



# THARV

## Sermon Guides

*FOLLOWING JESUS*



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Divided

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PATH Group Guide for the Week of October 11, 2020

Focal Passage: Mark 3:20-35

Welcome to the second session of PATH Group guides as we continue to walk through the book of Mark. I hope you are prepared for the adventure for following Jesus. This week, we are talking about how we handle relationships and the unforgivable sin. We also know that relationships with family can range from beautiful to tragic, shallow to deep, joy filled to sorrowful. When you live life together in community, we have to confront sin in one another's lives and those sins affect one another.

How would you describe your family dynamics in one phrase?

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Has there ever been a time that you were proud of your family in how they handled a difficult situation?

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Have you ever been embarrassed by your family?

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As we dive into the Scripture this week, we see Jesus' family beginning to intervene in his ministry...

*Mark 3:20–21 Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. [21] And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, "He is out of his mind."*

What accusation does Jesus' family make against Him?

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The next passage is a difficult one to understand and it tends to stoke fear. Let's read it first and then discuss it together.

### **Mark 3:22–35**

*And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "by the prince of demons he casts out the demons." [23] And he called them to him and said to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? [24] If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. [25] And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. [26] And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end. [27] But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house. [28] "Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, [29] but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin" — [30] for they were saying, "He has an unclean spirit." [31] And his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him. [32] And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you." [33] And he answered them, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" [34] And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! [35] For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother."*

### **What is the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit?**

Ligioner.org gives us an explanation for thought: "Although Jesus does not specifically define this sin, the context reveals this transgression as the persistent, knowing, verbal attribution of the work of God to Satan." It goes on further to say: "Blasphemy of the Spirit, then, is not the occasional bad thought or episode of anger against God. Such things are sins, to be sure, but they are not the persistent, deliberate rejection of the Lord's work that shows itself in a willful attribution of God's actions to Satan himself. Such blasphemy is unforgivable not because the Lord is unwilling to forgive but because a person guilty of such sin has fully and finally hardened his heart against the grace of God."

Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is the willful, wide-eyed slandering of the work of the Holy Spirit, attributing to the devil what was undeniably divine. The blasphemy of the Holy Spirit devastates a person's ability to turn to God for repentance.

What are your thoughts on that definition?

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### **Here are a couple of facts about the unforgivable sin.**

#### **The sin unto death is not accidental or ignorant.**

It is the educated and purposeful hardening of your heart toward Jesus and the work of Jesus.

Dr. R.C. Sproul writes in his commentary Mark, "Worrying about [whether one has committed the unforgivable sin] is one of the clearest evidences that [the troubled person has] not committed this sin, for those who commit it are so hardened in their hearts that they do not care that they commit it."

What are your thoughts over Sproul's commentary?

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**The sin unto death is not murder. Even self-murder.**

Have you ever heard the statement that suicide was the sin unto death? How did you respond?

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Murder cannot be the sin unto death because of the Biblical examples we have in the Old Testament. Look at David, a man after God’s heart who murdered Uriah. David, in wanting to cover his own sin, had Uriah (one of his most trustworthy soldiers and the husband to whom David committed adultery with!) killed. Moses killed an Egyptian yet saw God face to face. These great men made grave mistakes.

\*Another important note: Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is not denying Jesus, Peter denied him 3 times.

Looking back at the focal passage, we see Jesus was called many names including mentally unstable, even demon possessed by the very people that should have loved him and valued him the most. His family who knew of His birth, who were witnesses to His sinless life rejected him because of their own embarrassment. The Pharisees who should have rejoiced in seeing Jesus fulfilling Old Testament prophecy instead rejected Him because He was wrecking their power structure. What was the common thread? Choosing themselves over Jesus; pride. In doing so, they blinded themselves to the work of God, the inescapable and undeniable truth of Jesus.

***...this was defiance in the face of mounting evidence.***

It is remarkable for people to judge God as being unfair and unloving when considering the notion of there being a sin that is unforgivable. We often hear, “How could God be so cruel and unjust?” Yet, we have been given every opportunity along with supporting evidence of Christ to receive salvation. Sadly, many still will reject Him.

*Romans 1:19–20 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. [20] For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.*

Any final thoughts or questions?

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Take some time to pray for the work of the Holy Spirit and for our hearts to see God at work around us.



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Soil

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PATH Group Guide for the Week of October 18, 2020

**Focal Passage: Mark 4:1-20**

Welcome back to PATH group. Tonight, we dig into a familiar passage. Without delay, let's get to it.

