

# LESSON TWO

MARK 2:1-3:12

## SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### WELCOME

*The gift of forgiveness*  
2–3 mins.

### DRILL TIME

*Sabbath Day*  
3–5 mins.

### W.O.W!

*Sinner*  
3–5 mins.

### HISTORICAL CONTEXT

*Timeline*  
2–3 mins.

### BIBLE INVESTIGATION

*Mark 2:1-3:12*  
20–30 mins.

### LESSON-AT-HOME

*Mark 2:17*  
3–5 mins.

## OVERVIEW

Mark 2 opens with the paralytic being let down through a roof by friends so that he can be seen by Jesus. Jesus shocks the religious leaders by declaring the paralytic's sins forgiven. He clearly demonstrates that He has authority over both sin and sickness! To prove it, Jesus both forgives and heals, allowing the paralytic to walk home for the first time. Jesus then moves on to call Levi the tax collector as His disciple. This gets Him in trouble again with the Pharisees, who accuse Him of eating with sinners. Jesus rebukes them by declaring His intention to save sinners just as doctors are sent to take care of the sick.

The rest of the chapter shows the increasing animosity of the Pharisees and other religious leaders. They question Jesus about why His disciples were not fasting. They accuse the disciples of breaking Sabbath law as they picked heads of grain. In Chapter 3, the Pharisees wait to see if Jesus will break the law by healing of the Sabbath. All three times, Jesus rebukes the Pharisees for their faithless legalism.

Finally, we see Jesus still healing great crowds and casting out evil spirits. Even though the Pharisees do not see the signs that He is the Son of God, the demons certainly believe in Jesus!

## PREPARATION

Read and meditate on Mark 2-3 this week. **Use flannelgraph figures or other pictures to illustrate the lesson.**

## TEACHING ENCOURAGEMENT

Is it easy to admit you're a sinner? It may be easy to say the words, but our hearts fight against understanding the true depth of our sinfulness. Your children will also resist being tagged as sinners. They want to be thought of as "good" people, just as we all do. They want to deny and hide their sinful ways and thoughts. They want to justify and explain. Today's lesson will give you a chance to show them that Jesus will only call SINNERS, not the righteous. If they continue to cling to their righteousness, then Jesus is not available to them. What a scary thought for all of us! Show your children their sinfulness so they can run to Jesus with it.



## WELCOME

**Greet the students. Welcome visitors.**

**Ask the students:** *Who here likes to get gifts? I know a gift that every one of you needs, but you may not know you need it. Who can guess what this gift is?* **Allow answers.**

*The gift that I'm thinking about is called the "gift of forgiveness." Who would like to have this gift? It's a gift that releases you from the debt of your sin. It's a gift that keeps you from having to pay for your sins. Isn't that a great gift? It's better than money or toys or other stuff. And guess what? This gift is only available in Jesus Christ. You receive this gift when you receive Jesus! Think about this amazing gift as we study today.*



## DRILL TIME

*First, let's get ready for DRILL TIME. This is our weekly opportunity to review what we have learned in the past.*

**Today's questions:** *How many days a week has God given us to do our work? How many days a week has He given us as a Sabbath? What did God tell His people is the purpose of the Sabbath day? Why did God make one day a week different from all the rest?*

**Call on volunteers.**

**Answers:**

1. Six days.
2. One day.
3. To keep it holy by resting from work.
4. Because He created the heavens and the earth in six days, then rested on the seventh.

**Say:** *God made the Sabbath a holy day—one set apart for joy and rest and service to Him. Do you enjoy the Sabbath day God has given you? Do you use it in worship of Him? You are using the Sabbath day that way right now!*



**Make sure the children can see the board.**

*Are you ready for another Word of the Week? This week's word is **SINNER**. Write the word on the board.*

*What is a **SINNER**? **Allow answers.** A **SINNER** is anyone who sins! So who in here is a **SINNER**? All people are **SINNERS** because we are all born with **SIN** in our hearts.*

*Some people in the Bible were called "righteous" because they followed God's ways with all of their hearts. Yet, righteous people are still **SINNERS** too!*

*There are those who think that only people who do really, really bad things are **SINNERS**. They are mistaken. God's Word makes it clear that **ALL** people have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. We all fail to meet God's holy standard of perfection. We **SIN** because we are born **SINNERS**.*

