



## LEADER'S GUIDE – October 27

**LEADER NOTE:** The discussion around the passage today is slightly different. Our discussion focuses heavily on one aspect of the passage instead of going through it in its entirety. We focus on the four friends of the paralyzed man and their commitment to bring him to Jesus. By focusing on this part of the story, we want people think about how they are helping people meet Jesus personally. The bulk of this discussion guide is spent helping people think through the practical application of the sermon: Pray, Invest, Invite.

For some groups, you may just want to focus on this one aspect. If so, it may help to state that from the beginning, “There is a lot to this passage that we could discuss, but I want to focus on one specific relationship within the passage and discuss how they can inspire us today.”

For other groups, you may want to jump more into the passage. If so, here is a great discussion guide for this passage on pg. 29: [https://s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/cdn.gracebible.org/bible\\_studies/mark\\_web.pdf](https://s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/cdn.gracebible.org/bible_studies/mark_web.pdf) Try to leave enough time to do the Pray, Invest, Invite exercise at the end of the discussion guide.

### ***PRIMARY PASSAGE***

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#### **Mark 2:1-12**

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. <sup>2</sup> They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. <sup>3</sup> Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. <sup>4</sup> Since 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. <sup>5</sup> When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

<sup>6</sup> Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, <sup>7</sup> “Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

<sup>8</sup> Immediately 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? <sup>9</sup> Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’? <sup>10</sup> But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the man, <sup>11</sup> “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” <sup>12</sup> He 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?** Their determination to bring their friend to Christ overcame all obstacles, including the crowd.
2. **What motivated the four men's determination to bring their friend to Jesus?** Jesus would commend them for their faith. The depth of their belief in who Christ was provided the determination to make sure that their friend met Jesus and was healed.
3. **What can we learn from the pursuit of these men?** Some great follow-up questions may be: "Do you have four friends who will pick you up and carry you to Jesus when you need it the most? Are you that friend?"

## PERSONAL RESPONSE

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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?**

