

Mark: Our Suffering Servant

Love > Law

TALK IT OVER

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step.

Key Scriptures

“ . . . The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. . . ” Mark 2:27

He entered again into a synagogue; and a man was there whose hand was withered. ² They were watching Him to see if He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him. ³ He said to the man with the withered hand, “Get up and come forward!” ⁴ And He said to them, “Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save a life or to kill?” But they kept silent. ⁵ After looking around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, He said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored. ⁶ The Pharisees went out and immediately began conspiring with the Herodians against Him, as to how they might destroy Him. Mark 3:1-6

Big Idea of the Message: The kingdom of God prioritizes the flourishing of humanity and of all creation.

Application Point: The first step toward working for human flourishing is recognizing the humanity in others, even those we disagree with, dislike, or disregard.

Group Question. Think back to the message. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week’s message?

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Growing up, was there anything your family did or didn’t do because of the Sabbath (See Genesis 2:1-3 & Exodus 20:8-11)? Why is it so hard for people to rest in our society today?
- What is your relationship to rest and the Sabbath?
- What is the difference between God’s intention for the Sabbath and how man kept it?

Start thinking. Read Mark 3:5 again. What emotions did Jesus feel toward the Pharisees?

- Why do you think Jesus felt this way? Can you relate to Jesus? Why?
- How often do you miss the joy in Jesus because of your tradition? Examples?
- Is there any lesson for us today? What application can we make from this passage?
- How did the Pharisees react to this?

Start sharing.

- What kinds of people do you struggle to see the humanity in?
- How can we see God’s commands as encouraging human flourishing?
- How can our spiritual practices create human flourishing in our wider communities?

Start praying. My prayer is that each in our own ways, we accept the Divine invitation to pause, to carve out sacred time and sacred space in our hectic life to bring peace to our souls, meaning to our lives, and purpose to our days. And because I know how busy the rest of this week is, I want all of us to take some time right now to think and pray over how you might accept God’s invitation to rest and reconnect.

So in the next 30 seconds of silence, pray over something YOU can do to add Sabbath to your weekly rhythm. For until you add it to your week, it will never become part of your life. So take 30 seconds and prayer over what you might do to slow down and reconnect to our Creator.

Questions for Gospel Transformation

- Are you faithfully obeying what you’ve learned?
- Where in my life can others see that I am following Jesus more closely?

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