

# The Gospel of Mark

## Home Group Discussion Guide

*Do Good Anyway*

Mark 3:1-6

**ICEBREAKER:** What do you think is needed to make the world a better place?

**OVERVIEW:** God calls us to do good, but doing good is not always easy. God has called us to imitate Christ – to say no to sin and yes to goodness and righteousness – but imitating Christ can be costly. Sometimes we run into opposition. Sometimes we have to face haters. Good deeds often attract bad attention. Sometimes we face persecution. And that’s when it gets tempting to compromise. As Christians we need a constant dose of encouragement, and that’s what we find in this story of Jesus in Mark 3.

1. Read Mark 3:1-6. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday’s message?)
2. Describe a time when you were mistreated because of your commitment to Jesus. Were you tempted to compromise? How did you respond?
3. If Jesus, who was morally perfect, was criticized and hated, what can we expect as we follow Jesus?
4. Read John 15:8-20. Why is it a good thing to be persecuted for your commitment to Christ? Why is it a bad thing if you are never persecuted?

5. Read 1 Peter 4:1-3, 12-16. What are the benefits of persecution?
6. Read Psalm 118:6 & 1 Peter 4:19. Why don’t we need to be afraid of persecution?
7. Read Romans 12:14-21. How should we treat those who persecute us?
8. 1 John 2:15 says, “Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you.” One reason we struggle to endure persecution is that we love this world, and we’d rather disobey God than be persecuted and lose the comforts and luxuries and pleasures of this world. What can you do to guard against the love of the world?
9. A second reason we struggle to endure persecution is we want to be liked, and we’d rather disobey God than be criticized or hated. What can you do to overcome the temptation to be a people-pleaser rather than a God-pleaser?
10. A third reason we struggle to endure temptation is we are committed to ourselves rather than God, and when persecution threatens our needs, wants and desires, we deny Christ. What can you do to overcome the love of self so that you can endure temptation?

**The Last Word:** “So if you are suffering in a manner that pleases God, keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God who created you, for he will never fail you.” 1 Peter 4:19