

DISCUSSIONGUIDE

The Faith of the Four (Mark #8)

Week of April 26, 2020

While this Discussion Guide is intended for use in a Riverwood Growth Group, it can be used personally as well. To get the most from these questions, we suggest you take 10-15 minutes to read, think, and pray through this Guide before participating in your Growth Group. The point of this guide is to not just “get through the questions” (there’s no quiz at the end!) but to pursue Jesus and grow spiritually.

ICEBREAKER (Optional)

If you were given \$10,000, but told you had to spend all of it within 24 hours, and you couldn’t give away even a penny of it, what would you spend the money on?

DISCUSSION

Read Mark 2:1-12

1. What obstacles did the paralytic and his friends face seeking healing (v. 2)?
2.
 - a. What would you—along with the people in the house—expect from Jesus when the paralytic comes down through a hole in the roof?
 - b. How do you think you would have reacted to Jesus’s initial statement (v. 5)?



3. If you were able to choose, would you rather be healed physically of a life-altering illness or forgiven your sins? Why?
4. As He pronounced healing for the paralyzed man, Jesus referred to Himself in a new way: “But that you may know that **the Son of Man** has authority on earth to forgive sins” (v. 10). What did Jesus’s declaration mean for the enraged Pharisees? (See Daniel 7:13-14.)

MAKING IT PERSONAL

5. The onlookers expected Jesus to address the man’s physical needs, but He who came for the lost addressed his most critical need: forgiveness of sins.
 - a. How big of a deal is your sin to you?
 - b. In what ways does your perspective of your sin reflect God’s view of it? Reflect on sins you tend to minimize, ignore, or justify. If you feel comfortable, share with the group.

MEMORY VERSE

“But He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.” (2 Corinthians 12:9)

PRAYER

As we close in prayer, praise God for the forgiveness of sins we have in Jesus Christ! Lift up any requests to God, including prayers for our church family, our community, and our world.