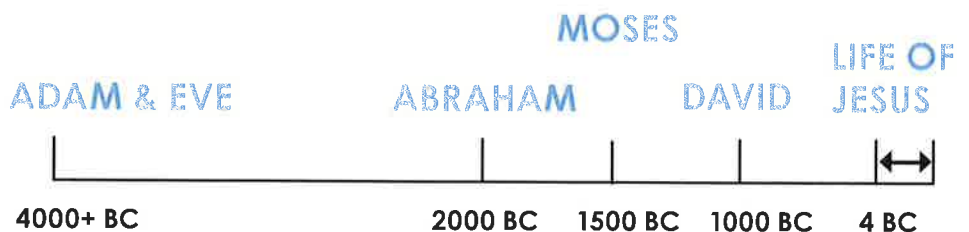
*Listen closely for our Word of the Week today. Jesus will use the word **SINNER** in a very important declaration!*



## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

**Draw this timeline on the board, if necessary. It is helpful to remind the students of historical context.**

### This Week's Timeline





**Use flannelgraph figures or pictures to illustrate the lesson.**

**Introduction:** *The Gospel of Mark was written so we could learn about the good news of the life of Jesus Christ. In Chapter One, Jesus demonstrated His AUTHORITY over sickness, disease and demons as He cared for people who came to Him. He even called a few disciples who followed Him. Great crowds also followed Him everywhere. What will Jesus do next?*

*Let's pick up in Mark 2. Read Mark 2:1-2.*

<sup>1</sup> And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. <sup>2</sup> And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them.

**Discussion:** *There are those large crowds again! Can you imagine having no room left for people to hear Jesus teach? What will people do?*

*Listen. Read verses 3-5.*

<sup>3</sup> And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. <sup>4</sup> And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. <sup>5</sup> And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

**Discussion:** *Who knows what a paralytic is? [A man who cannot move his arms and legs.] These friends made a way to bring their paralyzed friend to Jesus, didn't they? Through the roof! What did Jesus do for the paralytic? [He forgave His sins.] What a great gift! Did the paralytic need his sins forgiven? Yes, because he's a SINNER like you and me. He also needed friends who could help him get to Jesus. So do we!*

*Let's read more. Read verses 6-12.*

<sup>6</sup> Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, <sup>7</sup> "Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" <sup>8</sup> And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question these things in your hearts? <sup>9</sup> Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or





to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk’? <sup>10</sup> But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic— <sup>11</sup> “I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.” <sup>12</sup> And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

**Discussion:** *The religious leaders rightly knew that only God could forgive SINNERS. So how can Jesus forgive sin? [Because He is the Son of God!] Jesus has all AUTHORITY over sin too! What does He do to prove that He has the power to forgive sin? [He also heals the paralyzed man.] So this man could walk again AND He was forgiven. Which was a greater gift? [Forgiveness.]*

**Application:** *As wonderful it is to have our friends or family members healed of sickness or disease, what’s best of all is that Jesus would forgive their sins. This is the healing of the soul that you and I desperately need!*

*Let’s keep reading. Read verses 13-16.*

<sup>13</sup> He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. <sup>14</sup> And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him. <sup>15</sup> And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. <sup>16</sup> And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

**Discussion:** *Who did Jesus call next to be His disciple? [Levi, also known as Matthew.] What did Levi do for a living? [He was a tax collector.] The Jews hated tax collectors, since it was their job to take their money and give it to Caesar. Who did Jesus eat with at Levi’s house? [Other tax collectors and SINNERS.] The Pharisees thought that only really bad people were SINNERS and they themselves were “righteous” people.*

*Listen to what Jesus says. Read verse 17.*

<sup>17</sup> And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”



**Discussion:** *Did you hear our Word of the Week? Who did Jesus come to earth for? [SINNERS.] Jesus compares Himself to a doctor. Do doctors take care of healthy people or sick people? [Sick people.] So, Jesus has come for SINNERS who have sin-sick souls. The problem with the Pharisees is that they didn't think that they were SINNERS!*

**Application:** *Do you think you are healthy enough to enter heaven on your own? Or do you know that you are a SINNER who needs the grace of God to be with Him forever. In order to follow Jesus, you must know that you are a SINNER!*

*Let's continue. Read verses 18-22.*

<sup>18</sup> Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. And people came and said to him, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" <sup>19</sup> And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. <sup>20</sup> The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day. <sup>21</sup> No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. <sup>22</sup> And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins—and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins."

