# Gospel of Mark Weekly Talk Ideas | Sean McGever

## Mark Chapter 3

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| Scripture suggestion, basic overview, and background:Mark 3 plunges the reader into the miracles of Jesus and the opposition Jesus encountered. There are several directions you could go for a good Campaigners lesson (e.g. vv.13-21 calling and sending out disciples – a good conversation for our focus on discipleship in YL’s Forward initiative; vv.22-30 that saying Jesus is possessed by Satan appears to be the only thing that won’t be forgiven – i.e. everything else can be forgiven; vv. 31-35 the radical call of Christian identity). I think the best passage for a club talk, however, is Jesus’ conversation and healing in the synagogue (3:1-6) since it shows Jesus’ divinity (a miraculous healing), as well as God’s heart for restoration and healing. This story continues Jesus’ teaching about what is proper on the Sabbath in Mark 2:23-28. Here is a potential outline: 1. Person 1: Jesus (v.1)
2. Location: a synagogue (v.1)
3. Person 2: Man with withered hand (v.1)
4. People 3: “They” – likely the Pharisees mentioned in verse 6 (v.2)
5. When: Sabbath (v.2)
6. Content:
	1. Purpose of Sabbath: Harm or Help / Death or Life? (v.3-4)
	2. Jesus’ healing of the man with the withered hand (v.5)
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| Possible main point(s):* Jesus is God, he healed a man, this is a sign that Jesus is not only human, Jesus is God.
* Religion that loses its purpose often focuses on the “bad” and has brought too much harm; Jesus focuses on the “good” and wants to bring life, healing, restoration, and salvation.
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| What this shows us about Jesus:* Jesus is God, we know this because of his ability to do miracles, such as healing the man’s hand (v.5)
* Jesus communicates that God wants to do good in our lives to save, heal, deliver, and restore us.
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| What this has to do with our life:* The man with a withered hand had a lot of courage to be in the synagogue, he was likely looked down upon by his community. We all, especially those who feel overlooked and judged, need courage to come to Jesus.
* We recognize that people before us had turned God’s good commands for life into bad rules that brought harm and death (“to kill” is what Jesus said). If we believe in God we must be a people of goodness, healing, and restoration.
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| Relevant technical details:* *Synagogue* (v.1) = A Jewish meeting place in towns that was used for weekly worship and teaching.
* *Man with withered hand* (v.1) = A hand that is “dried out” or has “become stiff,” essentially a hand that is lame or is malformed. It is important to note that this condition likely would been viewed as a shameful and embarrassing condition in the community. A person with a condition like this could not become a Levitical priest (Lev. 21:18).
* *Sabbath* (v.2) = The Jewish day of rest (Saturday). This is the fourth of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:8-10). The Pharisees and other Jewish sects developed elaborate rules specifying what was and was not permissible on the Sabbath. Jesus did not challenge the fourth commandment; He did challenge their application of it.
* *Save life* (v.4) = The original word (Greek: sozo) means healing, salvation, deliverance, and restoration.
* *Hardness of heart* (v.5) = A stubborn resistance to the purposes of God.
* *Pharisees* (v.6) = A sect of Jewish teachers and leaders who were known for their strict adherence to all 613 rules of the Old Testament.
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| Possible illustrations:* Reach out their hand: In verse 5 Jesus says “stretch out your hand.” Ask everyone to point at you (everyone will do this, it seems natural), then ask them to open their hand like they are going to receive something. Tell them that when we reach out to Jesus, he gives us something – ask right now for Jesus to work in your life.
* Religion compared to Jesus: Consider showing the Jefferson Bethke spoken word 4min video (link [HERE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1IAhDGYlpqY))
* Would you rather video: Show a video of “would you rather” choices as a way to introduce Jesus’ “would you rather” question (do good / or / do harm; save life / or / kill) that we find in verse 4. For a “would you rather video” see [HERE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RLNxpeyVoMw). You could also use the “would you rather” app or cards from the game to start your talk.
* Consider incorporating a junior leader or campaigner kid testimony at the end as an example of a person who has experience God’s good work in their life and the power of His healing.
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*For more details, see ylhelp.com*

Mark 3 (ESV)

**A Man with a Withered Hand**

**3**Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there with a withered hand. **2**And they watched Jesus, to see whether he would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. **3**And he said to the man with the withered hand, “Come here.” **4**And he said to them, “Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?” But they were silent. **5**And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. **6**The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

**A Great Crowd Follows Jesus**

**7**Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the sea, and a great crowd followed, from Galilee and Judea **8**and Jerusalem and Idumea and from beyond the Jordan and from around Tyre and Sidon. When the great crowd heard all that he was doing, they came to him. **9**And he told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, lest they crush him, **10**for he had healed many, so that all who had diseases pressed around him to touch him. **11**And whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, “You are the Son of God.” **12**And he strictly ordered them not to make him known.

**The Twelve Apostles**

**13**And he went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him. **14**And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach **15**and have authority to cast out demons. **16**He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); **17**James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder); **18**Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot, **19**and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

**20**Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. **21**And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, “He is out of his mind.”

**Blasphemy Against the Holy Spirit**

**22**And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, “He is possessed by Beelzebul,” and “by the prince of demons he casts out the demons.” **23**And he called them to him and said to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? **24**If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. **25**And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. **26**And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end. **27**But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house.

**28**“Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, **29**but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”— **30**for they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.”

**Jesus’ Mother and Brothers**

**31**And his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him. **32**And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you.” **33**And he answered them, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” **34**And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! **35**For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.”