



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Mark 2:18–22

Questions for the Week: Have activities, practices, or exercises have you tried to draw closer to God? For example, prayer, fasting, reading scripture, etc. What have you found most helpful? Have these practices ever been distorted in your experience? How so? How have you found them most effective for loving God?

READ THE TEXT – Mark 2:18–22

The Structure

1. Question About Fasting from Disciples of John and the Pharisees (Mark 2:18)
2. Jesus’s Response (Mark 2:19–22)
 - 2.1. The Present Moment for Celebration (2:19)
 - 2.2. The Future Moment for Fasting (2:20)
 - 2.3. New and Old (2:21–22)
 - 2.3.1. New Patch Cannot fix Old Garment (2:21)
 - 2.3.2. New Wine Cannot fit Old Wineskin (2:22; see Job 32:19)

Activities and Questions this Week:

- Read examples of Fasting in the Old Testament:
 - Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16:29, 31; 23:26–32, esp. 27, 29, 32)
 - David’s Fasting
 - Mourning (2 Sam 1:11–12)
 - Petition (2 Sam 12:15–23; see also Ezra 8:21–23)
 - Repentance (Jonah 3:5; Nehemiah 9:1–2; Joel 1:13–14; 2:12–17;
 - The Righteous Fast and the Wicked Mock (Psalms 35:13; 69:10; 109:24)
- Fasting can be used to justify injustice
 - Ahab steals Naboth’s Vineyard (1 Kings 21:1–16)
 - Call for True Repentance not “fast” for show (Isaiah 58:1–14)
- During the season of Lent, it is important to Feast on the Lord’s Day. This is not a gluttonous consumption, but a celebration of Jesus’s resurrection from the dead. How will you “feast” on Sundays during Lent in anticipation of Easter?

Weekly Questions:

- What does this passage say about God?
- What stood out to you from the text this week?
- What does this text say about the Lord’s reign and what it means to be his set apart people?
- Who are the characters of this story?

- What does this passage invite us to:
 - Do?
 - Think?
 - Feel?
- How did the sermon or passage encourage you to Love God and Love People?
- Which characters do you identify with most in the story? Why?