**Discussion:** *Fasting is the act of not eating for a time so that you can focus on worshiping God instead of feeding yourself. The Pharisees thought that Jesus' disciples should be fasting like everyone else. Jesus says that they don't need to fast because He is God and they can worship Him while He is on earth. Fasting is only necessary as we wait for Jesus to return. Jesus was again telling the Pharisees that He is the Son of God!*

*Listen to what the Pharisees do next. Read verses 23-24.*

<sup>23</sup> One Sabbath he was going through the grainfields, and as they made their way, his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. <sup>24</sup> And the Pharisees were saying to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?"

**Discussion:** *Did you hear that? The Pharisees were accusing the disciples of breaking the Sabbath law. The Sabbath law said that no*



*work could be done on the Sabbath. The Pharisees thought that picking heads of grain and eating them was working.*

*Let's see what Jesus says. **Read verses 25-27.***

<sup>25</sup> And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did, when he was in need and was hungry, he and those who were with him: <sup>26</sup> how he entered the house of God, in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?" <sup>27</sup> And he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.

**Discussion:** *Like we said earlier, the Pharisees were people who made the Sabbath into a day of strictly obeying laws. God had made the Sabbath day as a day of rest and joy for His people. Jesus knew what the Sabbath was all about because He has AUTHORITY over the Sabbath. He created it!*

**Application:** *Every Sunday is a day to find joy and rest in the worship of God and in fellowship with other believers. It is not meant to be a day of what you can't do, but what you can do! Thank God for His Sabbath rest.*

*Let's go to the next chapter. **Read Mark 3:1-6.***

<sup>1</sup> Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there with a withered hand. <sup>2</sup> And they watched Jesus, to see whether he would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. <sup>3</sup> And he said to the man with the withered hand, "Come here." <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

**Discussion:** *What was wrong with the man in the synagogue? [He had a withered hand.] What did Jesus do for him? [He healed his hand.] Why were the Pharisees so angry with Jesus? [They thought He was disobeying the Sabbath law.] Was Jesus disobeying God's law? [No!] He was doing what was right on the Sabbath. He was doing good and giving life. The Pharisees were only thinking evil*



*thoughts and plotting to kill Jesus! What a contrast! How could healing someone be wrong? The Pharisees created laws that were not God's law.*

*Let's finish our reading. **Read verses 7-12.***

*<sup>7</sup> Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the sea, and a great crowd followed, from Galilee and Judea <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> And he told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, lest they crush him, <sup>10</sup> for he had healed many, so that all who had diseases pressed around him to touch him. <sup>11</sup> And whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God." <sup>12</sup> And he strictly ordered them not to make him known.*

**Discussion:** *More large crowds following Jesus! Evil spirits are being cast out of people. What do these evil spirits know about Jesus? [They know He is the Son of God.] Yet it's not time for Jesus to fully reveal who He is to the world. He is clearly demonstrating His power over sin, sickness and Satan, isn't He?*

**Conclusion:** *While evil spirits know who Jesus is, the Pharisees and other religious leaders do not. They just think Jesus is a false teacher who needs to be silenced. Why do the Pharisees think that? Because they don't believe they are SINNERS in need of Jesus. They are rejecting salvation because they just look at other people as SINNERS. The crowds following Jesus certainly knew their need for Jesus, didn't they? Are they SINNERS who need their sins forgiven? Are you?*

