



IMMANUEL CHURCH

Conversation Starter: Back to Normal
April 2, 2017

Opening Questions:

- Why do you think so many people today enjoy watching home makeover shows like HGTV's "Fixer Upper?" What is so satisfying about seeing something be restored?
- What is the biggest restoration project you've participated in? How would you describe the "before" and "after" of the project? How did this process of restoration shape your view of whatever it was that you restored?

Looking at Scripture:

- Read **Mark 1:35-39**. What do these verses teach us about the mission that Jesus was on? What priority did Jesus have?
- Read **Mark 1:40 & Leviticus 13:45-46**. What do you think life would have been like to be a leper in Jesus' day? What hardships would you have experienced?
- What do we learn about this leper from what he does and says to Jesus?
- Why do you think it's significant that this leper asked to be made "clean" rather than just to be "healed"?
- Read **Mark 1:41-42**. What do these verses reveal about who Jesus is and what He came to do?
- Read **Mark 1:43-45**. Why do you think Jesus told the cleansed leper to show himself to the priest, but not to tell anyone else about it? How were Jesus' instructions to the leper related to what we learned about Jesus' mission in verses 1:35-39.

Application Questions:

- The bottom line this week was: **WHEN JESUS RESTORES YOU, HE MAKES YOU BETTER THAN NEW.** In what ways have you experienced Jesus' cleansing and restoration in your life?
- Many times, even though Jesus has cleansed and restored us to a right relationship with the Father, we needlessly hang onto the guilt of past sins. How can you help yourself remember Jesus' forgiveness in your own life when you are tempted to dwell on the past?
- By cleansing the leper, Jesus revealed that He is the Holy One of God who has the power to make us holy as well. In what areas of your life do you desire to live with greater integrity and holiness so that you can live a life that is pleasing to God?

End your time together in prayer. Take a couple of minutes in silent prayer to allow everyone in the group to confess any areas in their life that need Jesus' cleansing touch. After a couple minutes, spend time praising God for His justice, grace, mercy, and love. Thank Him for making a way for us to be made clean...restoring us to God and making us better than new!