

CALVARY CHAPEL COSTA MESA

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

“The New Wine” Mark 2:13-28

MAIN IDEA

The ministry of Jesus in Capernaum was groundbreaking for the first century Jew in Galilee. This area, along with Judea, was a social center for conservative Judaism. Their communities had spent four centuries insulating themselves from full out paganism and what they felt were compromised forms of Judaism. Jesus' teachings and actions were powerful and effective. But more than that, they reflected the original intentions of God's promises in Scripture. Jesus wasn't a threat to God's law, he embodied it. But for the religious class and leaders, he was threat to the institutions and traditions that they had built. The Gospel was primarily a solution to sin, but it was also good news because it replaced the burden of religious ritual with things like mercy, grace, joy and freedom. As soon as God's people begin to legislate faith, or canonize behavior, the Gospel is ready to rescue us by bringing us straight back to Jesus again.

SCRIPTURAL INSIGHT

When God gives boundaries and guidance, they are intended to protect, empower and bless us. The sabbath was intended to be one day that was set aside for humanity to renew their relationship with God. It was so important that it was included in Genesis as part of the original days of creation, and then it actually made it into the ten commandments as the fourth overall rule. A careful read of those first four commandments reveal how important to God our relationship with Him is. By the time of the first century, Judaism had so fixated on not violating this commandment, that they had constructed 39 oral traditions that were preventative to breaking sabbath. These traditions resulted in separation from God, not being close to him. Jesus redirects His audience then and now that the sabbath is a gift from God to us, to bless and serve His people, not to master them. Another example of how the Gospel is good news.

READ & DISCUSS

Read out loud together Mark 2:13-28, identifying those areas that make the news about Jesus good for people, and what areas of our lives we can be challenged to find more joy in Christ.

KEY PASSAGE

Mark 2:17 When Jesus heard it, He said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.

What insight, principle, or observation from this week's message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain...

- Jesus associated a relationship with Him as that of the joy of a wedding. *What kind of feelings have you associated with God in the past, or the present? What about Jesus changes how you feel about God? Why should Jesus play such a central role in the sharing of our faith with others? What makes Him relatable?*

- We all have a tendency to act like the Pharisees because we think that rules will make us safe. *What does Hebrews 10:1-4 tell us about why God gave Israel the Law? What does this reminder do? Why do you think that Jesus said it was okay for David to eat the showbread, also called, “bread of the presence?”* Read **Hebrews 10:19-22**. Holiness is spatial, i.e. relative to where His presence resides. *What does it mean to you that you are holy for God?*
- Jesus both preached the way of repentance and simply spent time fellowshipping with sinners. *When you think of interacting with non-Christians, which comes more naturally to you--openly preaching the way of repentance, or modeling God’s love by simply being “with?” How are both important?*

PRAYER & TESTIMONY

Pray for one another that we might experience the presence of God in our lives, and then His purpose. If there is anything that is blocking us from experiencing his mercy, grace, joy or freedom, confess those things to each other in order that those burdens can be lifted. Has anything in your Christian life become routine? Pray for the freshness of a new walk with Jesus, that we can enjoy our journey and life with Him.

SPIRITUAL APPLICATION & PRACTICE

Jesus explains in verse 20 that when the bridegroom is taken away, then his people will fast. Fasting is the spiritual practice of giving up normal necessities as a tangible reminder of how we need Jesus in all things. Fasting is not magic but simply a way to open to God. **Try it:** Much of our joy and freedom is sucked away when we are attached to things we think we need or want. This week, you are invited to fast for one meal. Spend your mealtime in prayer, maybe meditating on these truths from Mark 2. When you feel hungry, sit with Jesus and talk to him about other times you feel empty and what he might have for you.

RESOURCE

Jackie Hill Perry's story is one of learning the new ways of Jesus, that a good God wants to redeem our whole life. She challenges many perceptions of a certain category of "sinners," and through her testimony of redemption models how we too can experience God's life-altering grace. Like the Pharisees, we often feel completely overwhelmed by this man-made burden to change ourselves. Perry reminds us that Jesus "takes on the obligation of cleaning us up," and blessedly offers an everlasting storehouse of kindness and patience.

Gay Girl, Good God: The Story of Who I Was, and Who God Has Always Been.
Jackie Hill Perry. Nashville: B&H Publishing, 2018.



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Based on Pastor Brian Brodersen's message on October 7, 2018

Watch Again: <https://cccm.com/teaching/jesus-christ-son-of-god-savior/video/the-new-wine/>