*We'll move on to more from the Gospel of Mark next time!*





## LESSON-AT-HOME

**Distribute the “Lesson-At-Home” bookmarks. Read the Scripture Memory verse (Mark 2:17) together.**

**Mark 2:17 (ESV)**

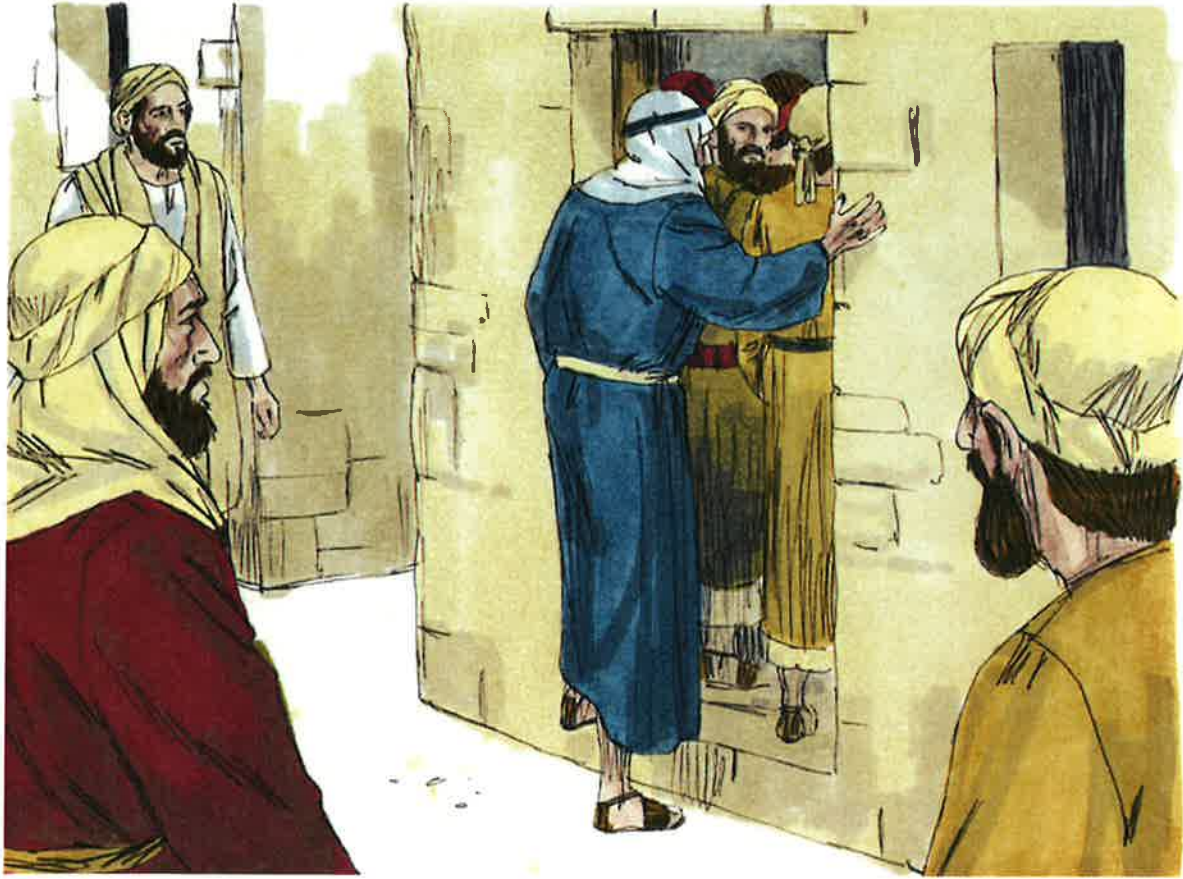
<sup>17</sup> And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

**Say:** *We just read this verse, didn’t we? Who did Jesus come to die for? [SINNERS.] Those who think that they’re righteous will not receive Jesus and His salvation. Are you a SINNER?*

**Review the verse a couple of times.**

**Direct the students’ attentions to the bottom half of the bookmark. It includes reminder points of today’s lesson that can be discussed with their parents and reviewed during the week.**

