

The Gospel of Mark Message Series

Discussion Guide based on the January 3, 2010 message,
"A Storm on the Horizon" Mark 2:1-12

Big Idea: Jesus has the power and authority to heal the gravest diseases: sin and death.

- I) Have a faith that will not quit (4).
- II) Accept Jesus forgiveness as your ultimate healing (5).

Leading the Session Helps/Discussion Questions

Pre-Discussion Suggestions: (Specifically designed for SS helpers starting the discussion time without the lead teacher present.)

- Use the morning announcement sheet to make any announcements that pertain to your group.
- Make any other announcements that the group may need to hear based on the activities scheduled by your group.
- Take prayer requests. Include on the board with the other prayer requests to pray for the worship service that is taking place while you are in Sunday School and make sure the group prays for salvation and other life-changing decisions. **Craig's Take on guided prayer time:** Allow members to pray silently for the prayer requests that they feel they need to lift up to God. Then, have someone close the prayer time. This allows the class to pray together but also for people to pray specifically for people instead of someone praying for the prayer requests. Sure, God knows them all, but I believe our most effective prayers are specific prayers. Also, change it up from time to time. Don't always let your prayer time be about praying for the sick. Some Sundays, allow people to specifically pray for people they know of that are lost.
- Do an *Ice Breaker* ... like the ones mentioned below, just to get people talking.
- ❖ **Ice Breaker:** Who has the ability to be able to tell the weather based on how you feel? See if someone has an "old hurt knee" story or surgery story that has caused a joint or appendage to be able to preempt the weather patterns. Use their story to transition to the discussion of Mark 2:1-12 and the message.
- ❖ **Another Ice Breaker:** "If you were going to lead this Bible Study discussion, what questions would you ask based on your sermon notes and/or your memory of the message?"

Discussion Questions based on the Message:

- ❖ As we think about the friends of the paralytic, what actions or attitudes stand out? How would you describe their faith? What physical barriers got in their way? Why didn't they give up?
- ❖ Larry said that the 4 friends of the paralytic used what they could find to accomplish a great task. Why did he say that? What is the lesson for us as we contemplate their actions?
- ❖ What is "roof-top" faith? Where does faith intersect with personal responsibility?
- ❖ What would the people have inferred about Jesus when He said, "Your sins are forgiven."? Why is that significant? Why did Jesus say that first instead of saying words of healing for his body? What was the paralytic's greatest need? What is mankind's greatest need? Why?
- ❖ What is the significance of Jesus referring to Himself as the "Son of Man"?
- ❖ Larry said he believes the man walked out excited and without a limp. Why is that significant?

Application

- ❖ Ask yourself these three questions as you have your quiet time this week: Am I ...
 - 1.) Forgiven? 2.) Persistent? 3.) Living like I am forgiven?