



## Rock Bridge Small Group Discussion Guide Rhythm – Part 1 LEADER GUIDE

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### LEADERS: JOIN US FOR 24 DAYS OF PRAYER (February 10th - March 4th)

- Pray with us daily by text message. Messages will come out at 11 AM. **Subscribe by texting PRAY24 to 888-744-0761, or ORAR24 for the Spanish version.**
- Plan on coming to First Wednesday as a group on Wednesday March 4th for a focused day of prayer.
- **FAST with us as a church from March 2nd to March 4th.** There are many options for fasting, but have your group join together in this critical time of seeking God.

#### WE WILL BE PRAYING:

##### 1) For the favor of the Lord in our lives, for His glory!

Psalm 123:2b says - "so our eyes are on the Lord our God until he shows us favor."

##### 2) For more of the Holy Spirit.

Luke 11:13 - If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"

#### HELP LEAD YOUR GROUP IN THIS CRITICAL TIME OF SEEKING GOD!

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#### ICE BREAKER:

- What is your favorite way to end the day, or to unwind from a tiring day?

#### MAIN POINT:

- Jesus is not trying to be NORMAL; but He is pursuing anointing.

Read this out to the group as a type of road map for where the discussion should go.

#### INTO THE WORD:

Before reading this passage as a group, consider the following **Core Questions**. Read these questions aloud to frame up your discussion.

1. What does this passage reveal about what God is like? I.e. Obvious statements, attributes of His character, ability, etc.
2. What are some key words or phrases and how do they help us understand what is being said?
3. Is there some kind of action that we are called to? A sin to confess? Something to thank God for? Someone to pray for or encourage? A behavior I need to change?

*These are questions that can/should be used to help teach basic Bible observation. Use the same questions each week. It is good to have them read the questions prior to reading the passage so that they read with the questions in mind.*

**Passage Summary:** *Despite the need, the demands and the expectations of the people, Jesus made Himself unavailable and never let demands dictate His schedule. Jesus prioritized prayer and purpose—even if people were disappointed..*

*Read the Summary out before the passage. This will help set up the direction of the discussion.*

#### Passage(s) to Read: **Mark 1:32-39**

#### DISCUSSION:

1. Discuss the core questions as they relate to the passages.
2. Imagine the scene from vs. 32-34, and describe what it might have looked like. Why do you think Jesus silenced the demons?

*The scene was probably very chaotic, with incredible amounts of joy and emotion and people were healed and set free. There might have been angry outbursts and people in need were fighting to get to Jesus. Also, Jesus silenced the demons because they were declaring who he was ahead of God's timing. The Jews were in no way prepared to accept Jesus as the Messiah yet, and that declaration would have certainly offended them and closed them off to the miracles God desired to do.*

3. What pressures do you think Jesus must have felt from a day like this day? Based on those pressures, what might he have been praying about?

*Jesus had to feel the pressure of all the needs. And since more people would be coming, he had to feel that there would be great disappointment if he left the area. Oftentimes such pressure can cloud our judgment and our ability to hear from God. We can bet that Jesus was praying about what he needed to do next, move on or stay and minister longer.*

4. How do you think Peter and the other disciples felt about this decision?

*We cannot know for sure, but they were obviously disappointed. However, as they were honored by being invited into Jesus ministry, they submitted to His decision and trusted He was following God.*

#### **APPLICATION:**

5. What are some ways that we might be “cheating” God of our best in how we use our resources? (Time, money, relationships, etc.?)
6. What do you need to do to stop cheating God of your best, and put healthy rhythms in place? What might you have to give up to do this?
7. What are some ways that we can “unplug” and be disconnected with the world but more connected to God?
8. If we choose “anointed” some people will be frustrated/disappointed with us. What might that look like? Who might be disappointed with you and why?

#### **STEPS OF OBEDIENCE**

- **As we consider a church-wide fast in a few weeks, what might that look like in your life? Talk about various fasts that you might have heard of, and what you might choose.**

#### **PRAYER TIME**

- Get in pairs or groups of three and pray for this season to be one of greater surrender to God and more of Him in our lives.
- If anyone in the group has a special prayer request, make sure that is shared with the group.