



Introduction

Much like today, the people that were surrounding Jesus had many opinions about him, many of which were misguided and horribly offensive. One blasphemous opinion was that Jesus was actually working for the devil. Typically, when one places a label or stereotype on someone they are prone to dismiss their claims. This is what some were doing with Jesus -- writing him off. Yet, when one writes Jesus off, they unknowingly reject "life" itself.

Observation/Interpretation

- According to verse 21, What opinions did Jesus' brothers and sisters have about him?
- According to verse 22, What were the religious leaders (the Scribes) opinion of Jesus?
- In verses 23-29, Jesus subtly describes himself as being able to "bind the strongman" of a house in order to take his goods. What do you think Jesus was implying about this story.
- What does Jesus' story teach us about Satan and his power?

Application

- How does Jesus' response open our eyes to the reality of the spiritual war we're in?
- Do you feel like you can distinguish between the actions of God and works of the enemy?
- How in your life do/have you lived as if we are in a time of peace, instead of living in a time of war?
- How would your life look different if you really believed you were living in a time of spiritual war?

Prayer

Ask God for eyes to see the spiritual battle and pray for the strength to properly take your place in it.

Community Group Discussion

- Read the passage together out loud.
- Involve your group by asking/answering the study questions, taking the time to share.
- Ask for prayer requests and be sure to pray together.

Family Discussion

- Have your child/children read the passage aloud, if old enough otherwise you read it aloud.
- Involve them by asking questions.
- Ask for prayer requests and invite them to pray together as a family.

A great way to use of these notes is to start/join a Community Group

These notes can be used for personal bible study, yet, another way would be to invite some people together. We call these intentional gatherings, 'Community Groups'.

What is a Community Group?

Community Groups are small gatherings of believers (non-believers welcomed too!) that meet regularly for accountability, friendship, study of the Bible and prayer. Community Groups are an essential part of the mission of Calvary SLO Church as they are a place where we wrestle with the truths of the Bible and encourage one another toward the life God intends. Each community group is unique and molded by the people who attend it. Most community groups gather weekly and involve food, dialog, prayer, discussion for applying the Bible to practical living, and loving service to one-another. They're meant to be an organic and authentic expression of the church, actively living like the body of Jesus.

Why should I join/start a Community Group?

God is a Trinitarian God who is revealed as one in three persons: Father, Son and Spirit. We've been made to image God, which means we're designed for community & friendship. We often suffer when we're not in community, due to the brokenness of life, complexity of this world and the temptation to isolate ourselves. We encourage you to gather with a small group of friends, family or roommates on a weekly basis and use these discussion notes to press deeper into God.

How do I join the Calvary SLO Community Group eco-system?

We're enthusiastic about all forms of biblical community, however there are definite benefits to joining with the Calvary SLO Community Group (CG) eco-system. In short, the benefits are:

- **Training:** We have trainings intent on equipping leaders.
- **Support:** Each CG leader is assigned a coach to provide assistance and ongoing support.
- **Visibility:** CG's are promoted via the bulletin, website & given access to The City (our online social network).

To join all you have to do is sign up for the next upcoming training! Info: pastor James: james@calvaryslo.com.