



A 4-WEEK SERIES FROM THE BOOK OF MARK ON

LOVING LIKE JESUS

A *LOVING OTHERS SERIES* FROM GROW'S ANNUAL *TEACHING STRATEGY*



CREATED WITH . . .

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ABOUT THIS SERIES

Have you ever found a playlist that felt like it was made exactly for you? When music connects with us, we'll want to play the songs on repeat because we never get tired of hearing them. When Jesus taught his followers what it looked like to live for God, he wanted them to get that same feeling, too. In this 4-week series from the book of Mark, we'll take a look at how we can make loving like Jesus a daily part of our lives. He shows us that **listening, loving others, caring** for their needs, and offering **encouragement are worth repeating**.

WEEK 1

This week, we'll look at the story where Jesus stopped to listen to a man named Bartimaeus.

- **BIG IDEA:** Jesus shows us listening is worth repeating.
- **BIBLE:** Mark 10:46–52; Proverbs 18:13; James 1:19

WEEK 2

This week, we'll hear a story about a man who wanted to know which rules to listen to and follow first.

- **BIG IDEA:** Jesus shows us love is worth repeating.
- **BIBLE:** Mark 12:28–34; Colossians 3:12–14; John 3:16

WEEK 3

This week, we'll hear a story about how Jesus helped care for someone he met while traveling.

- **BIG IDEA:** Jesus shows us caring is worth repeating.
- **BIBLE:** Mark 1:40–45; Psalm 146:6–10; Romans 13:8

WEEK 4

This week, we'll hear a story about a group of friends who did everything possible to get their paralyzed friend in front of Jesus.

- **BIG IDEA:** Jesus shows us encouragement is worth repeating.
- **BIBLE:** Mark 2:1–12; Hebrews 10:24–25; 1 Thessalonians 5:11

MEMORY VERSE: "Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."
— Ephesians 5:1–2 (NIV)

THIS WEEK

BIG IDEA

Jesus shows us listening is worth repeating.

BIBLE

Mark 10:46–52; Proverbs 18:13;
James 1:19

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Music plays in the background of almost every store we enter, but how often do we actually listen to it? This week, we'll look at the story where Jesus stopped to listen to a man named Bartimaeus. By slowing down to pay attention to what was happening in the lives of the people around him, **Jesus shows us listening is worth repeating.**

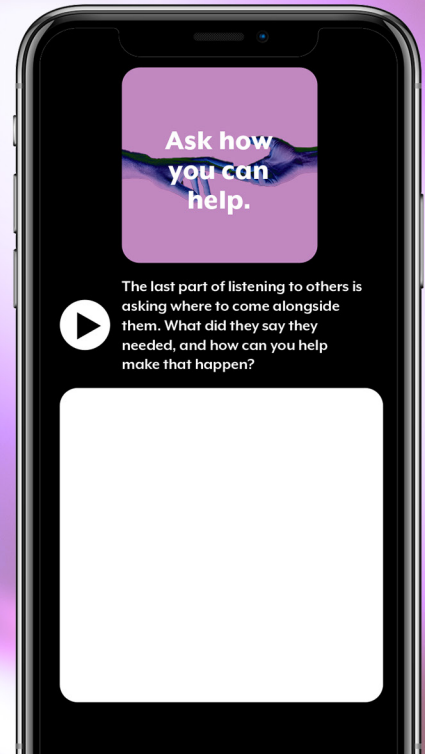
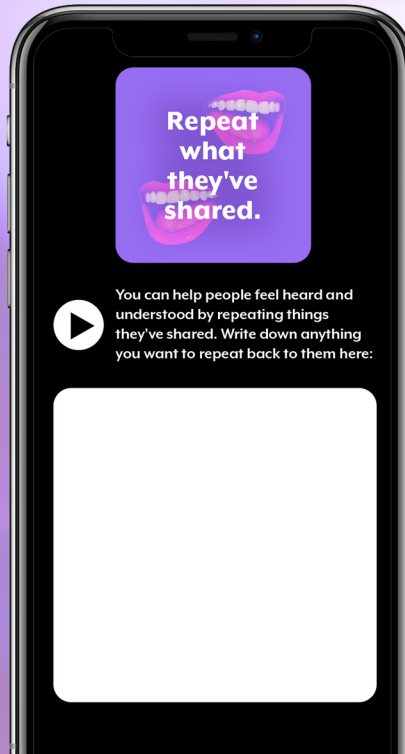
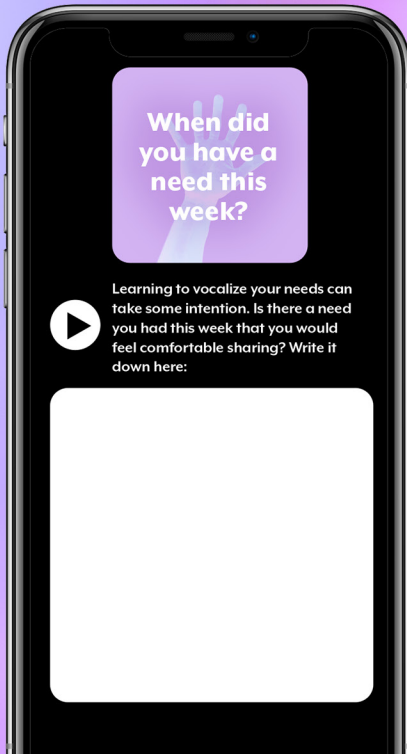
- What is a song that gets stuck in your head any time you hear it?
- Was there a time when you felt like you felt genuinely listened to? How did it make you feel? What did they do to make you feel listened to?
- How do you think doing something for someone without listening to them might actually hurt the relationship—even if you are doing something helpful?
- Why do you think Jesus asked Bartimaeus what Jesus wanted him to do for him?
- When you have needs, do you feel like you can ask for them like Bartimaeus? What holds you back from asking?
- What characters in the story did you relate with the most? If you had been in their positions, what would have been going through your mind? How would you have reacted? Would you have done anything differently?
- This week, how will you use listening as a way to love someone in your own life?
- Read James 1:19. How do you think being quick to speak and slow to listen makes anger more likely?
- What is one way you want to commit to intentionally listening before speaking this week?
- Today, what is one relationship where you can begin practicing this week's listening on repeat? What will that look like in practice?



