



09

MARK 11:12-25

WAY MAKER



THIS WEEK'S **focus**

None of us are born knowing how to do everything. We all need help from time to time, no matter how independent we think we are. It can be hard to ask for help under normal circumstances, but it's even harder when it feels like people don't care about us or don't want to be bothered. In today's lesson, we'll watch Jesus stand up for people who were being left out, correct the people who were getting in their way, and encourage His disciples to rely on God for the help they would need. Jesus is just the kind of friend we need: the ultimate helper, a champion, a way maker.



CENTRAL **truth**

Jesus restores our connection with God.



EXPLORE

scripture

MARK 11:11-25

MARK 11:11-17

11 He went into Jerusalem and into the temple. After looking around at everything, since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve. **12** The next day when they went out from Bethany, he was hungry. **13** Seeing in the distance a fig tree with leaves, he went to find out if there was anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for it was not the season for figs. **14** He said to it, “May no one ever eat fruit

from you again!” And his disciples heard it. **15** They came to Jerusalem, and he went into the temple and began to throw out those buying and selling. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves, **16** and would not permit anyone to carry goods through the temple. **17** He was teaching them: “Is it not written, My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations? But you have made it a den of thieves!”

MARK 11:18-21

18 The chief priests and the scribes heard it and started looking for a way to kill him. For they were afraid of him, because the whole crowd was astonished by his teaching. **19** Whenever evening came, they would go out of the city. **20** Early in

the morning, as they were passing by, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots up. **21** Then Peter remembered and said to him, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered.”

MARK 11:22-25

22 Jesus replied to them, “Have faith in God. **23** Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. **24** Therefore I tell you, everything you pray

and ask for—believe that you have received it and it will be yours. **25** And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven will also forgive you your wrongdoing.”

DAILY devotions

MEMORIZE MARK 11:17

7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about humans?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

MARK 11:11

DWELL

Jesus wasn't impulsive. Since He was God, He knew way more than we do, but He still didn't rush things. Instead, He took time to think, pray, and prepare, especially when He was about to do something big, stressful, or important. For instance, He didn't just ask for a show of hands when He chose the twelve. He spent all night praying first. If we want to represent Him well, we also have to learn to take pray and consider before we act.



What are some things you should do to prepare for action, according to this verse?



Do you tend to rush into decisions and actions, or do you take your time? Why? How could you practice having more patience?

MEMORIZE

Write Mark 11:17 on a few sticky notes, and put the notes in places you will see them throughout the day. When you see one, stop and read it out loud.

PRAY

Thank God for Jesus's example of acting in His wisdom, not human wisdom. Promise to take time to pray and plan before taking any actions you think God wants you to make.

day 2

MARK 11:12-14

DWELL

Jesus isn't like us, so we don't always understand Him. The disciples didn't either, but they knew how to respond when He did things they didn't expect. They watched. They listened. And they waited. It took them a while to learn this, of course. Remember Peter's nervous talking just to fill awkward silence during Jesus's transfiguration? (See Mark 9:5-6.) Fortunately for us, we get to learn from their mistakes and hopefully do better sooner.

← What questions might the disciples have had about Jesus's behavior?

→ Read 2 Timothy 4:2. How does that verse and today's passage challenge you?

MEMORIZE

Write down Mark 11:17 in a journal or on a note card, and circle any words that feel important. Look at just those words for a few moments, then close your eyes and say them. When you can get them all right without looking, try doing the same thing with the whole verse.

PRAY

Thank God for giving us insight into things we don't understand. Ask Him to teach you to watch, listen, and wait when you don't know what He's teaching you.

day 3

MARK 11:15-19

DWELL

We might think at first that this story excuses impulsive behavior. Not true. First, Jesus slept on the idea before He did anything. Second, we didn't actually see Jesus in action; we read about it, and it doesn't give us the whole picture. "Throwing out" might have involved pointing, not tossing. "Overturning" might have involved laying over, not kicking. We don't know the details; what we do know is Jesus cleared the way for worshipers. That is the helpful takeaway. When reading the Bible, it's important to look for lessons, not excuses. The first helps; the second hinders.

↓ How do you think different people responded to Jesus's actions in the temple? Why?

↻ This passage says Jesus was teaching. What lessons was He teaching? Who was He teaching?

MEMORIZE

See how much of Mark 11:17 you can remember by writing it down without looking. Check your work. Add or change as necessary and study it. Practice doing this throughout the week until you get it!

PRAY

Ask God to help you recognize the Holy Spirit's voice as you study the Bible. Promise not to use the Bible to justify your own wants or actions.

day 4

MARK 11:20-25

DWELL

Forgiveness doesn't mean feeling okay with what someone said or did; it means letting go of our resentment and anger toward that person. Once we choose forgiveness, our emotions usually follow, even if it takes a while. When we don't forgive, we burden our hearts with the responsibility of collecting a debt from someone else who isn't feeling that same burden. We weigh ourselves down. Forgiving others doesn't just reflect God's character—it sets us free.

↑ In what way is forgiveness an act of faith? What are you trusting God to do when you forgive someone?

↪ Why do you think Jesus used the example of moving mountains instead of examples of healing sickness or something else we usually pray for?

MEMORIZE

Try singing Mark 11:17 to the tune of a song you know well. Practice singing the verse to yourself as best as you can throughout the week.

PRAY

Thank God for the ability to forgive. Thank Him for not only forgiving you but making that forgiveness possible through His personal sacrifice. Ask God to remind you of His forgiveness when you are tempted not to forgive others.

day 5

MATTHEW 5:23-24

DWELL

Because forgiveness frees people, making it easier for people to forgive us is one of the kindest things we could do for them. Jesus didn't say we should apologize for something we didn't do. He said to reconcile, which just means working things out. Of course, there's no guarantee the person who is upset with us will forgive us, but as long as we do our part, we're good to go. We can worship with a clear conscience.

↓ How is refusing to reconcile with someone an act of rebellion?

↔ Why do you think God asks us to reconcile before giving Him gifts?

MEMORIZE

Try reciting Mark 11:17 from memory. Ask a friend or family member to help you by reminding you of any words you've forgotten.

PRAY

Thank God that we can ease other people's burdens by reconciling with them. Thank Him for making reconciliation with Him possible through Jesus. Thank God for the privilege of worshiping Him freely.

