MARK

Leader Guide

Lesson 4: Responding to the Son of God: Insiders and Outsiders
Mark 3:7-35

ICEBREAKER (optional): This week we notice how some people follow Jesus and some misunderstand Him. Share about a funny misunderstanding you've had.

PRAY: Make sure to start your time in prayer. This can be before or after icebreaker/review.

REVIEW: Last week, we saw the beginning of opposition to Jesus' work. The Pharisees opposed Jesus in regards to fasting and observing the Sabbath. Jesus recognized the Pharisees' hard hearts and shared His teaching with them.

What about fasting or the Sabbath has stayed with you?

NOTES FOR DISCUSSION THIS WEEK

The passage is on the shorter side again this week. There will be time to hear different thoughts and takes on questions people have gotten stuck on. Remind the group that it's okay to not know the answers to certain questions. That's what group time is for - learning together!

Some might come to the group with very different ideas as to what it means to blaspheme the Holy Spirit. This can also be a frightening text for some! Allow for discussion while encouraging the group to find answers (and comfort!) in the Bible.

UNDERSTAND THEIR STORY

Read Mark 3:7-35. Since you read the passage together, you can generally skip the summaries in question 1 (page 59).

- Review the WHO's in this passage on pages 59 and 60 in question 2. Help the group see the various people in this passage and whether they follow or misunderstand Jesus.
- Discuss WHAT Mark emphasizes in the passage about unclean spirits/demons as well as family in question 4 on page 61. Ask the Think it Through questions to go deeper.
- Point out the passage's emphasis on the Pharisees' hard hearts in questions 5 & 6. Don't worry if the group doesn't land on all the answers here - you will go deeper on this subject in the Connect to His Story section.
- Ask for a few shares on what Mark's main idea is in question 7.

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CONNECT TO GOD'S STORY

This lesson shows a divide between Jesus' closest followers and those who oppose Him.

- Explore the background of Jesus' closest followers by working through some of the passages in 1.a and 1.b on page 62.
    - Don't read all of Genesis 49 if you do 1.a.i. Just a skim will do!
    - The Think it Through on the bottom of page 62 will help connect the background passages to the calling of the 12 disciples in Mark's passage.
- Work through question 2 to further explore the opposition Jesus is experiencing in Mark. *Again, allow for discussion on the topic of blaspheming the Holy Spirit while encouraging the group to find answers (and comfort!) in the Bible.*
- Work through question 3 to explore the unexpected opposition Jesus experienced - from His own family! What comforting truths can you find about who Jesus considers family?

REFLECT AND APPLY TO YOUR STORY

- Make sure to save time to go through the reflection and application questions so the passage is applied to life today.
- If time, ask what they thought of the Bible's teaching when **they** encountered it for the first time.

PRAYER

Set an alarm or reminder on your phone to stop discussion and move into prayer (bottom of page 65) for the last 10-15 minutes of your small group time.

- Lead your group to respond to God through praise, confession, and what we can ask God for BASED on what we learned.
- How have they been changed by the passage? What have they been convicted of through the passage? What can they ask God for in light of the passage?