

Preparing for Mission

Session Thoughts:

- Among your group discuss how LEARNING from the Gospels went.
- Read Mark 2:18-3:6 at least twice. Try reading the text from two different translations. What do you observe in the text? What jumps out at you and grabs your attention? What questions do you have from the text?

Discussion Questions:

1. Read Mark 2:18-22. Why did John's disciples fast so much? Why did Jesus' disciples not fast? How did the religious leaders respond to this?
2. In Mark 2:20-21, Jesus continues to speak here about how his coming changes traditional religious practices. What is he saying?
3. Read Mark 2:23-3:6. What is Jesus saying about himself when he says I am "Lord of the Sabbath?" How does Jesus show that they are missing the "point" of the Sabbath — and what is that "point"?
4. What do these stories illustrate about the hearts of the Pharisees? (how would you feel if you were the man who was healed?) What are the marks of modern-day "pharisees"?
5. What are some of the practical differences there should be between a religious person who is trying to be good and a Christian who understands the gospel?

"Jesus declares not that he has come to reform religion but that he's here to end religion and replace it with himself... Because the Lord of the Sabbath said 'it is finished' we can rest from religion- forever."

Next Steps:

- What is rest? Do you experience "rest" on an ongoing basis? Why or Why not? How was the pattern of rest established even in God's creation in Genesis 1? How does Jesus' work on the cross allow us to once again experience rest? What must we do to enter into that rest?
- This week take either one hour, or 10 minutes a day to read from the Gospel of Mark. After you have finished reading spend a few minutes in quietness. Tell our father you are open to LISTEN to whatever he has for you this day and this week.