

WEEKLY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week of Sunday January 18, 2026

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INTRODUCTION

In **Mark 3:20–30** we see Jesus step into a crowded house and immediately face pressure from every direction. He is not trying to win a popularity contest or protect His reputation—He is inviting people into the freedom and unity of God’s Kingdom. Many of us feel the same heart-tension today: we want to follow Jesus, but we also want peace, approval, and a life that doesn’t feel opposed. This passage reminds us that spiritual conflict is real, but so is Jesus’ authority and compassion. Tonight, we’re asking God to move us from awareness to obedience—so we can stay on mission without being pulled into fear, division, or distraction.

Main Passage:

Mark 3:20–30

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Kingdom War!

READ ALOUD

Mark 3:20–30

DISCUSS

Opening Question: When you try to take a meaningful step forward in your faith, what kind of resistance do you usually feel first—internal doubt, relational tension, or external obstacles?

- Why do you think Jesus' family tried to stop Him (Mark 3:20–21)? What might that show about the cost of following Jesus openly?
- In Mark 3:22, the leaders question the source of Jesus' power. Where have you seen people dismiss God's work by attacking motives? How does that impact you?
- What stands out to you about how Jesus responds to accusation and conflict (Mark 3:23)?
- Where do you most often see division damage relationships, families, workplaces, or churches (Mark 3:24–25)?
- What does the “strong man” picture teach you about Jesus' authority and spiritual warfare (Mark 3:27)?
- What does this passage teach you about the danger of hardening your heart toward God (Mark 3:28–30)?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

DISCUSS & APPLY

- Where do you sense the most “opposition” right now as you try to follow Jesus—your habits, your schedule, your relationships, your fears, or something else?
- What would it look like for you to “refuse division” this week in one specific relationship (marriage, parenting, friendships, work, church)?
- When conflict shows up, what helps you respond more like Jesus—slowing down, asking questions, praying first, going directly to the person, or something else?
- How can this group help you stay on mission rather than getting pulled into distraction or discouragement?

RESPOND

- **Expect opposition:** What obedience step are you putting off? What’s one small step you’ll take this week?
- **Refuse division:** Where are you tempted to pull back or assume the worst? What’s one peacemaking conversation you need to have?
- **Stay on mission:** Who will you pray for this week? What’s one simple way you can move toward them in love?

PRAY

Thank Jesus that His Kingdom stands and He is stronger than the enemy. Ask for discernment without fear, unity instead of division, and courage to obey your next step. Pray for anyone you know who feels trapped or deceived, that God would open their eyes and draw them to Jesus. Close by asking God to shine His light through your everyday places—home, work, school, and relationships.

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILIES

Mark 3:20–30

- Why did Jesus’ family think something was wrong, and what was Jesus actually doing?
- What did the teachers accuse Jesus of—and how did Jesus answer them?
- What does Jesus say happens when a house or a kingdom is divided?
- What does this story teach us about how strong Jesus is?

For younger children: Help your child name one way they can listen and obey Jesus this week, even when it feels hard or confusing.

For older kids or students: Talk about “booths/nets” that can pull you off mission—habits, friend pressure, fear of being judged, image, or distractions. What’s one thing you need to lay down so you can follow Jesus more clearly?

BIBLE READING PLAN (OPTIONAL)

Scripture to read as you pray this week:

- Day 1: Mark 4:1–9
- Day 2: Mark 4:10–20
- Day 3: Mark 4:21–25
- Day 4: Mark 4:26–34
- Day 5: Mark 4:35–41

COMMENTARY

What's Going On?

Mark highlights a turning point: as Jesus' ministry expands, opposition intensifies. In this scene, pressure comes from both close relationships (His family) and religious authority (scribes from Jerusalem). Jesus frames the conflict as a Kingdom issue—God's Kingdom confronting the kingdom of darkness—and He clarifies that His power to free people is evidence of God's authority, not Satan's.

The bigger picture is that Jesus is not merely debating; He is revealing who He is and what He came to do: rescue captives and establish God's reign.

A Bit of Background

Scribes were respected experts in the Law, often seen as guardians of religious faithfulness. Their accusation was strategic: if they could discredit Jesus' spiritual source, they could undermine public trust without denying His miracles.

The “strong man” image would have been easy to grasp in that world—no one could enter a guarded home and take what mattered without first overpowering the protector. Jesus uses that familiar picture to say, in effect, “I am not under Satan's authority—I am overthrowing it.”