



PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE - October 27

PRIMARY PASSAGE

Mark 2:1-12

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. ²They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. ³Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. ⁴Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. ⁵When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

⁶Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, ⁷"Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

⁸Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? ⁹Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? ¹⁰But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the man, ¹¹"I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." ¹²He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

1. **Read vv.1-5, what stands out to you about the paralyzed man and his friends?**
2. **What motivated the four men's determination to bring their friend to Jesus?**
3. **What can we learn from the pursuit of these men?**

PERSONAL RESPONSE

From this passage, we draw inspiration from the four friend's commitment to bring their paralyzed man to Jesus. In the sermon this week, we discussed how we can follow this example through our **Pray, Invest, Invite strategy**.



At the church, we ask people to choose four people in their lives who don't know Jesus or are not engaged in church. We then ask them to do three things:

PRAY: I will pray daily for them to come to know Jesus.

INVEST: I will invest weekly in these people's lives. (phone calls, having them over to dinner, etc.)

INVITE: I will invite them to the next right thing (Community Group, Church, a relationship with Jesus)

Breakout into smaller groups of 3-5 people and answer the following questions:

- **Who are four people in your life that either don't know Jesus or are not involved in a church?**
 - Family:
 - Friend:
 - Neighbor:
 - Coworker/Classmate:
- **How could you invest in them weekly?**
- **What would be the next opportunity you invite them to?**