INSTRUCTIONS: Make a small group playlist. Have each person pick a song to add to a playlist your group can listen to this week to help reflect on what it looks like to listen to others.

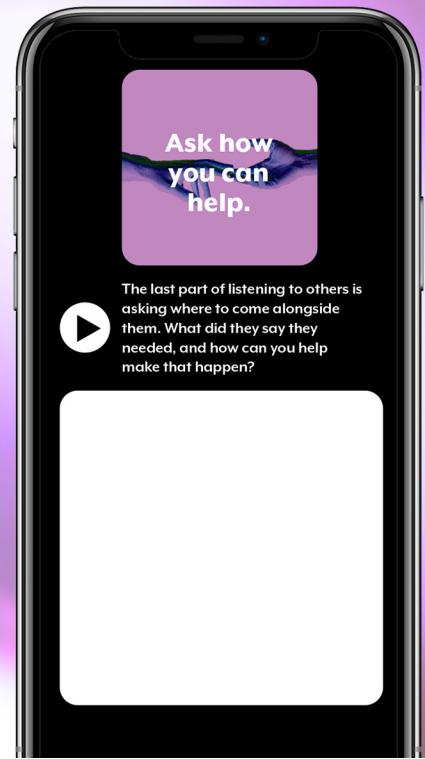
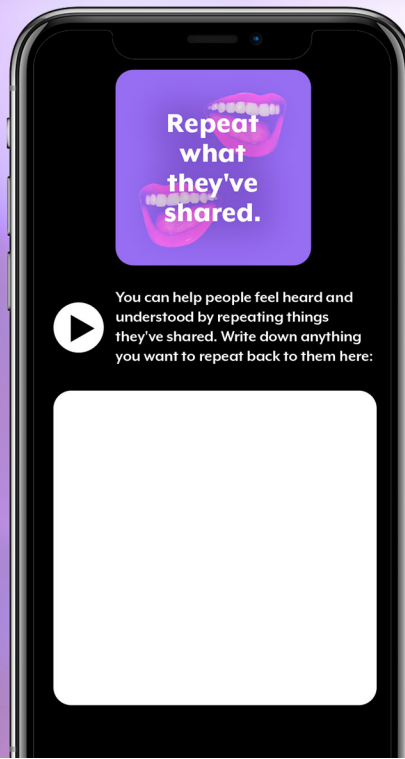
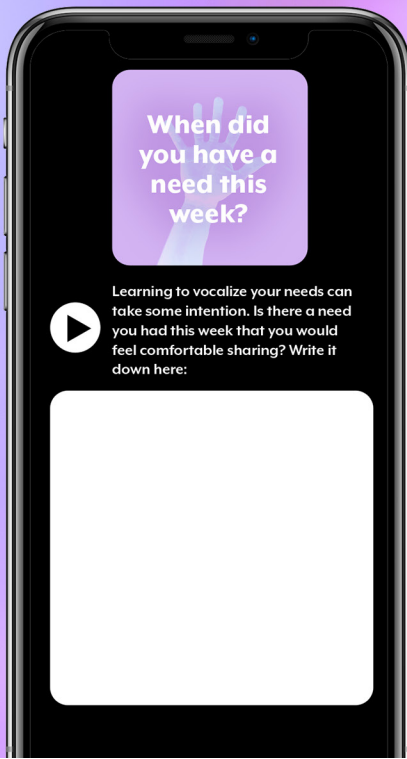
LEARNING TO LISTEN

