

**Icebreaker Question:** John Perkins told Pastor Mike, "My house is always open!"

- Why is it so challenging for us to open our house, both figuratively and literally?

**"We need more than friends; we need a family who brings us to Jesus."**

- What's the difference? (Dig deeper than just "it is friends with Jesus in the mix")

**Main Passage:** Mark 2:1-12

**Read through Mark 2:1-12 together.**

### 1. They accept him where he is

- Where do you have a hard time accepting people? Where are your sticking points in regards to full embracing others?
- Where do people have a hard time accepting you where you are?

**We all have our "mats"...** the paralyzed man simply couldn't hide it as good as most of us can. But the very thing that we are afraid for people to see is usually the thing that draws people the closest to us.

- What is the "mat" that you are trying to hide from others?
- Does anyone know *the real you*? The real temptations you have?
  - What constitutes knowing the real you?
  - What steps do you need to take to have someone who knows you in this way?

### 2. They bear his burdens

**Read Mark 2:4.** "When they... when they... when they..."

- When you're connected to the right people, you'll get the breakthrough you need. "They" broke through the roof on the paralytic's behalf.
  - Who is your "they"? How have they helped you to break through to Jesus?

**Read Acts 2:46.** The church *has* to be the place where we take off our masks and reveal who we really are. You don't accidentally drift into the type of community we see on Mark 2. This kind of community takes *intentionality*.

- "Only when he is a burden does he become your brother." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer
  - What did Bonhoeffer mean by this?
- Whose mat are you picking up? Who is picking up your mat?

- How have you seen this played out in your microchurch?
  - If your microchurch hasn't yet, what are some ways you are going to start living this way?

**Read through each of these verses: John 13:34, Romans 12:10, Romans 15:7, Hebrews 10:25, Ephesians 4:32, 1 Peter 4:9, Galatians 5:13, Galatians 6:2.**

- What sticks out to you?
- What comes naturally to you?
- Where do you find these commands difficult?

### **3. They get him to Jesus**

Do you have friends who will do whatever it takes to get you to Jesus?

- What areas of your life do you need help to press deeper into Jesus that could be supported by friends in your microchurch and/or life?
- Family is "a group which implements an irrational commitment to the well being of its members." Family cares so much that it doesn't even make sense; they will be by your side and help you regardless of the cost.
  - How are you irrationally caring for others in your microchurch?
  - How is that bringing them closer to Jesus?