



# Engaging to Bring Healing

## Mark 2:1-12

*"Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on." Mark 2:4*

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**Main Point:** If we are willing to live in faith and overcome barriers we have the opportunity as a church to bring healing to broken people.

**Introduction:** Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

*Have you ever done something crazy and over the top for a friend? Or have your friends done something for you that was seemingly insane?*

*What was the last thing you broke (physically or metaphorically) that you knew couldn't be fixed without help?*

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**Have a Volunteer Read Mark 2:1-12.**

There are broken marriages. People broken by addiction. Broken finances and families. There are people all around us who feel helpless. But it's our job to let them know they are not hopeless. Believers have a role to play in helping broken people find restoration and our church seeks to engage culture through Caring. It is our desire to bring people to the One who can heal their brokenness like the men in our text did for their friend.

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In order for us to help someone experience healing **WE HAVE TO RECOGNIZE PEOPLE ARE BROKEN** (v. 1-3).

The men in our text recognized their friend's problem and were determined to help. What brokenness and problems do you see in and around our community in which we could make a difference?

While this man's problems were physically evident, but what issues of brokenness do those around you struggle with that are hard to see or hidden from view? How do we move past the superficial with each other to unroot deeper problems? Think back to **Acts 2:42-47**.

The men also recognized Jesus as the one who could heal. Who is Jesus to you? How do you recognize his Voice in your life?

Read **Job 2:12-13**. What did Job's friends do when they recognized his brokenness? What can we learn from their response when caring for others?

For healing to occur **WE HAVE TO BE WILLING TO OVERCOME BARRIERS.** (v. 3-4)

What barriers did the men in our text overcome to help their friend?

What barriers keep you from the Lord? Read **Psalm 66:18, 1 Peter 3:7, Proverbs 3:7, James 1:20-22, and 1 Timothy 6:10** for some examples. Which do you struggle with?

**Galatians 6:2** says “Carry one another’s burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” What is the “law of Christ” and how does it apply today in overcoming barriers such as race, religion, social status and economics?

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The final thing that must happen for healing to take place is **WE HAVE TO LIVE IN FAITH.** (v. 5-12)

**Hebrews 11:1** tells us “faith is the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen,” and without faith it is impossible to please God. (**Heb 11:6**) What have you had faith to see God accomplish and He did?

Read **James 5:14-18** and discuss the implications of a faith filled prayer life. What are you praying in faith now that you are hoping in God for?

Jesus acted on the faith of these men who brought their friend. What friends do you see have a need to meet with Jesus? Write down their name. How can you step out in faith this week to bring them to Jesus?

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**Pray:**

As you close your group time pray that God would break down barriers in your personal life that are keeping you from him. Pray that spiritual barriers would be overcome through the power of the Holy Spirit so that our church could influence, minister to, and care for the community. Ask God for the faith it takes to bring true healing to broken souls and a broken world - starting with you.

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**Connect:**

Call the church office (803.419.0989) or email [beki@blythewoodvillage.com](mailto:beki@blythewoodvillage.com) to see where you can get plugged into Care Ministry today!