BGCC Community Group Guide

Take Heart

November 1st, 2026

Jesus Is Calling You

Mark 10:46-52

Main Idea

Jesus came to give his life as a ransom for everyone, especially those the world overlooks. We don't have to understand everything or have our lives perfectly together to follow him. We simply need to come to him in faith, receive his mercy, and keep following.

The One Who Calls Us Near

As Jesus traveled toward Jerusalem, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus heard that he was passing by. While the crowd tried to silence him, Bartimaeus continued crying out for mercy. Jesus stopped, called him forward, and restored his sight.

This story comes at the end of a larger section in Mark's Gospel. Between two stories of blind men receiving sight, Jesus repeatedly teaches his disciples about his coming death, the people he came to save, and what it means to follow him. The disciples are still struggling to understand, but Bartimaeus gives us a picture of what it looks like to recognize our need and come to Jesus.

Significance in the Biblical Story

Mark begins by identifying Jesus as the Messiah and Son of God (Mark 1:1). Throughout the Gospel, the question is: Who is Jesus, and what kind of King has he come to be?

The disciples expected a powerful earthly ruler who would overthrow Rome. But Jesus explains that he came to serve and give his life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45). The healing of

Bartimaeus illustrates this kingdom: Jesus stops for someone the crowd considers unimportant, shows him mercy, and calls him to follow.

Section 1 – We Don't Have to Have It All Figured Out

Scripture: Mark 8:31–33; Mark 9:31–32; Mark 10:32–45

Key Verse: “The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” — Mark 10:45

Summary

Jesus repeatedly told his disciples that he would suffer, die, and rise again. Yet they struggled to understand. Perhaps because they lacked the confidence of Jesus to know the future. Peter even rebuked Jesus, and James and John continued pursuing positions of importance. They knew Jesus was the Messiah, but they did not yet understand what kind of Messiah he was.

Jesus was patient with their incomplete understanding. He continued teaching them and allowing them to follow and serve. We don't need to have every question answered or reach spiritual perfection before following Jesus. We need to remain humble, keep learning, and keep taking the next step with him.

Group Question: Why do you think the disciples struggled so much to understand what Jesus was telling them about his death?

Personal Relevance

Death is so final in our eyes. The disciples think that Jesus predicting His death is just that: a prediction. They tell Him not to say such things and that He shouldn’t speak that kind of thing into existence (given God’s creation history, that’s a rather humorous picture!). The amount of faith required to believe Jesus can actually see His death coming and then also conquer that death through resurrection is formidable.

Flow Question: How can we remain humble and teachable as we continue growing in our faith?

Reflection Question: Where do you need to keep following Jesus even though you don't have everything figured out?

Section 2 – Jesus Has the Final Say About Who Belongs

Scripture: Mark 9:38–42; Mark 10:13–27

Key Verse: “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.” — Mark 10:27

Summary

Throughout this section of Mark, the disciples repeatedly try to decide who deserves access to Jesus. They push away people serving in his name, children, and those they consider less important. Jesus corrects them and makes clear that his kingdom welcomes those they are tempted to overlook.

The story of the rich young ruler adds another perspective. This man had wealth, status, and influence, yet he could not surrender his possessions to follow Jesus. The disciples were shocked, wondering who could possibly be saved. Jesus explains that salvation is impossible through human effort, but possible with God.

We do not get to decide who is worthy of Jesus or who belongs in his kingdom. Jesus has the final say. Our responsibility is to trust him, follow him, and never become a barrier keeping others from coming to him.

Group Question: What do these stories reveal about the kinds of people the disciples were tempted to overlook?

Personal Relevance

We can sometimes decide that certain people are too different, too broken, or too unimportant to belong. Jesus challenges us to see people through his eyes rather than our own assumptions. The reality is we all have equal value and importance and, if anything, those we perceive as more valuable aren't at all.

Flow Question: How can a church unintentionally make it harder for people to come to Jesus?

