



GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

Life application materials for use in Life Groups, home devotions, and other small groups.

1. Begin with prayer for those who are in pain (physical, emotional, spiritual) in your circle of friends.
2. **The Power of Pain:** Read 2 Kings 5:1-15.
 - a. What pain had the young Israelite girl experienced? How did God use that pain for his good purposes?
 - b. What pain did King Joram of Israel experience (vv.7-8)? What might have been God's purpose in that pain?
 - c. Naaman's pain of leprosy brought him into contact with the power and love of the God of Israel. What almost kept Naaman from experiencing the Lord's healing? Is there a lesson for us in Naaman's initial response and his change of mind?
3. **The Hope of Healing:** The Gospel of Mark is generally considered to be the Gospel of the Apostle Peter. Since we will be reading from the Gospel of Mark during Lent, let's trace Mark's ministry.
 - a. Acts 12:11-12 – John Mark lives with his mother in Jerusalem. She is an early follower of Jesus.
 - b. Acts 12:25 – Paul and Barnabas take John Mark, who is Barnabas' cousin (Colossians 4:10), with them to Antioch.
 - c. Acts 15:36-40 – We learn that John Mark went with Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey but deserted them. Paul does not want to take him on his second missionary journey.
 - d. 2 Timothy 4:11 – In his final imprisonment, Paul asks Timothy to bring Mark with him.
 - e. 1 Peter 5:13 – Mark is present with the Apostle Peter.
 - f. 2 Peter 1:12-15 – Peter promises to make sure that his eyewitness testimony is preserved.

How does Mark's life and ministry give you hope of healing as you think back over some of your failures of the past?

4. **The Gavel of Guilt:** We have the authority to silence the gavel of guilt. Read together and discuss the following section of Luther's Small Catechism.

First: What is the use of the Keys?

The use of the Keys is that special power and right which Christ gave to his church on earth, to forgive the sins of penitent sinners but to refuse forgiveness to the impenitent as long as they do not repent.

Where is this written?

The holy Evangelist John writes in chapter 20, "Jesus breathed on his disciples and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.'"



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

Take notes during the sermon to help you remember the main points.

Do You Really Know Me?

The Healer

Which is easier to say?



I. The Power of Pain (Mark 2:1-4)

- a. Notice the pain present in Mark 1
 - i. Mark 1:23 _____
 - ii. Mark 1:31 _____
 - iii. Mark 1:33 _____
 - iv. Mark 1:40 _____
- b. Faith sees pain as an invitation
 - i. Mark 1:27-28 The news s _____
 - ii. Mark 1:43 The people came to him from e _____

2. The Gavel of Guilt (Mark 2:5-7)

- a. Pain magnifies g _____
- b. Who can forgive sins but God alone? (Matthew 16:19; John 20:23)

3. The Healing of Hope (Mark 2:8-12)

- a. Which is easier to say?
 - i. "Your sins are forgiven" are easier for a h _____ to say.
 - ii. "Get up and walk" are easier for _____ to say.
- b. Power and l _____ provide healing

My Next Steps

- **See Jesus' Power to Heal.** Read Mark 1-2 over the next week. If there is more than one in your household, try reading it together, about 12 verses per day.
- **Silence the Gavel of Guilt.** Memorize John 20:23 to remember that Jesus has given you the authority to forgive. "If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."
- **Offer the Healing of Hope:** Who in your circle of friends is suffering pain of some kind? How might you be able to speak hope in Jesus' power and love into their lives?