

The Gospel of Mark

Group Guide: Week 6 Mark 2:1-12

INTRODUCTION

As the Gospel of Mark marches on, the identity of Jesus is slowly revealed more and more to the people. In chapter 1 everything Jesus says and does draws a crowd. In chapter 2 Jesus reveals he has even greater authority than anyone could imagine. Now for the first time in the story, Jesus' authority brings confrontation. Can this man Jesus really have the authority to forgive sins? How will Jesus respond to this confrontation?

N.T. FURTHER READING

Matt. 9:2; Luke 5:19; James 5:13-17;

PRAYER

READ

Have one person read Mark 2:1-12.

O.T. FURTHER READING

FURTHER STUDY

Psalm 32, 103; Isaiah 43:25

SUMMARIZE

Ask two people to summarize that passage who didn't summarize last week. Or two people who have yet to summarize the passage.

As you read write out any words in this passage that would be helpful for you to look up in a dictionary. **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- 1. Have you ever been in a situation where you would do whatever it took to make sure your friend, or family member received the help they needed? What was the scenario? Why did you put so much effort into helping them?
- 2. The faith of the men carrying the paralytic was necessary to bring the man to Jesus. And Jesus responds to their faith. What would it look like for you to walk by faith for the benefit of another's relationship with Jesus?
- 3. What sort of sin (or idolatry) in your life seems to have a paralyzing effect on you?

4. In verse 5 it says, "And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.'" Later Jesus tells the scribes that he has the authority to forgive sins. In your own words, share why you are thankful Christ has the authority to forgive sins.	NOTES
5. Christ's ability to forgive sins brings confrontation to the hearts of the scribes. They don't think he should have the ability to do that. The scribes are on the outside looking in. In our context, those on the outside looking into Christianity also have objections to Jesus being able to forgive sins. Discuss different objections the world has to Jesus' ability to forgive sins.	
6. After Jesus heals the paralytic, Mark says the man, "went out before them all." Everyone saw the Lord's grace in the man's life. Spend some time encouraging members of your group in the ways their progress in faith has been publicly evident.	

RESPONSE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Personal: Is there anything in your life in which you might be freed from if you asked Christ to forgive you? Share in your accountability time what that sin is for you and have your group pray for you.

Church: Think of one member of the church whom you have seen grow in their faith and encourage them this Sunday. Share with your group who you are going to encourage this week.

World: Is there a non-christian whom you have sinned against in which you would be a faithful witness by asking them for forgiveness? Share with your group who that person is and contact them this week.

PRAY TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION:

Mark 2:17

(For each chapter of Mark there is one verse for meditation)