**Mark 4:1-20**

<sup>[1]</sup> Again he began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea, and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. <sup>[2]</sup> And he was teaching them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: <sup>[3]</sup> "Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. <sup>[4]</sup> And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. <sup>[5]</sup> Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil. <sup>[6]</sup> And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. <sup>[7]</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. <sup>[8]</sup> And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold." <sup>[9]</sup> And he said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

<sup>[10]</sup> And when he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables. <sup>[11]</sup> And he said to them, "To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables, <sup>[12]</sup> so that "they may indeed see but not perceive, and may indeed hear but not understand, lest they should turn and be forgiven."

<sup>[13]</sup> And he said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? <sup>[14]</sup> The sower sows the word. <sup>[15]</sup> And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. <sup>[16]</sup> And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. <sup>[17]</sup> And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. <sup>[18]</sup> And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, <sup>[19]</sup> but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. <sup>[20]</sup> But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold."

What are some of your initial thoughts?

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I was listening to David Platt discuss how to approach a parable. What do you think of his ideas below?

- Listen from the audience’s perspective
  - Look for the main truth
  - Let that truth change you
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Let’s chase a rabbit. We always have to remember that God’s word is truth.

- **John 14:6** Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
- **John 8:32** And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”
- **John 16:13** When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.
- **John 17:17** Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

Which of these verses is most impactful for you?

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Let’s try this method on today’s parable.

**#1 – Listen from the audience’s perspective**



To a first century farmer, this parable was very simple to understand. Where would you sow seed? Which soil would produce the best harvest? No one plants a garden in the street. The middle soils take work to

prepare the soil to be able to yield a crop which can be done with faithfulness and effort but the good soil is ready to receive the seed right now and to produce a harvest.

What do you think is the **main truth** of the parable? And why?

- a. The condition of your heart effects how you receive the word of God.
- b. It is hard to be a farmer.
- c. To be saved you have to be good soil.
- d. We need to work the ground to be prepared to hear the word of God.

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Personally, I would vote for (a) as the main truth.

## Let that truth change you

### Path – A reality of a hardened heart

What are some of the characteristics of this type of soil?

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What are the real-life signs of this type of heart?

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**Conclusion:** No roots, no plant.

### Rock – The Reality of a Superficial heart

What are some of the characteristics of this type of soil?

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What are the real life signs of this type of heart?

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**Conclusion:** No depth in the heart equals quick but limited growth. If you put good soil over a parking lot, you may look healthy but you will not grow. Dealing with deeper issues is vital to our walk with Christ.



**Thorns – The Reality of a Carnal heart**

What are some of the characteristics of this type of soil?

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What are the real-life signs of this type of heart?

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Carnal definition is relating to or given to crude bodily pleasures and appetites

**Conclusion:** Promising growth + the cares of the world = destruction as sin chokes out the fruit. This person does not reproduce. They can grow and live, but they will never be effective in reaching others or having any influence over the world.

**Good Soil – The Reality of a Soft heart**

What are some of the characteristics of this type of soil?

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What are the real-life signs of this type of heart?

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**Conclusion:** If the key to the plant is the roots, then a soft heart allows the word of God to penetrate and make a home in the depths.

Are you able to develop deep roots? Which soil is most evident in your heart?

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Why is it important to grow deep roots?

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Take some time to dive deep and spend some time praying for one another.







## Stories

### PATH Group Guide for the Week of October 25, 2020

#### Focal Passage: Mark 4:21-41

Welcome back to PATH groups. I hope you are having a great week. If you remember our approach to parables last week, we mentioned:

- Listen from the audience's perspective
- Look for the main truth
- Let that truth change you

We are going to apply these ideas to some parables of Jesus and then we will see these principles at work in the real-life testimony of Jesus. Let's get to work.

#### Mark 4:21-41

*[21] And he said to them, "Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket, or under a bed, and not on a stand? [22] For nothing is hidden except to be made manifest; nor is anything secret except to come to light. [23] If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear." [24] And he said to them, "Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you. [25] For to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away."*

**Main Truth:** The light is meant to shine.

**Application of that Truth:** Even if you try to hide the light, it will be manifested. As we grow in Christ we are expected to grow more and show more.

What are your thoughts on the parable above?