Reflection Question: Is there someone you have been tempted to overlook or keep at a distance who needs to experience the mercy, grace, and love of Jesus?

Section 3 – Jesus Stops for Those Who Need Mercy

Scripture: Mark 10:46–49

Key Verse: "Jesus stopped and said, 'Call him.'" — Mark 10:49

Summary

Bartimaeus was blind, begging, and likely overlooked by the people around him. When he heard Jesus was passing, he cried out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" The crowd rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted even louder.

Jesus responded differently. He stopped and told the crowd to call Bartimaeus to him. The same people who had just tried to silence him now had to tell him that Jesus wanted to see him. Jesus did not overlook this man or consider him an interruption. He stopped for him.

Bartimaeus approached Jesus knowing he needed mercy. Unlike the rich young ruler, who asked what he could do to inherit eternal life, Bartimaeus simply asked Jesus to do what he could not do for himself. This is the posture of faith and humility: recognizing our need and trusting Jesus to show mercy.

Group Question: What stands out to you about the contrast between the crowd's response to Bartimaeus and Jesus' response?

Personal Relevance

We often look for solutions, acceptance, and security in our work, finances, relationships, or accomplishments. “What can I do to get into heaven?” But our deepest need is one only Jesus can meet. He invites us to come to him for mercy.

Flow Question: What keeps people from honestly admitting their need for Jesus and asking him for mercy?

Reflection Question: What do you need to bring to Jesus today instead of trying to fix it yourself?

Section 4 – When Jesus Calls, Follow Him

Scripture: Mark 10:49–52; Matthew 11:28–30

Key Verse: “Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” — Mark 10:52

Summary

When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus was calling him, he threw aside his cloak, jumped up, and came to Jesus. Jesus asked what he wanted, and Bartimaeus simply replied, “Rabbi, I want to see.” Jesus restored his sight, and Bartimaeus immediately began following him along the road.

Bartimaeus could have gone anywhere after receiving his sight, but he chose to follow Jesus. His life had been changed by the mercy of Christ, and his response was to follow the one who had rescued him.

We may not have everything figured out, and we may still struggle with sin, doubt, and weakness. But Jesus is not waiting for us to become perfect before we serve him. He calls us to come to him, receive his mercy, and follow. When we feel like giving up, we remember what he has done for us: we were helpless to save ourselves, but Jesus gave his life as our ransom.

Group Question: Why do you think Bartimaeus chose to follow Jesus immediately after receiving his sight?

Personal Relevance

Remember who you were before Jesus showed you mercy. You would still be stuck there without His mercy. You wouldn't have the opportunity you now hold without Christ's intervention. It's only right to dedicate the breath that God placed into your lungs to serving Him though He miraculously doesn't always force you too!

Flow Question: How should remembering what Jesus has done for us shape the way we treat and serve others?

Reflection Question: What is one step of obedience Jesus is calling you to take right now?

Conclusion: Take Heart—He's Calling You

In Mark 10:46–52, we see four important truths:

1. **We don't have to have it all figured out.** Jesus patiently teaches us as we follow him.
2. **Jesus has the final say.** We don't decide who is worthy of his mercy or who belongs in his kingdom.
3. **Jesus stops for those who need mercy.** He sees people others overlook and invites them to come to him.
4. **When Jesus calls, follow him.** His mercy changes our lives and gives us a reason to keep following.

Jesus came not to be served, but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many. Like Bartimaeus, we cannot fix our deepest problem ourselves. We need someone to show us mercy and rescue us. Jesus has done exactly that through the cross and the empty tomb.

Final Reflection Questions

- Where are you still trying to fix something that you need to surrender to Jesus?
- Are there people you have unintentionally discouraged or kept from coming to Jesus?
- When you feel discouraged or tempted to give up, how can remembering Christ's sacrifice help you keep following?

Closing Challenge: This week, remember the mercy Jesus has shown you, keep following him even where you still have questions, and help others hear the invitation: "Take heart. He's calling you."