



Jesus Saves...So Be Open to Him

Mark 7:31-37 March 5, 2017

for Life Group & Personal Bible Study

This guide, based on Sunday's sermon, provides additional study and reflection for both Life Group discussion and personal enrichment. It is not meant to serve as a full Bible study curriculum, exhaustive commentary, or complete Life Group itinerary, but simply as a conversational resource for further study. Feel free to use these thoughts below as you enjoy your Life Group experience or personal time with the Lord.

1) Backgrounds: What kinds of physical noise distract you or irritate you? How come? What are some circumstances in life that can be so noisy they distract, detour or deafen? How come they are like that?

How did Paul deal with the noise of his deafening 'thorn in the flesh?' See 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.

2) Read Mark 7:31-37 again and think back over Sunday's sermon.

What points of the sermon or this passage resonated with you?

What questions came to mind? How were you challenged?

Of the points given in the sermon (see the other side of this for the points), what challenged you the most? Why?

3) Let's Be Open

The main thrust of Sunday's sermon was that in a noisy, deafening world, Jesus brings clarity as we choose to be open to Him. It was pointed out from our Bible passage that there are 3 opportunities to be open to Jesus. They are:

In *Living intentionally with Jesus vs31-32*, what comes to mind as to how we can live intentionally as followers of Jesus? The following passages will help.

Micah 6:8, Luke 9:23-24, Luke 6:27-36

How can we be open to Jesus and be intentional with our neighbors?

In *Loving Individually for Jesus vs33-34*, who comes to mind as someone to show individual love towards? What do the following passages encourage?

Matthew 22:37-40, Luke 10:29-37

In *Following Jesus Insistently vs34-37*, what do you think it means to be open to Jesus? The Apostle Paul was open to Jesus and said this in Philippians 1:21. Describe a life open to Jesus as Lord.

4) Who do you say Jesus is?

***Share your findings and reflections, and pray for one another!**

In Mark 8:28-19 Jesus asks the disciples who He is to them. Only Peter answers. What does Peter say? Look up these Bible verses and discuss who Jesus is: Luke 4:16-21, John 14:6-12, 1 Corinthians 15:3-8.

5) How will you be open to Jesus?



Thinking over this time, list ways you can be open to Jesus.

Jesus Saves...So Be Open

Mark 7:31-37 – Mar. 5, 2017

Answers to Sunday's "fill in the blanks" & other Bible verses

*In a noisy, deafening world,
Jesus brings clarity as we choose to be open to Him.*

Introductory Notes

Isaiah 9:6-7

- The Passover Lamb - Exodus 12:1-51
- Deliverer like Moses - Deuteronomy 18:15-19
- Redeemer - Isaiah 61:1-2 and Ruth 4:4-9
Isaiah 35:3-6a

Three Opportunities to Be Open to Jesus

Live Intentionally with Jesus vs31-32

Romans 10:14-15

Mark 7:24, 6:32

Love Individually for Jesus vs33-34

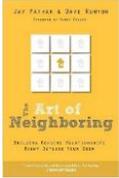
- Psalm 139:13-16
- Matthew 10:30
- John 13
- John 13:34-35

Follow Jesus Insistently vs34-37

*Share your findings and reflections, and pray for one another!

Mark 8:17-18

Mark 8:28-29



*Going Deeper: If you would like to go deeper and take this study to a greater application, feel free to complement this series with the book *The Art of Neighboring* by Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon, using the questions in the back of each chapter as well. Each Life Group leader has more information. Last week's was complemented with chapter **6**. This week, check out chapter **7**.*

***Share your findings and reflections, and pray for one another!**