

# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

**June 9-10**

**“Something to Chew On”**

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## What Is This?

This brief guide is intended for use individually, or in small groups. It's your chance to dive deeper into the issues raised in the weekend sermon and to connect a Biblical story with your daily life.

## Revisit the Text

Mark 3:20-35; <https://bit.ly/2sPfCfc>

## Big Ideas Raised

- When God sent God's son, Jesus, to have an earthly experience, God meant it! Jesus wasn't spared of any of the grit that all humanity endures. After all, he was born in a barn! In this story we find Jesus having a very real day. His neighbors and family think he's out of his mind, the religious folks think he's possessed, and he's even restrained.
- Jesus, ever a teacher, continues to teach in an attempt to reach the hearts of his students, the crowd, even though they are condemning him. Jesus teaches as Jesus does, using metaphor and parable and in question form. In his lesson Jesus says "a house divided cannot stand", which was famously quoted by Abraham Lincoln in a campaign speech for the US Senate. For Jesus, and for Lincoln, this image becomes a powerful cry for unity. And perhaps an even more powerful commentary on the result of dividedness: destruction.
- The blaspheme illustrated in the story, is that of the crowd failing to recognize the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of Jesus. They turned their backs on God's will, which Jesus calls unforgivable. How I interpret this, is that they are unforgivable because by turning their backs on God, they are turning their backs on the very vehicle of forgiveness. By re-orienting themselves to God's will and light, forgiveness is once again assured.

## Questions Meant to Dig Deeper

- Remember a time when you felt misunderstood, either by your family, peers, or the authorities, like Jesus was in this passage. What was that like for you? What were the spiritual ramifications you faced? Did you feel understood by God?
- Now ask yourself, is there anyone (or anything) in your life today that you are having a particularly difficult time understanding? Perhaps in your family or community? Could it be that you aren't recognizing the Holy Spirit at work in their lives? How do you discern that which is good from that which is evil?
- How do you contribute to the cause of unity that Jesus was so passionate about? What about unity within the church? After all as Rachel Held Evans\* says, "The church is not a group of people who believe all the same things; the church is a group of people caught up in the same story, with Jesus at the center."

\*My favorite author, check out her new book *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again*. If you do, let's talk about it over a cup of coffee!

## Revisit the Sermon

For a recording or a manuscript of this weekend's sermon, please visit: <https://www.stlucasucc.org/sermons-resources>