



This guide is an invitation to follow Jesus with greater purpose and hope. It will help you to explore the scriptures and challenge you to live out your faith. Each week we'd love for you to think about how you relate: **Up** (with God), **In** (with church) and **Out** (with neighbors).

Weekly Questions:

- How is God getting my attention? For help, think about these areas:
- How are you living up with God?
- How are you living in community with other followers of Jesus?
- How are you living out on mission with your neighbors?
- What are you going to do about it?

Devalued: Inhospitable

Read Mark 2 & 3

- Receiving and giving forgiveness can be a humbling and powerful experience. Reflect on a time when you had to ask for forgiveness or when you offered it to someone else. What made that experience so powerful? On the flip side, have you ever found yourself harboring a grievance that you can't seem to get out of your head or heart? How did it impact you and your relationships?
- When Jesus heals the paralyzed man, he first tells him, "Son, your sins are forgiven" (Mark 2:5). Why do you think Jesus addresses the man's spiritual condition before his physical one? What does this teach us about the connection between our spiritual and physical health?
- The religious teachers question Jesus' authority, saying, "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" (Mark 2:7). What does this interaction reveal about their understanding of who God is and what the kingdom of God is like?
- In Mark 2:15-17, Jesus eats with tax collectors and sinners, prompting the Pharisees to question his disciples. Jesus responds, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." How does this statement challenge our assumptions about who Jesus came to serve?
- Discusses the "new wine" and "new wineskins" analogy (Mark 2:22). How can our old ways of thinking or doing things act as "old wineskins" that are unable to contain the "new wine" of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives?
- If Jesus is asking us to have new wine and new wineskins in some part of our lives, especially related to the question: "Who can forgive?" Is there someone you need to forgive or be forgiven by?
- What do these stories tell us about who Jesus is? What does it show us that the kingdom of God is like?

This week, what is one way you can look for Jesus to work in someone's life that you may not normally expect?
This week, what is one area of your life that you can trust to Jesus that you have wanted to hide or avoid? This week, how can you be thankful for how Jesus loves and includes you?