

### Scripture Text

Mark 2

### Context

Following His announcement of the coming of the kingdom of God, Jesus continues His ministry in the region of Galilee.

### Observation and Meaning

1. What is Jesus claiming about Himself when He forgives the sins of the paralytic? How does Jesus substantiate His claim?
2. Why do the scribes and Pharisees criticize Jesus for eating with tax collectors and sinners? What does this reveal about them? By calling Levi and eating with sinners, what does Jesus reveal about His mission?
3. The Old Testament uses the imagery of the bridegroom and new wine to speak of the new age when God will come and save His people (Isaiah 62:4-5; Joel 3:18). Jesus uses the same language to speak of Himself and His coming. What does this tell us about the significance of Jesus' ministry?
4. According to Jesus, what determines whether His disciples fast or not? What is Jesus referring to when He says that the bridegroom will be taken away (v. 20; cf. Mark 8:31; 10:45)?
5. How is Jesus lord of the Sabbath (cf. Matthew 11:28-30)?

### Big Idea

Jesus is the promised King who has authority to call and forgive sinners. He inaugurates the new age and gives true rest to His people.

### Connecting to the Bible's storyline

Jesus is the promised King who comes to establish God's kingdom through His life, death and resurrection.

### Application

1. Given that Jesus comes to call sinners, what should be our posture of heart when we come to Him?
2. How is Jesus calling you to follow Him? What do you need to turn away from in order to wholeheartedly follow Christ?
3. Self-righteousness keeps us from seeing our need for mercy and grace. How might we be self-righteous? How can we cultivate humility before God?
4. Fasting expresses one's devotion to the bridegroom and longing for His return. How can we deepen our love and desire for Christ?

## Guide for Study Leaders

Use the C.O.M.A. (Context, Observation, Meaning, Application) method to work through the biblical text.

### Context

Pay attention to the surrounding verses, paragraphs, chapters, events, etc. to see how this passage fits within the context of this particular book of the Bible.

Note how this passage fits within the larger storyline of the whole Bible, i.e. how God is saving a people through Jesus Christ to live under his rule in his place.

### Observation & Meaning

Make careful observations of the biblical text. Notice details such as linking words (eg. "for", "if", "therefore"), repetition, dialogue, narrative, OT quotations, etc.

To understand the meaning of the biblical text, we need to discern the author's purpose or intent: Why is the biblical author writing this?

Helpful questions to ask include:

Who is writing and to whom?  
What is the situation of the author and of the readers?  
Are we made aware of any problems that need to be addressed?  
Are there any repeated themes, or a single idea that holds everything together?

### Application

Apply God's word to the heart. Move beyond merely addressing circumstances and behaviour by asking good "heart" questions. For example: Why do we do what we do? What do we really desire?

Always connect the gospel to application. For example, what difference does knowing Christ make to our obedience to God?

Ask what the passage teaches us about God, ourselves, salvation in Christ, the church, the world, etc.