

Getting to Know Each Other.

Share light refreshments. Go around the group and introduce yourselves and talk through this question: *“What is the most unusual pet you (or a friend of yours) had?” **

Follow up. Did you get to share with someone about Jesus this past week?
Or how else did you obey Jesus?

Vision. Jesus told us to “Make disciples.” The purpose of our Life Group is: To help people become Believers in Jesus and grow up to become Disciple Makers.

Bible Study Introduction. The Pharisees were religious leaders who taught that God only accepted people who followed hundreds of religious laws and religious traditions. One of these laws was that no work could be done on the Sabbath day. The Pharisees, who did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah, were hoping to discredit Jesus if He did the “work” of healing on the Sabbath.

Pray. Before we read the Scripture, let’s pray that God will speak to each one of us.

Read. We will read through the passage three times and then discuss it, so listen carefully. Get three people to read **Mark 3:1-6.** **

Discuss these questions, one at a time, encouraging everyone who wants to respond to do so. Remind the group: Keep your answers based just on this passage.

1. What stands out or surprises you in this passage?
2. What does it show us about people and choices we can make?
 - How do you think the man with the shriveled hand may have felt when Jesus asked him to stand up in front of the people? Embarrassed? Afraid? What else?
 - What does the Pharisees’ response to this miracle show about their hearts?
 - How would you describe the way Jesus felt about the Pharisees?
3. What does this passage show us about God?
 - Jesus said the choice was between doing “good” or doing “evil” on the Sabbath. Healing the man was good. What would have been “evil”?
 - Jesus told the man to stretch out his shriveled hand. This was something the man had not been able to do. How do you think this might have made him feel?
 - What is something Jesus has asked you to do that you know is beyond your ability to do?

Obeying Jesus. As disciples of Jesus, we want to follow Jesus in whatever way He is leading us today. As we pray silently for 30 seconds, see if God speaks to your heart. Pray something like this:
“Lord Jesus, what do you want me to do with what You are showing me today?” [30 sec. silent prayer]

Remember to obey what God is saying to you. And this week ask God who He wants you to talk with about Jesus. Let’s close in prayer.

Closing Prayer.

Pray something like: “Lord, prepare the hearts of the people we will be sharing the Good News of Jesus with this week. And give us strength and joy as we follow You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

** Use a different “icebreaker” if you prefer.*

*** Reading from different translations often helps.*