

Questions for the Week



Connect (pick 1 question to ask the group)

1. What can we celebrate together this week?
2. How can we pray for you this week?

Study (Mark 2:1-12)

1. Why did Jesus begin with forgiving the man's sins instead of healing his body? How do you feel when God prioritizes your eternal needs over your temporary ones?
2. Why did Jesus forgive the man's sins in response to the faith of his friends? What does that mean about your faith?
3. The friends in the story noticed the man's needs and responded in action. Is there a need that you have noticed? What action can you take that will make an impact?
4. We like to imagine that we would have been different than the teachers of the law in scripture - meaning that we think we would not be skeptical of Jesus. Have you ever found yourself skeptical of a church event, religious leader, or miracle story? What leads you to respond with skepticism? How is that different than the religious leaders of Jesus' day?
5. All skepticism is not bad. It is healthy to ask questions and seek truth. How do you hold onto your faith while asking the tough questions?

Reflect

1. Based on this passage, is there anything you personally need to confess, consider, or surrender to God?
2. Is there any relationship or situation in your life that this story applies to?

Leader Notes

The Gospel of Mark is arranged to show Jesus as the true king and true messiah who has authority over all powers and kingdoms. We see in this story an important truth. Jesus' priority is eternal issues. Healing this man's body is a temporary healing. His body will break down again. Forgiving his sins is eternal healing. He will be made completely new and whole in the unending life of heaven. Jesus uses temporary healing to reveal his eternal kingdom. As his followers we do the same. We meet physical needs, because God's kingdom is a place where all needs are met. When we meet physical needs we display the eternal kingdom of God. This creates opportunities to share the Gospel.