



# Island Groups

## Abide • Connect • Share

Week of June 29, 2025

### BOOK OF MARK – WEEK 32

### YOUR FAITH HAS MADE YOU WELL

(MARK 10:46-52)

#### OPENING PRAYER TIME

As we continue our journey through the Book of Mark, exploring Jesus' miraculous ministry and His heart for those in need, let's make sure we are anchoring everything in prayer. You might guide the group through prayer by offering these prompts, pausing for 30-60 seconds between each one to allow time for silent or spoken prayer:

- Thank God for Jesus being approachable and caring about every detail of our lives, no matter how small or overwhelming
- Confess any areas where you've been looking for answers in all the wrong places instead of turning to Jesus first
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you recognize your spiritual blind spots and areas where you need His healing touch
- Pray for courage to cast off anything that hinders you from approaching Jesus openly and honestly
- Thank Jesus for being the Son of David, our Messiah, who has complete authority and power to heal and restore
- Ask God to give you a heart of compassion for those who are far from Christ, just as Jesus stopped for Bartimaeus

You may want to incorporate a time of silence for personal reflection and listening, or to encourage members to voice simple one-word prayers of praise and gratitude.

Remember, **PRAYER IS THE WORK** that empowers everything else! So let's commit to pursuing Him wholeheartedly as we gather.



## DISCUSSION

Begin by asking, "**Have you ever been in a situation where you felt overlooked or ignored by others, but someone important took notice of you? How did that make you feel?**"

Ask someone to read **Mark 10:46-48**. What do we learn about Bartimaeus from these verses? What was his situation, and how did he respond when he heard Jesus was coming?

Pastor Paul emphasized that "**hearing was the initiator**" of Bartimaeus's healing. Before he ever requested mercy, he had to hear about Jesus first. How does **Romans 10:17** support this truth? Why is hearing about Jesus so crucial for faith?

Notice how Bartimaeus addresses Jesus as "**Son of David.**" Pastor Paul explained that this title means Messiah. What does this reveal about Bartimaeus's understanding of who Jesus was? How significant is it that a blind beggar recognized Jesus's true identity?

Pastor Paul pointed out that "**in that moment, he realizes his need**" and went from knowing he had need to understanding "**he was in need of Jesus.**" What's the difference between these two realizations? Can you think of a time when you moved from general awareness of need to specifically needing Jesus?

The crowd tried to silence Bartimaeus, telling him to be quiet. Pastor Paul suggested they thought "**the mission of Jesus was too big for this one blind man.**" How do we sometimes act like those people today? When have you seen someone dismissed as unimportant to God's work?

Pastor Paul warned about the church treating Jesus as "**escapism religion**" rather than counting the cost of following Him. He said, "**We've been so blessed to the access that, you know what? We forget the mission and the blind man gets ignored.**" How can our blessings sometimes make us lose sight of reaching the lost?

Ask someone to read **Mark 10:49-50**. What is significant about Jesus stopping and calling Bartimaeus? What does it reveal about Jesus's heart that "**when Jesus stopped, people did too**"?

Pastor Paul noted that Bartimaeus "**threw off his cloak, he sprang up and he came to Jesus.**" What did the cloak represent, and why was throwing it off so important? What might you need to "throw off" to approach Jesus more freely?

Have someone read **Mark 10:51-52**. When Jesus asked, "**What do you want me to do for you?**" Bartimaeus was specific in his request. Pastor Paul said, "***We need to be real with Jesus. We dance around in our prayer time, don't we?***" Why is being specific and honest important in our prayers?

Jesus told Bartimaeus, "**Go your way, your faith has made you well.**" But instead of going his own way, Bartimaeus followed Jesus. Pastor Paul explained that "***Jesus said, go your way. But now he said, no, I'm going to go your way.***" What does this reveal about true faith and its results?

Pastor Paul described three key elements of Bartimaeus's approach: he was **surrendered**, he was **specific**, and he was **committed**. Which of these resonates most with where you are in your relationship with Jesus right now?

The sermon mentioned that "**all of us have spiritual need**" and we need to "**realize our predicament.**" Pastor Paul asked, "***Are you concerned for them? Are you reaching out to them?***" regarding those far from Christ. How does recognizing our own spiritual need affect how we view others?

## APPLICATION

***Identify your spiritual blind spots*** by honestly asking Jesus to reveal areas where you need His healing touch - whether spiritual, emotional, mental, or relational. Spend time this week in specific prayer about these areas, being real and direct with Jesus about your needs.

***Practice "throwing off the cloak"*** by identifying one thing that hinders you from approaching Jesus freely (pride, fear of what others think, self-doubt, etc.). Make a conscious decision to surrender this hindrance and approach Jesus with the same desperation and determination as Bartimaeus.

***Evaluate your compassion for the lost*** by making a list of people in your life who are far from Christ. Commit to praying for them daily this week and ask God to show you practical ways to reach out to them rather than ignoring their spiritual need.

***Be specific in your prayers*** this week. Instead of general requests, follow Bartimaeus's example by being honest and direct with Jesus about exactly what you need from Him. Remember that He already knows your needs, but He wants you to acknowledge them.

## CLOSING PRAYER TIME

Take time to share prayer requests. Write these down and distribute them so the group can be praying throughout the week. In addition to the prayer requests, include the following in your prayers:

- Thank Jesus for being approachable and for stopping to respond to our cries for mercy, no matter how others might try to silence us
- Confess any ways you've acted like the crowd, dismissing people as unimportant to God's mission or being too focused on your own agenda to care about others' needs
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you recognize and surrender anything that hinders your relationship with Jesus, just as Bartimaeus threw off his cloak
- Pray for specific people in your life who are spiritually blind and need to hear about Jesus, asking God to use you as part of His plan to reach them
- Thank God that Jesus sees beyond our circumstances and meets us in our place of need, whether physical, spiritual, emotional, or mental
- Ask for grace to be real and honest with Jesus in your prayers, bringing your specific needs to Him with faith and surrender

***Close by praying: "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on us!" and thanking Him that He always stops and responds when we call on His name in faith.***