

Getting to Know Each Other.

Share light refreshments. Go around the group and introduce yourselves and talk through this question: *“What is a word you have had trouble pronouncing in the past?”* *

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. In this passage, Jesus was traveling back through Decapolis where He had set free the man possessed by a legion of demons. These people who had begged Jesus to leave their area now beg Jesus to heal a deaf man who spoke with great difficulty. In that day, this man would likely have been an outcast, thought to be under a curse, and should not be touched.

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 two times and then discuss it, so listen carefully. Get two people to read **Mark 7:31-37**. **

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?
 - The people brought this “untouchable” man to Jesus. What does that show about them and what they believed about Jesus?
3. What does this passage show us about God?
 - What does giving time and special attention this “outcast” man show about Jesus?
 - The people asked Jesus to lay His hand on the man. Instead, Jesus healed the man in a totally unique way. What does this show about God?
 - The people said about Jesus, “He has done all things well.” How have you experienced Jesus something well in your life?

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.”

** If there are no new people, you can skip the “icebreaker.”*

*** Reading from different translations often helps.*