

INTRODUCTION: This study follows Andrew Palau's sermon on Sunday morning in which he encouraged us to push through with our friends and relatives to Christ.

Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralyzed Man (Mark 2:1-12)

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

⁶ Now 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?"

⁸ 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? ⁹ Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? ¹⁰ But 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." ¹² 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!"

LAUNCH

Can you remember the last time you really had to work hard in order to help someone else. Why did you do it? What was the result? How did you feel afterwards?

DISCOVERY

What do we learn about the friends of the paralyzed man from this passage?

- What do we learn about Christ from this passage?
- What do we learn about the teachers' of the law from this passage

UNDERSTANDING

- What obstacles did the men have to overcome (not just physical) in order to get their friend to Christ?
- What obstacles do we need to overcome in order to get our friends or relatives to Christ?
- What can we do about some of these obstacles?
- What was the key factor or factors that motivated the men in getting their friend to Jesus? What doubts or fears might have undermined their progress? Do similar doubts assault us?
- The behaviour of these men was a good example of 'faith in action'. In which areas would you like to see more 'faith in action' in your life?
- The four friends also modelled outstanding friendship. In what ways do you want to develop your friendships in the coming weeks and months?
- Jesus forgave sin first and healed later. Why?
- The Pharisees were only willing to help within their extremely limited comfort zones. In what ways can we be like them?

APPLICATION

Pray specifically for friends and relatives to come to Christ like we did on Sunday morning

- Pray for one another to be courageous, smart and full of the Holy Spirit in bringing our friends and relatives to Christ
- Please also pray for the J John Just One event that large numbers of unchurched people attend and come to know Christ