Jesus shows us listening is worth repeating.



LEARNING TO LISTEN

Jesus shows us listening is worth repeating.



WEEK 2

DISCUSSION GUIDE



THIS WEEK

BIG IDEA

Jesus shows us love
is worth repeating.

BIBLE

Mark 12:28–34; Colossians 3:12–14;
John 3:16

ABOUT THIS WEEK

If you searched for a love playlist on Spotify, you'd end up with thousands of results, but which would be the best one to listen to? This week, we'll hear a story about a man who wanted to know which rules to listen to and follow first. In his response focused on love, **Jesus shows us love is worth repeating.**

- **What's your favorite hype song? What's your favorite love song?**
- **Is there a real-life or fictional person you think of when you hear the word "love"? What about them makes you associate love with them?**
- **What are ways you appreciate people showing they love you?**
- **Do you think Jesus connecting loving God and loving people makes love more difficult to demonstrate or easier? Why or why not?**
- **Can you think of anyone whose ability to love others inspired you to love God more? What did they do that led to that response in you?**
- **How has someone shown you love by living out the way that Paul talks about love?**
- **Read John 3:16. Jesus demonstrated love in all sorts of different ways before he died on the cross – what are some ways you saw Jesus show love for us? Why are those important?**
- **Has there been a time someone has shown you love that prompted you to show love to someone else? What would it look like to do that more often?**
- **What's one way you can demonstrate God's love to someone else this week?**
- **Today, who is a person you can go out of your way to demonstrate love on repeat?**



INSTRUCTIONS: *Make a small group playlist. Have each person pick a song to add to a playlist your group can listen to this week to help reflect on what it looks like to listen to others.*

WHAT DO YOU LOVE?

Jesus shows us love is worth repeating.



WHAT DO YOU LOVE?

Jesus shows us love is worth repeating.



WEEK 3

DISCUSSION GUIDE



THIS WEEK

BIG IDEA

Jesus shows us caring is worth repeating.

BIBLE

Mark 1:40–45; Psalm 146:6–10;
Romans 13:8

ABOUT THIS WEEK

One of the ways we can show our friends we care about them is by making a custom playlist for them. This week, we'll hear a story about how Jesus helped care for someone he met while traveling. Jesus took care of this man's needs in a way that only he could, and by doing so, **Jesus shows us that caring is worth repeating.**

- What song do you find annoying? What about it annoys you?
- Have you ever had someone show up for you when you needed help? What did they do for you?
- Has there been a time you wanted to do something for someone else but didn't know how to help? What happened?
- Suppose had been in the shoes of the man who had leprosy. What would you have felt as a result of Jesus not just healing you but touching you?
- If you had been in the crowd and saw Jesus touch the man with leprosy, how would you would have responded?
- Why do you think Jesus made an effort not just physically to heal people but to restore them to relationships and community?
- What do you think is the biggest barrier keeping you from noticing and acting on the needs of others? What would it look like to overcome that barrier?
- How do you think not just seeing the need but *feeling* the need someone else has can help you care for them?
- Read Romans 13:8. How do you think living like you owe people an ongoing debt of care or kindness can change the way you see others and your responsibility towards them?
- What's one way you will care for others like Jesus did this week?