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*The Parable of the Seed Growing*

*[26] And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. [27] He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. [28] The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. [29] But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."*

**Main Truth:** We are not responsible for the grown of the word only the sowing and reaping.

**Application of that truth:** We cannot make people change and grow. Our purpose is to speak the words of God, to encourage, to tend to, and walk with the people of God. In doing so, we are privileged to be part of the harvest where we can be blessed in witnessing others begin to sow seed themselves. This is discipleship.

What are your thoughts on the parable of the Seed Growing?

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*The Parable of the Mustard Seed*

*[30] And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? [31] It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, [32] yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." [33] With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. [34] He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.*

**Main Truth:** The kingdom of God will grow in abundance and attract the enemy.

**Application of the Truth:** Do not be surprised when the enemy comes to try and snatch away the word of God that is all around you. The birds in this scene are coming to steal the seed to keep it from growing and although the movement of Christianity may have started small, God made it grow! We must be ready for the enemy's attack.

What are your thoughts on the parable of the Mustard Seed?

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*Jesus Calms a Storm*

*[35] On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." [36] And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. [37] And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. [38] But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" [39] And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. [40] He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?" [41] And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"*

The disciples were learning to trust Jesus and although they had head knowledge and had heard parables about Jesus, they had not experienced the power and providence of Jesus. They knew but they did not trust. They had not placed their faith in Him.

How has God shown His faithfulness to you and how did that grow your faith?

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Take some time to pray through the central truths that you see in the stories that we have studied and how God wants us to apply those central truths.





## Legion's Story

PATH Group Guide for the Week of November 1, 2020

**Focal Passage: Mark 5:1-20**

PATH group time. Whoop! Was there anything from the Sunday morning sermon you wanted to discuss?

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Horror movies are still the rage in pop-culture and it all began in 1896 with the *Le Manoir du Diable*, The house of the Devil. While books like Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* and Bram Stoker's *Dracula* explored the struggles of identity and depravity, the horror genre has increasingly explored the paranormal and satanic.

Do you like horror movies?      Yes    No    Not Sure

When you see demon possession depicted in movies what is your reaction?

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Today, we explore the effect of the demon and the power of Jesus over the spiritual. Let's start by looking at the story.

*Mark 5:1-20*

*[1] They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. [2] And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. [3] He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, [4] for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. [5] Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones.*

This is a disturbing scene. What description above stands out to you?





I want to take a quick break to clear up some confusion on this passage.

- **Matthew 8:28** *And when he came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way.*

Critics of the Bible will say that Mark 5 and Matthew 8 are a contradiction on two accounts.

**#1 – Were there 1 or 2 demon possessed men?** Different numbers so it must be a contradiction? This is a simple task to answer. If I were to tell you that I saw Paul at church on Sunday, but Brandon told you that he saw Paul and Ceci at church on Sunday would that be a contradiction? No absolutely not. Because I focused my story on one of the two people, does not mean that I deny the existence of the other or that I lied about their presence.



**#2 – Were they in Gerasenes or Gadarenes?**

Contradiction!?!? Gadara was a city not far from the Lake Gennesareth, one of the ten cities that were called Decapolis. Gadara was a smaller village then Gergesa which was a city about 12 miles to the south-east of Gadara, and about 20 miles to the east of the Jordan. When the gospel writers say “in the country of”, in all three instances the word is *chōra* (Strong’s word #5561) is used. Thayer’s Greek Lexicon defines it as “the space lying between two places or limits . . . region or country.” The Sea of Galilee was clearly one of the limits and these cities being the other. For example, if you asked me where I live my answer might vary based on how familiar you are with the area. I could say Blanco River Crossing, just south of Kyle, south of Austin or Central Texas. Each of those answers are true and each I have used to describe my location. Gadara is the Kyle in this scenario and Gergesa is the major metropolitan center of the Decapolis (the ten city area east of the Sea of Galilee.)

## Mark 5:6-20

<sup>[6]</sup> And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him. <sup>[7]</sup> And crying out with a loud voice, he said, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." <sup>[8]</sup> For he was saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" <sup>[9]</sup> And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion, for we are many." <sup>[10]</sup> And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. <sup>[11]</sup> Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, <sup>[12]</sup> and they begged him, saying, "Send us to the pigs; let us enter them." <sup>[13]</sup> So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the sea.

