

## Mark 2:1-12

### ice breaker

Share about a time when you went to extraordinary lengths to help someone in need. What motivated you?

### overview

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Ps Cam identified four vital signs of healthy faith through the account of the four friends who brought a paralysed man to Jesus:

- Bold Faith - Active movement towards Kingdom work
- Deep Compassion - Feeling that which others ignore
- Steely Determination - Stubborn love that doesn't give up
- True Understanding - Recognising forgiveness as our deepest need

### discussion

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- 1** *Shame says stay quiet, but faith speaks up.* Doubt, fear and shame keep us quiet in our faith; what would it look like to boldly put our faith into action, much like the group of men on the roof?
- 2** Jesus saw the crowd not as a collective, but as individuals whom He loved. How does this perspective change the way you view people around you, along with their visible needs?
- 3** Jesus addressed the paralysed man's deepest need for forgiveness, rather than just the surface problem. Why is this a significant example for the way we are to share the gospel?

## go deeper

Ps Cam's sermon challenges us to examine four vital signs of our faith through the lens of Mark 2:1-12, where a group of friends tear through a roof to bring their paralysed companion to Jesus.

Just as medical professionals check vital signs to assess physical health, we're invited to assess the health of our spiritual lives through four essential markers: bold faith, deep compassion, steely determination, and true understanding. The message confronts our tendency to keep our faith private when the world tells us to stay quiet; it reminds us that faith is not passive but active, compelling us to move toward Kingdom work.

Jesus first addresses the man's deepest need for forgiveness, followed by the more visible problem of physical paralysis. This should shape our understanding of the gospel: it's not about self-improvement or behaviour modification, but about reconciliation with the Lord.

In a similar way to the group of men and the paralytic, we're called to carry others to Jesus through love and prayer, seeing others through Christ's perspective and trusting that when they get close enough to encounter Him, transformation occurs.

Furthermore, in such a consumeristic age, it is important for us to prayerfully confront our own *need beneath the need*, where, much like the paralytic, our greatest need is to be forgiven and reconciled in relationship with the Lord.

## application

Through the lens of the four vital signs of faith, continue to put your faith into action this week:

### **Bold Faith**

- Share with one person what God has done, is doing, or what you're believing for Him to do in your life

### **Deep Compassion**

- Pray daily for one specific person who is far from God, asking God to give you His perspective on them

### **Steely Determination**

- Re-engage with someone you've stopped praying for, and invite them to Church or even to your Connect Group

### **Availability**

- Create space in your schedule specifically to be available for meaningful conversations

## guided prayer

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- **One hand open** - Receive a fresh filling of Holy Spirit for bold faith, deep compassion, steely determination, and true understanding.
- **Extend the other hand, as if holding a mat** - Pray for someone specific who needs to be carried to Jesus through your prayers, consistent love, and unashamed invitations.

## final thought

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Faith moves. Compassion acts. The heavens are open. Step out and let God work through you! Remember: There are no small things in the kingdom, and there are no big things in the kingdom; there are only *King's things*.

# Connect Leader Resource

Hi Connect Group Leader!

*This topic highlights the fine line between compassion and judgment/apathy, and the need we each have for forgiveness. Foster a space where your group members feel comfortable sharing their own 'need beneath the need'.*

Use the Notes above or this Resource – whatever you feel will work best for your group.

Prayer/praise report from your group? Anything else you think we should know? [Click here](#) to pass it on to our Pastoral Team so we can address it in our weekly meeting.

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## additional questions

Q1 - How does understanding God's relentless pursuit of you motivate your own pursuit of others?

Q2 - What doubts, fears or obstacles keep you from boldly sharing your faith?

Q3 - How might breaking through these barriers help someone encounter Christ, much like the men breaking through the roof?

Q4 - If God wants you to reach others by using the uniqueness with which He created you, what gifts, experiences, or opportunities could you use to share the gospel?

## quiet reflection exercise

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- **Reflect on compassion:** Think of someone in your life who needs to experience more of God's love.
- **Pray:** Ask the Lord for boldness, perseverance, and eyes to see them the way Christ would, without judgment.
- **Visualise action:** Think of one way you can activate your faith when engaging them this week.
- **Gratitude:** Thank the Lord that His Spirit longs to work in and through you.