

## Helping Others Believe

*Mark 2:1-12*

### Introduction

Mark 2:1-12 tells the story of a man who was paralyzed. Not only did he face a physical challenge, he was also poor and hopeless. But he had some friends who knew Jesus and believed that Jesus was the solution to the lame man's problems. Since he couldn't get to Jesus to be healed on his own, his friends stood in the gap and helped him.

Many people today feel as though they can't get to Jesus. They are paralyzed in their life and need friends to bring them to Jesus. Sometimes it's due to difficult life circumstances of no fault of their own and sometimes this paralysis is due to unaddressed sin. This is where friends in the faith come in! The lame man's friends brought him to Jesus, and he was willing to let them help him. They put forth effort to cut through the roof in order to get the man the help he needed. Jesus first forgave the man's sin then proceeded to heal the man physically.

As believers, we should be willing to help others find their way to Jesus. We should also be willing to allow others in our lives to help us when we are in need. Sometimes that help will be to overcome life's circumstances. Sometimes help is needed to deal with unaddressed sin. Either way, people in the body of Christ should be willing to help and to receive help.

### Getting Started

1. Do you consider yourself to be connected to others in the body of Christ?
2. In your circle of connectedness, have you ever been able to help someone who was physically or spiritually paralyzed? Has anyone ever been a help to you? Share with your group.

### Let's Get Personal

1. When people come to you for help, do you tend to share your personal thoughts and opinions or do you lead them to a spiritual solution?
2. The paralyzed man's friends believed that Jesus could help him, but they were also willing to inconvenience themselves by taking the time to make sure the man made it to Jesus to be healed. Are you a person that others can go to when they need assistance? If not, why and what can you do to project an image that you are ready and willing to help?
3. Receiving help is often a difficult task for some. Are you willing to be transparent and open so that people can see how they can be of help to you?

### Take the Next Step

1. It isn't your job to try to help everybody; however we must make time to help somebody. Although prayer is paramount in the life of a Christian, notice that the friends of the paralytic took practical steps to give physical assistance to their friend. Who will you make time to practically support this week through your faith and actions?
2. Now that you understand the importance of transparency and openness, do you need help? Are you paralyzed in some area of your life? Share your need for help with your group. Give the opportunity for others to bless you.
3. In addition to physically healing the man, Jesus also offered him forgiveness for his sins, as there was a spiritual issue that had led to his paralysis. Is there a spiritual issue that you need to deal with? Ask your group to pray that God will clearly manifest that issue in your life and give you the grace to overcome it.
4. Take time to read James 5:14, Galatians 6:1-3, and Acts 3:1-8 (in your group time or by yourself) for additional reading on topic of helping others in the community of faith.

### Renew Your Mind

*"When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Mark 2:5*

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