

Week # 6
“Just Give Me Jesus” Series
Cedar Grove Church – March 20, 2016
Leaders Guide

“A Paralyzed Man Walking”
Mark 2:1-12 (*The Voice*)
Pastor Kevin Cavanaugh



GROUP DISCUSSION:

(Focus on the questions you feel might be most helpful for your group. You probably will not be able to get through all of them. Change or add questions that better fit your group.)

NOTE: Today's text (Mark 2) is from *The Voice* translation and is printed on a separate sheet which can also be downloaded from the website).

1. What do you think motivated these four men to go to such extreme measures for their crippled friend? What drives any of us to go the extra mile to help someone else?
 - Compassion, love, caring
2. ⁵ *Jesus recognized the faith of these men.* What do you think this suggests about these men? What does it suggest about what God takes note of when he responds to our requests and/or prayers?
 - “True faith and strong faith may work in various ways; but it shall be accepted and approved by Jesus Christ.”[#]
3. How would you describe what this “faith” is that God looks for? Use some descriptions, synonyms, word pictures to try to flesh out what this faith is.
4. Why does Jesus begin immediately by forgiving the man's sins? What do you think this had to do with his paralysis?
 - “Sin is the cause of all our pains and sicknesses [ultimately]. The way to remove the effect, is to take away the cause. Pardon of sin strikes at the root of all diseases. Christ proved his power to forgive sin, by showing his power to cure the man sick of the palsy. And his curing diseases was a figure of his pardoning sin, for sin is the disease of the soul; when it is pardoned, it is healed.”[#]
5. ⁶⁻⁷ *Some scribes were sitting in the crowd, and they didn't like what they were hearing.* What are your thoughts as to why the religious leaders were so upset with what Jesus did in forgiving the man's sins? Have you ever found yourself getting upset over someone whom God forgave ... or did a miracle for? Why?
6. Why do you think God healed the man whose sins he had forgiven? Do you think there is, or can be, a connection between sin, unforgiveness and illness? Have you ever seen this in anyone you have known?

7. While the Jewish religious leaders got so upset with Jesus, why do you think the ordinary people were so amazed and gave God glory? ¹²*Everyone in the crowd was amazed. All they could do was shake their heads, thank God for this miracle, and say to each other, "We've never seen anything like that!"* Which group do you find yourself identifying with when you see God at work? Why?

- The religious leaders felt their position of authority was threatened by Jesus, whom they refused to recognize as the Messiah. The ordinary people were thrilled that healing and salvation was coming to them who had no religious position or authority. God was responding to the needs of regular people!

8. Those four men did not let anything stop them from finding help for their friend. What kinds of things sometimes cause us to give up on helping others?

- Pastor Kevin's message's three stoppers: (1) The Crowd; (2) Correctness (the Roof); (3) Friends!

9. Who are some hurting people you know right now who may need the help of others (of you?) if they are to be healed? Changed? Helped? Jot down their names.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

10. What barriers might prevent them from getting the help they need . . . or from you helping them?

Name of Person

Barriers to Help

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

PRAYER:

Make time to share needs and close in prayer. Pray about any needs that may have been shared in the course of discussion. Also pray about hurting people who may have been identified and about removing barriers that were mentioned.