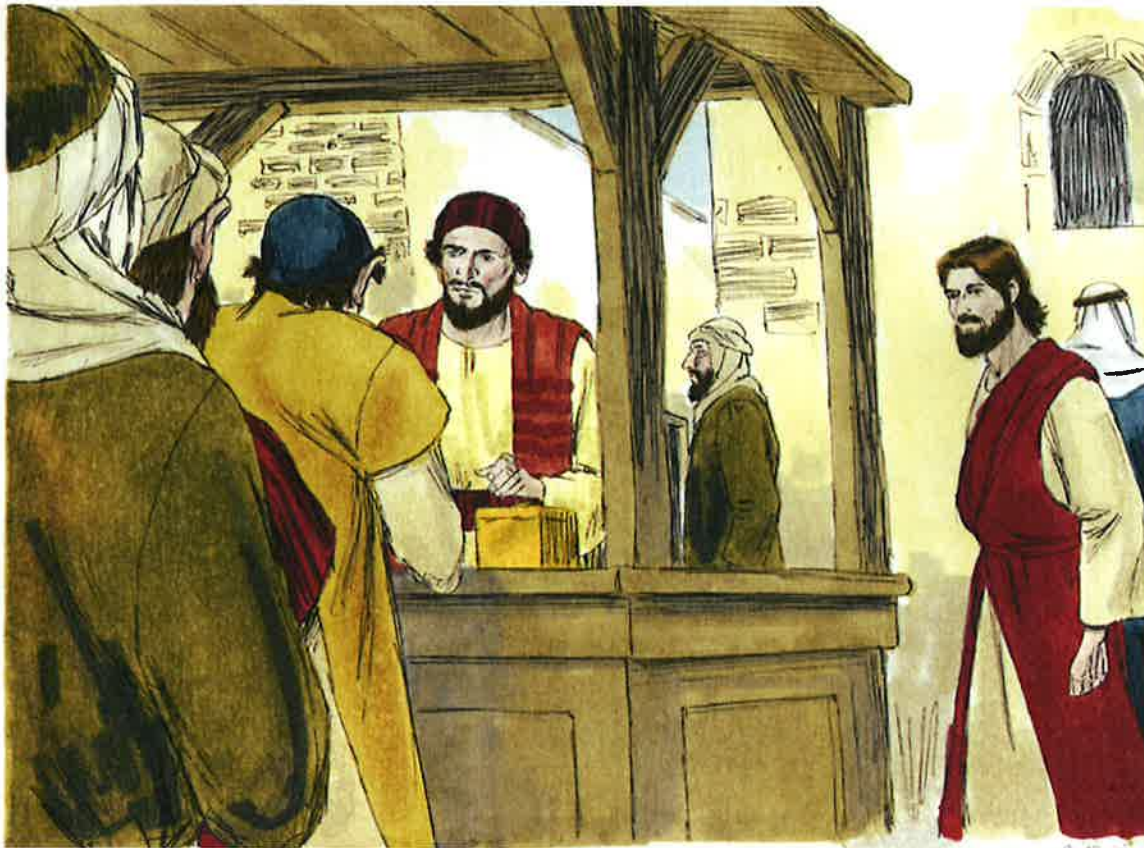
**Close in prayer and dismiss the students.**



