

“Which is easier?”

Mark 2:1-12

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NOTES

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Suggested Questions for Individual Study or Group Discussion*



- 1) As you think about experiences in your life, there are likely times when you felt like the paralyzed man; who in your life have served as friends who tore down obstacles and helped bring you closer to Jesus? There are also likely times when you feel like one of the friends; who is God currently calling you to carry and help that person to encounter Jesus?
- 2) Imagine you are the man and you hear Jesus say, “Son, your sins are forgiven” (verse 5); what is your reaction to this statement? What are the circumstances under which it is easy to accept that your sins are forgiven and when is it hard to receive forgiveness?
- 3) Verse 5 says that Jesus spoke a word of forgiveness “when Jesus saw *their* faith” (third person plural). Do you think it was the faith (that is, the actions) of the four friends or the faith of the friends *and* the paralytic? How is God gathering you into a community of faith where others are helping you grow in health and forgiveness?
- 4) In this story, Jesus connects healing and forgiveness. Do you agree with the following statement? “Jesus recognizes that guilt or self-hatred can paralyze our spirit as much as a physical illness or injury can paralyze our limbs.” Discuss how the church can address people’s physical, emotional, or spiritual paralysis (feeling stagnant/stuck/unable to move) as agents of God’s healing.

For Family Discussion: Play a round of “Simon Says.” In Mark 2:1-12, Jesus says, “Your sins are forgiven” and “Stand up, take your mat, and go to your home.” The man who couldn’t walk acted on Jesus’ command, just like you acted on the command of the “Simon Says” leader. Talk about what it means that Jesus has authority to forgive sins. How does it feel that when Jesus says “your sins are forgiven” it is as real and true as the action of doing five jumping jacks?

*Select or adapt questions to fit the needs and makeup of your group.