INSTRUCTIONS: Make a small group playlist. Have each person pick a song to add to a playlist your group can listen to this week to help reflect on what it looks like to care for others.

WEEK 4 DISCUSSION GUIDE



THIS WEEK

BIG IDEA

Jesus shows us encouragement is worth repeating.

BIBLE

Mark 2:1–12; Hebrews 10:24–25;
1 Thessalonians 5:11

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Have you ever had a friend send you a song that was exactly what you needed to hear? This week, we'll hear a story about a group of friends who did everything possible to get their paralyzed friend in front of Jesus. They knew that Jesus had something their friend needed to hear, and we'll see how **Jesus shows us encouragement is worth repeating.**

- What band or song do you love that the people who know you would find surprising?
- What's the best piece of encouragement you have ever been given?
- What are some of the feelings you have when you have been encouraged? How do you feel when you need encouragement but don't get it?
- Who do you relate with most in the story? The crowd? The friends who got on the roof? The paralyzed man? The disciples? What would you feel if you were in their position?
- What might keep you from doing what the friends did to help their friend?
- What do you think is more challenging—to be the friend who needs help or the friend who does the helping?
- Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11. Has there been a time you felt built up by someone's encouragement? What happened? How can you do that for someone else?
- Who are some people in your life who encourage you well? What is one thing they do that you could begin doing?
- What is something that holds you back from encouraging others? What would it look like to move past that this week?
- Who is one person you can encourage this week, and what will you do to encourage them?



INSTRUCTIONS: Make a small group playlist. Have each person pick a song to add to a playlist your group can listen to this week to help reflect on what it looks like to encourage others.

LOOKING FOR A DEVOTIONAL?



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DEVOTIONAL

for volunteers



Have you ever found a playlist that felt like it was made exactly for you? When music connects with us, we'll want to play the songs on repeat because we never get tired of hearing them. When Jesus taught his followers what it looked like to live for God, he wanted them to get that same feeling, too. In this 4-week series from the book of Mark, we'll take a look at how we can make loving like Jesus a daily part of our lives. He shows us that **listening, loving** others, **caring** for their needs, and offering **encouragement are worth repeating**.

To get ready for this teaching series, spend a few minutes each week **studying** the passages of Scripture we'll be teaching, **praying** about what God wants to do in and through us in the next few weeks, and **growing** by putting God's words into practice in your own life.

WEEK 1 Jesus shows us listening is worth repeating.

Mark 10:46–52; Proverbs 18:13; James 1:19

STUDY

Take a moment to read the passages we're covering this week.
What stands out to you in this passage and why?

PRAY

This week, ask God to give you chances to listen to others.

GROW

So what's your next step? Can you look for practical tools to help you listen? Can you ask more questions before taking action? Is there a specific relationship where you struggle to listen? Whatever your next step is right now, take it.

WEEK 2 Jesus shows us love is worth repeating.

Mark 12:28–34; Colossians 3:12–14; John 3:16

STUDY

Take a moment to read the passages we're covering this week.
What stands out to you in this passage and why?

PRAY

This week, ask God to help you show Jesus' love to others.

GROW

So what's your next step? Could you ask someone for guidance as you grow in love, compassion, humility, and kindness? Do you need help receiving Jesus' love? Is there something blocking you from showing love that you could work through? Whatever your next step is right now, take it.

WEEK 3 Jesus shows us caring is worth repeating.

Mark 1:40–45; Psalm 146:6–10; Romans 13:8

STUDY

Take a moment to read the passages we're covering this week.
What stands out to you in this passage and why?

PRAY

This week, thank God for sending you people who care for you.

GROW

So what's your next step? Could you prioritize how you show care for others? Could you thank someone for taking care of you? Is there a need in your community you could respond to today? This week? This month? Whatever your next step is right now, take it.

WEEK 4 Jesus shows us encouragement is worth repeating.

Mark 2:1–12; Hebrews 10:24–25; 1 Thessalonians 5:11

STUDY

Take a moment to read the passages we're covering this week.
What stands out to you in this passage and why?

PRAY

This week, ask God to give you the words to encourage someone else.

GROW

So what's your next step? Could you offer encouragement to someone you struggle to show love to? Do you need to make a list of encouragements for times when you need them? Is there someone you could encourage through a short but meaningful text message? Whatever your next step is right now, take it.