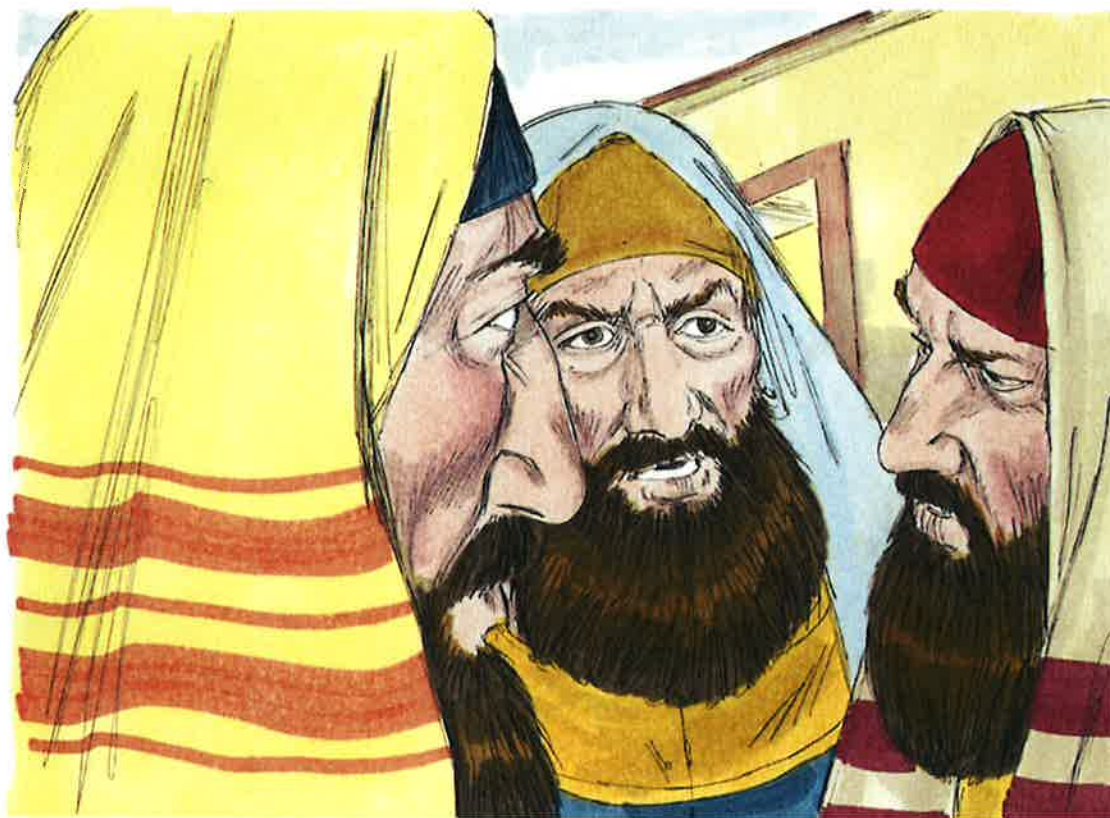




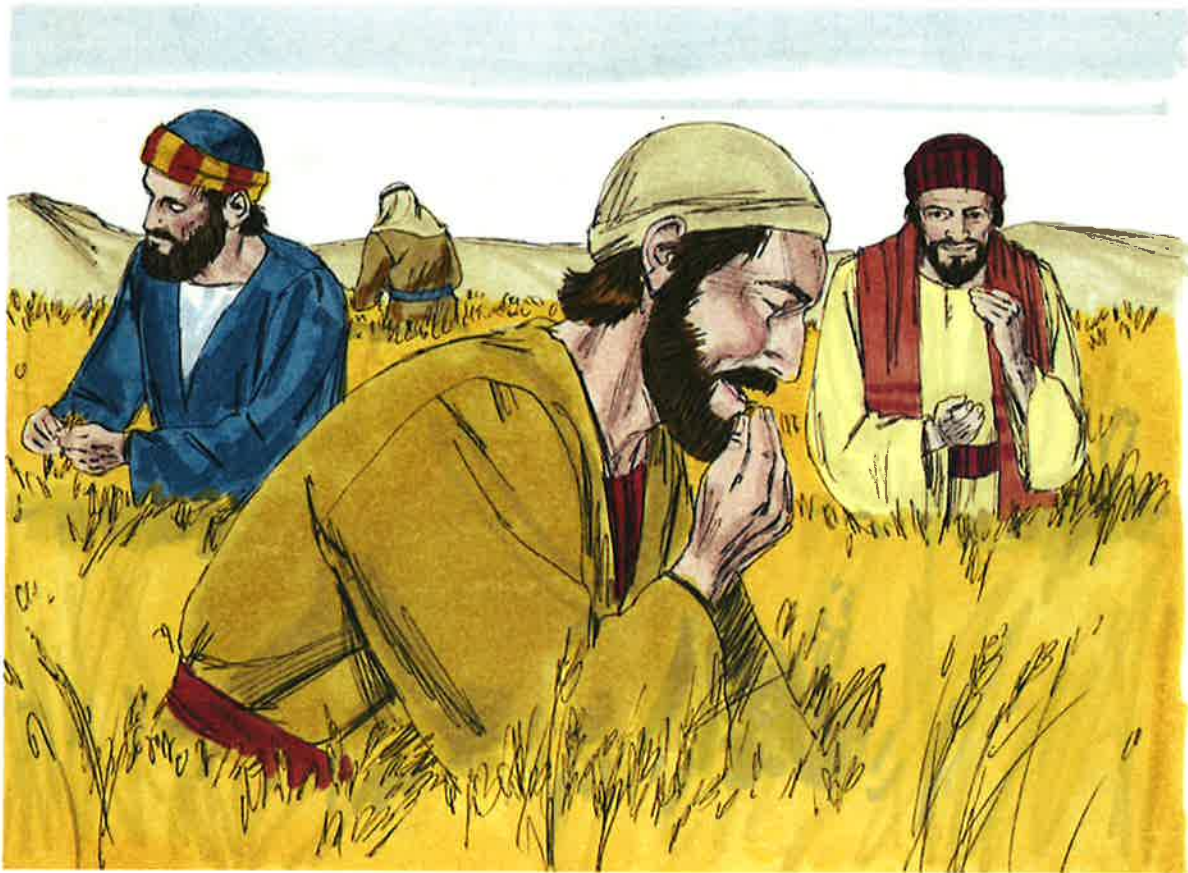


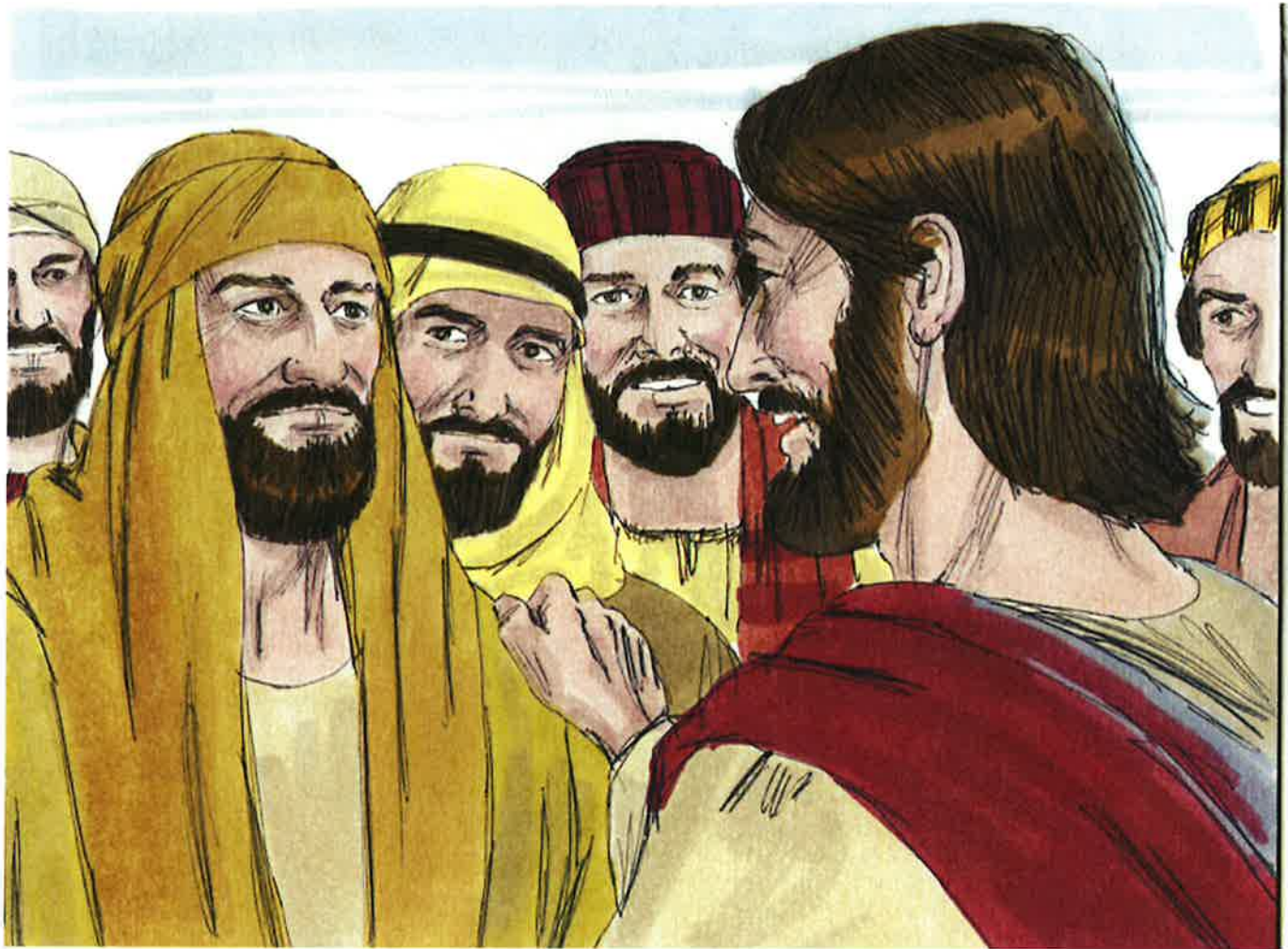














# Lesson-At-Home

## Bookmark

### Scripture Memory

Mark 2:17

*And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who a well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."*

### Lesson Review

Mark 2:1-3:12

*Paralytic let down through the roof.*

*Jesus heals and forgives his sins.*

*Jesus eats with SINNERS.*

*Pharisees regularly attack Jesus.*

# Year TWO

Investigating God's Word.  
Summer Quarter ~ Lesson Two

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