



# LIFEWAY LITE

AUG 20, 2023

## Ice breakers

What are your top three fears?

If you could be the best in the world at something, what would it be?

## Main Idea

When we care more about what we want than what God wants, we will lose sight of our call to love those God has called us to love. Additionally, we will neglect our charge to point ALL people back to God. In doing so, we miss the heart of God.

## Weekly Challenge

Devote Daily- Look at those whom you find hard to love through the lens of Christ. See them as the man with the deformed hand, as someone Christ cares for and wishes to intercede in their life. Pray for them and remind yourself of your shared need for Jesus.

## Key Verses- Mark 3:1-6

Jesus went into the synagogue again and noticed a man with a deformed hand. Since it was the Sabbath, Jesus' enemies watched him closely. If he healed the man's hand, they planned to accuse him of working on the Sabbath. Jesus said to the man with the deformed hand, "Come and stand in front of everyone." Then he turned to his critics and asked, "Does the law permit good deeds on the Sabbath, or is it a day for doing evil? Is this a day to save life or destroy it?" But they wouldn't answer him. He looked around at them angrily and was deeply saddened by their hard hearts. Then he said to the man, "Hold out your hand." So the man held out his hand, and it was restored! At once the Pharisees went away and met with the supporters of Herod to plot how to kill Jesus.

## Discussion Questions

- 1) Does the life of Christ challenge your beliefs and stances on things? If so, what is being challenged and why?
- 2) Based on scripture, how has God commanded the church to live and what has God commissioned the church to do?
- 3) Have you hardened your heart towards someone, or a group of people, that God has called you to love? If so, who is it?/Who are they? What has caused your heart to hardened towards them? How is this lived out in your everyday life?
- 4) Are there areas in your life where you have traded God's truth for tradition, politics, or selfish desire? If so, where are they?
- 5) Read Hosea 6:6. The Jews in Hosea's day relied on mere ritual to satisfy God? How does this verse apply to Mark 3:1-6? How is it applicable in the church today? (Also read: Matthew 12:1-8)
- 6) Dig Deeper- What would it look like to fight against the hardening of our hearts towards the will of God and loving those we may not want to love? How do we achieve this? (part of the answer lies in Ezekiel 36:27)