

Life Group Member Guide

Focal Passage: Mark 3:20-30 (CSB) (Bold and italicized)

Passage in Context: Mark 3 (CSB)



Bible-Reading Tip: The use of parallel passages such as occurs throughout the Gospels helps to give a bigger and fuller context of the stories, encounters and events in the Bible. For example, we see the context for the writing of many of Paul's letters (that became known as the Pastoral Epistles) by reading the Book of Acts.

Jesus Heals on the Sabbath

3 Another time Jesus went into the synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there.² Some of them were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath.³ Jesus said to the man with the shriveled hand, “Stand up in front of everyone.”

4 Then Jesus asked them, “Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?” But they remained silent.

5 He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored.⁶ Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.

Crowds Follow Jesus

7 Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the lake, and a large crowd from Galilee followed.⁸ When they heard about all he was doing, many people came to him from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, and the regions across the Jordan and around Tyre and Sidon.⁹ Because of the crowd he told his disciples to have a small boat ready for him, to keep the people from crowding him.¹⁰ For he had healed many, so that those with diseases were pushing forward to touch him.¹¹ Whenever the impure spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, “You are the Son of God.”¹² But he gave them strict orders not to tell others about him.

13 Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him.¹⁴ He appointed twelve¹⁵ that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach¹⁶ and to have authority to drive out demons.¹⁶ These are the twelve he appointed: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter),¹⁷ James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means “sons of thunder”),¹⁸ Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot¹⁹ and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

20 *Jesus entered a house, and the crowd gathered again so that they were not even able to eat.*²¹ When his family heard this, they set out to restrain him, because they said, “He’s out of his mind.”

22 *The scribes who had come down from Jerusalem said, “He is possessed by Beelzebul,” and, “He drives out demons by the ruler of the demons.”*

23 *So He summoned them and spoke to them in parables: “How can Satan drive out Satan?²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.²⁵ If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.²⁶ And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand but is finished.²⁷ But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man then he can plunder his house.*

28 *“Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for all sins and whatever blasphemies they utter.²⁹ But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin.”³⁰ Because they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.”*

31 Then Jesus’ mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him.³² A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, “Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you.”³³ “Who are my mother and my brothers?” he asked.³⁴ Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, “Here are my mother and my brothers!³⁵ Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.”

(There are also parallel focal passages to this in Matt. 12:22-32 and Luke 11:15-26)

HEAR Bible Reading Method

HIGHLIGHT the passage

- Underline any repeated words or key ideas you see.
- Note any questions you have about what you read.
- In 2-3 sentences, summarize what was said or what happened.

EXPLAIN the passage

- What was revealed about God? His character, desires, and/or actions?
- What was revealed about people? What we are/do or what we should be/do?

APPLY the passage

- From this reading, what truth do you need to embrace?
- By God’s power, how will you THINK, SPEAK, or ACT differently based on what you read?

RESPOND to the passage

- Talk to God about what you’ve seen and learned in this passage.
- Ask Him to help you apply the truth to your life.