<sup>[14]</sup> The herdsmen fled and told it in the city and in the country. And people came to see what it was that had happened. <sup>[15]</sup> And they came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed man, the one who had had the legion, sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. <sup>[16]</sup> And those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and to the pigs. <sup>[17]</sup> And they began to beg Jesus to depart from their region. <sup>[18]</sup> As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him. <sup>[19]</sup> And he did not permit him but said to him, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." <sup>[20]</sup> And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.

### A couple of definitions to begin:

**Demon Possession** is a term frequently used to translate the Greek term *daimonizomai* in the New Testament. This term describes a variety of conditions, both physical and emotional-mental-psychological, for which the cause is identified as direct demonic influence. Demon possession occurs when a demon has been invited into a person through ritual or summons. Christians **cannot** be demon possessed because the Holy Spirit lives in them.

How do these verses encourage you?

- **1 John 5:18** We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.
- **James 4:7** Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
- **1 John 4:4** Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for He who is in you is greater than He who is in the world.

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**Demon oppression** is the outward influence of satan and his demons on a person. This can include paralyzing anxiety, temptations, obsessive thoughts, nightmares and/or addiction. When we allow ourselves to drift into worldly pleasures and sin, the enemy will press and push to wreck our lives. We see this demon oppression at work in the story of Job.

Thoughts?



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The good news of Jesus has the power to shut the mouths of demons and to set people free. We saw this in our passage today with Legion. Legion falls before Jesus and begs Jesus to spare them by allowing them to go into the pigs. Why the pigs? The demons kill their new host by running them off the cliff to be set free into the “waterless places” mentioned in Luke 11:24-26.

**Luke 11:24–26** *“When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ [25] And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. [26] Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first.”*

What do we learn from the story of Legion?

#1 Legion’s life is worth it.

Some people, according to the world’s standards, would ask is one man work 2,000 pigs and ruining these pig farmers business. Yes! Of course!

#2 We are never disqualified from serving Jesus.

We see church in this Decapolis area the next time Jesus shows up.

#3 The spiritual realm is real, and we need to be diligent to pray for protection.

Which of these points do you most vibe with and why?

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Take some time to pray for spiritual protection from the attacks of the enemy.





## Faith and Responsibility

### PATH Group Guide for the Week of November 8, 2020

#### Focal Passage: Mark 5:21-43

Welcome back to PATH group. Thank you for walking through life with fellowship church!

How was your week?

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#### Mark 5:21-24

*And when Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered about him, and he was beside the sea. <sup>[22]</sup> Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet <sup>[23]</sup> and implored him earnestly, saying, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live." <sup>[24]</sup> And he went with him.*

Jairus is a ruler of the synagogue; one that Jesus had probably visited on numerous occasions before. What were the people's attitudes like towards Jesus the last time he was in a synagogue?

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#### Mark 3:1-6

*Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there with a withered hand. <sup>[2]</sup> And they watched Jesus, to see whether he would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. <sup>[3]</sup> And he said to the man with the withered hand, "Come here." <sup>[4]</sup> And he said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. <sup>[5]</sup> And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart,*





and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. <sup>[6]</sup> The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

From this point on, we see Jesus teaching by the sea or on the mountain tops. It is easy to dismiss the healings or accuse others until you are the one who needs the healing. Here Jairus is in a desperate state, reaching out for the hope that is found in Jesus and His power.

#### Mark 5:24–34

*And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him. <sup>[25]</sup> And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, <sup>[26]</sup> and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. <sup>[27]</sup> She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. <sup>[28]</sup> For she said, "If I touch even his garments, I will be made well." <sup>[29]</sup> And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. <sup>[30]</sup> And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my garments?" <sup>[31]</sup> And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, 'Who touched me?'" <sup>[32]</sup> And he looked around to see who had done it. <sup>[33]</sup> But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. <sup>[34]</sup> And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."*

This story is so fascinating. Her faith in Jesus and the power of God at work in Him healed her broken body. How would you describe Jesus' attitude or demeanor in this scene?

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Jesus, so loving, has compassion on this broken soul that is now made whole. This is a beautiful scene. Let's keep reading.

#### Mark 5:35–43

*<sup>[35]</sup> While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" <sup>[36]</sup> But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." <sup>[37]</sup> And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. <sup>[38]</sup> They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. <sup>[39]</sup> And when he had entered, he said to them, "Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping." <sup>[40]</sup> And they laughed at him. But he put them all outside and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was. <sup>[41]</sup> Taking her by the hand he said to her, "Talitha cumi," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise." <sup>[42]</sup> And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement. <sup>[43]</sup> And he strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.*

How did you feel in the story when Jesus invited the inner 3 only to go with him into the home? Do you battle with jealousy?



