him, often pulling away into desolate places. And the text is clear about the goal for His ministry with the 12. "He appointed twelve so that they might be with Him and He might send them out to preach and have authority to cast out demons." His purpose was to build intimacy with them so that they would grow as missionary disciples. He wasn't going for a theological information dump, His goal was their transformation in both character and life purpose. In other words, Jesus had a circle.

For two thousand years local churches have been striving to reproduce this model in cities and towns around the world. We want to have a ministry that will reach people all around our area, pointing people to Jesus and the Gospel. Showing them the love, grace, and glory of Christ and calling everyone to faith in Him. We also have amazing opportunities to show compassion to the masses (like our Genesis Kids Easter event yesterday). We need and have rows. And these gatherings are important, but it will be difficult to authentically grow in Christ if all we do is attend the gatherings. We also need

circles, a place where we gather with a smaller group of diverse people. A place where discipling relationships can develop, where those more seasoned in the Gospel can love on and invest in those who are newer to the journey. A place where we can look to each other for help in times of need and pain, and where we can be authentic and honest about our sin and struggles. A place that takes what we learn from the gathering and apply it in action and depth. And a place that helps us do life and mission together. When we are together, Christ is with us, so we are with Him. But the goal is also so that we can be sent. In your discipleship you need a circle, because life change happens in circles.

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
John 8	John 9	John 10	John 11	John 12	John 13	John 14

Reading from this past week: Mark 3:7-19

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: 1 Peter 1:13-16

Family Worship

Song - *I Am Not My Own*

<https://youtu.be/yxCb6l3jkis?si=rdLuL48nzVvhzdVd>

Gospel Project

Unit: The Church is Opposed

Story: Stephen Was Arrested

Big Picture Question: Why did Jesus become human?

Answer: Jesus became human to obey

His Father's plan and rescue sinners.

Scripture: Acts 6-7

New City Catechism

Question 112: What does God require in the Ninth and Tenth Commandments?

Answer: Ninth, that we do not lie or deceive. Tenth, that we are content, not envying anyone.

Verse: James 2:8

Scripture

Mark 3:7-19

- How was Jesus' ministry with the 12 different from His ministry with the crowds?
- Why might being in a circle (a small discipleship group) be important if we want to grow in Christ?
- Why is it important for us to remember and seek to mirror Jesus' purpose for calling the 12 (see v. 14-15)?
- Are you in a Community Group? If so, what steps can you take to help it build more fruitful disciple making relationships? If not, what steps can you take to find/get in a group?

Prayer

*Pray for your role in a Community Group, and if you are not in a group, pray that the Lord would lead you to the right group.

*Pray for those who lead and host our groups.