

THE SERVANT KING

Mark 2:18-3:6, 3:20-35

October 12, 2025

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Message Summary.

Amid criticism, Jesus revealed Himself—the joyful Bridegroom, Sabbath’s Lord, and the Stronger One—courageously restoring rest, reshaping practice, and freeing hearts.

Key Scripture Summaries.

Mark 2:19-22. Jesus calls Himself the Bridegroom. His presence reshapes our spiritual practices, and grace expands where rigidity bursts.

Mark 2:27-28; 3:1-6. Jesus restores a man’s hand and reclaims the Sabbath as a gift of mercy, not a burden of rules.

Mark 3:23-27. Jesus is the Stronger One who binds the strong man and sets captives free.

Mark 3:35. True family is found in doing the will of God. **Isaiah 62:5; Hosea 2:19-20.** God’s covenant love is like a bridegroom rejoicing over His bride.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23. Love flexes to reach others without compromising truth.

Genesis 2:2-3; Exodus 20:8-11; Deuteronomy 5:15. Sabbath reminds us we are not machines or slaves, but beloved children.

Colossians 1:13-14; 2:15. Jesus rescues us from darkness and triumphs over evil.

Start Talking.

1. When have you felt misunderstood for your faith or your devotion to Jesus? How did you respond?
2. What are some examples of “criticism culture” you’ve seen in our world today? How does it shape your reactions?

Start Thinking.

- Read Mark 2:19-22. What does Jesus mean when He says, “The bridegroom is with them”? How does His presence change how we live out spiritual practices?
- Read Mark 2:27-3:5. Why do you think Jesus confronted the Pharisees so directly about Sabbath? What does His anger and compassion show us about God’s heart?
- Read Mark 3:23-27. What does it mean that Jesus is the “Stronger One”? How does this

truth bring hope when we face spiritual or personal battles?

- Why do you think Jesus redefined “family” in Mark 3:35? What does that teach us about community and obedience?

Start Sharing.

1. Which of the three scenes (Bridegroom, Sabbath, Stronger One) speaks most to where you are right now, and why?
2. What’s one practice or habit that has become rigid for you? How might Jesus be inviting you to “pour new wine into new wineskins”?
3. How do you personally practice Sabbath rest and restoration? What’s one way you could protect delight this week?
4. Where have you seen Jesus show Himself stronger than what once bound you: fear, shame, sin, or cynicism?

Start Praying.

Jesus, Bridegroom and Lord of the Sabbath, Stronger One. Reshape us; teach us to rest, free what’s bound, heal what’s withered, and give us courage to follow You. Amen.

Start Doing.

- Presence. Pause daily to notice Jesus’s nearness. Give Him your first 10 minutes. Ask, “Jesus, what needs to flex today?” Obey before lunch.
- Mercy. Plan a 4-6 hour Sabbath block. Stop work, delight in His gifts, worship in Scripture and prayer, do good for someone.
- Allegiance. Name what binds: fear, anger, hurry, addiction, and invite the Stronger One to break it. Tell a trusted friend; pray together.
- Encourage. Text someone where you see God at work. Speak life; strengthen the family.
- Reflect. Where am I chasing reputation over relationship, performing instead of abiding? Write: “Jesus, I want Your presence more than my performance.”