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They laughed at Jesus. Have you not heard who this was? THIS IS JESUS!!! I think it is interesting how Jesus put them outside and they missed the miracle.

**This brings me to our central truth: Faith and believing are vital for us to see God work.**

Do you believe this statement to be true? Why or why not?

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How do these verses tie into this idea?

- **Mark 11:22-24** *And Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God. Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.*
- **Isaiah 53:5** *But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.*
- **1 Corinthians 2:5** *That your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.*
- **Ephesians 6:16** *In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;*
- **Psalms 103:2-3** *Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,*

Do you believe that Jesus still does miracles today? Why or why not?

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We don't seek miracles and signs like the people in Jesus day **John 4:48** *So Jesus said to him, "Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe."* But we believe Jesus has the power to do the supernatural. **John 14:12** *"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.*



Why do you think less miracles are seen today?

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How can we develop a proper understanding of God's incredible power at work in our world?

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How do these factors below help you answer the question above?

#1 God gets all the glory.

*John 11:4* But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

#2 We have so little faith and honestly so little need in America for miracles.

Do you feel like this statement is true?

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#3 Miracles are not the prize. Being like Jesus is the goal.

*Philippians 3:12-16* Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>[13]</sup> Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>[14]</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. <sup>[15]</sup> Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. <sup>[16]</sup> Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

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Let's spend some time praying that God would move in our lives in powerful ways. Lord increase our faith!





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Sent Out

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PATH Group Guide for the Week of November 15, 2020

**Focal Passage: Mark 6:1-13**

This is our final week of PATH group guides until after Christmas. I hope you have enjoyed walking through the book of Mark. What is something that you remember from the book of Mark so far?

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**Today's Focal Question:**

What does it mean to be sent out?

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Let's set the stage for the book of Mark by reading an account from **Isaiah 6:1-8**.

*In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. <sup>[2]</sup> Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. <sup>[3]</sup> And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"*

*<sup>[4]</sup> And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. <sup>[5]</sup> And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"*

*<sup>[6]</sup> Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. <sup>[7]</sup> And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for." <sup>[8]</sup> And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."*





What is the most impressive to you from the description of God in this passage?

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Describe the calling of Isaiah from the Isaiah 6 passage.

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God presents an opportunity to Isaiah, now repentant from his sin. Who will I send? How would you answer this question or maybe this is a better way to ask the question:

**Are you ready to respond to the call of Jesus?    Yes    No    Depends**

What is God calling you to leave behind this year to follow Him?

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*Mark 6:1–6*

*He went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. <sup>[2]</sup> And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? <sup>[3]</sup> Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. <sup>[4]</sup> And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household." <sup>[5]</sup> And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. <sup>[6]</sup> And he marveled because of their unbelief. And he went about among the villages teaching.*

Jesus had to leave behind his family relationships that turned on Him. Jesus felt resistance from His family and friends as He lived out the calling of God. Why do you think people rejected Jesus in His hometown?



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Some people will point to this passage and say that Jesus was unable to do works in His hometown because of their unbelief. The question is why? Perhaps, like in the story of Jairus' daughter last week, where Jesus kicked out the mockers that laughed at Him, Jesus did not heal because God does not reveal Himself to those unwilling to give the glory to God.

Why do you think Jesus did not heal in the passage above?

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Jesus then sends out his twelve to do the work of the Father. Let's keep reading below.

*Mark 6:7-13*

*And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. <sup>[8]</sup> He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts— <sup>[9]</sup> but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics. <sup>[10]</sup> And he said to them, "Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you depart from there. <sup>[11]</sup> And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." <sup>[12]</sup> So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. <sup>[13]</sup> And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.*

Why did Jesus ask them to go without any provisions?

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Jesus instructs them to heal the willing and to depart from those who would not listen or accept their message. How would that apply to our work as ministers of God's message to others.

What are your thoughts on the statement below?



**We should not be satisfied with a life of comfort, we are on mission for God every time we wake up!**

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What does it mean to be on mission according to the verses below?

*Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

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*Mark 16:15 And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.*

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*Luke 10:2 And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.*

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Practically, how can you be on mission for God daily?

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Spend some time as a group in prayer asking god to open your eyes to opportunities to be on mission for Him.

