

Kingdom Rising
“Crossing Swords”

GETTING STARTED

ICE BREAKER: Prayerfully think and write down a ***Personal Network Map***. With your name in the middle, think of 3-5 people surrounding you who don't know Christ of which you can be 'bringing to Jesus'.

KEY THOUGHT: ***Miracle confirms Message and Messenger to all nations!***

GETTING THE POINT

Read Matthew 4:13-16 and Mark 2:1-12 out loud together.

- 1 Why did Jesus intentionally choose to live in Capernaum, and how did this location align with His mission and Old Testament prophecy (Matthew 4:13-16, Isaiah 49:6)? What is the significance of Capernaum's location?
- 2 “Gentiles” can be translated as ‘nations’, ‘families’, ‘peoples’, ‘tribes’ and ‘languages’. Split the following verses up between you and read them aloud; Genesis 12:1-3, Isaiah 49:6, Matthew 24:14 & 28:18-20, Revelation 5:9-10 & 7:9-10. What is God saying to us through these verses?
- 3 Knowing all this, how does understanding the geographical and cultural context of Capernaum deepen our understanding of Jesus' ministry to both Jew and Gentile?
- 4 How did Jesus' message of the Kingdom of God contrast with the political realities of Rome?

GETTING DEEPER

- 1 What implications does this contrast have for how we understand the nature of Christ's Kingdom today, and how can we apply it to our own lives and the world around us?
- 2 Why did Jesus address the paralytic's sin before his physical healing? What does this reveal about the deeper, spiritual needs that Jesus addresses? How can we sometimes miss the importance of forgiveness in our own lives, focusing instead on outward circumstances or physical needs?
- 3 The four friends of the paralytic went to great lengths to bring him to Jesus (Mark 2:3-4). What does this act of faith reveal about the power of community and the importance of bringing others to Christ especially when faced with obstacles?

GETTING PERSONAL

- 1 Reflecting on the characters in the story - who do you most identify with, and why?
- 2 What is God inviting you to learn or apply in your own life through the actions and responses of these individuals, especially in your relationship with Jesus, or your role in bringing others to Christ?

PRAY...

- 1 *Pray for those on your **Personal Network Map**. How can you bring them before Jesus?*
- 2 *Pray for the least reached people groups of the world to have missionaries sent to them! That the kingdom of God would spread to all nations!*