



Week Two: Mark 2

“We Need Forgiveness More Than Healing”

Reading and Study Guide for the
week of April 23-30, 2023

Memory Verse for the Gospel of Mark: *Jesus called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." (Mark 8:34)*

This week, read Mark 2:1-12. On Sunday, April 30, Pastor John will preach on the theme, “We Need Forgiveness More Than Healing.” When Jesus forgave a man who came looking for healing, He revealed our need and His authority. As we attempt to bring people to Jesus, we must seek to address their greatest need – their need for forgiveness.

Some questions to answer and think about this week with your family or Community Group:

1. What do you think would be most difficult about being paralyzed?
2. What dilemma did the paralytic man and his friends face? ([2:2-4](#))
3. How did the paralytic man’s friends get Jesus’ attention? ([2:4](#))
4. How did Jesus evaluate the faith of the paralytic man and his friends? ([2:5](#))
5. What motivated Jesus to respond to the paralytic man’s plight? ([2:5](#))
6. Why did the Pharisees accuse Jesus of blasphemy? ([2:6-7](#))
7. How did Jesus respond to the thoughts of the Pharisees? ([2:8-9](#))
8. How did Jesus show that He had authority to forgive sins? ([2:9](#))
9. Why did Jesus heal the paralytic man? ([2:10-12](#))
10. Which is it easier for us to do—forgive others or care for them when they’re sick?
11. How is God’s viewpoint different from ours regarding the forgiveness of sins?
12. What connection is there between a person’s faith and God’s working in his or her life?
13. What problems, needs, or weaknesses in your life are there that God can use?
14. What specific steps can you take this week to show faith in Christ?

Life Application Bible Notes - Mark 2:1-12

[2:3](#) The paralyzed man's need moved his friends to action, and they brought him to Jesus. When you recognize someone's need, do you act? Many people have physical and spiritual needs you can meet, either by yourself or with others who are also concerned. Human need moved these four men; let it also move you to compassionate action.

[2:4](#) The crowd that had gathered made it impossible to bring the paralyzed man close to Jesus. Successful churches or busy Christians can be oblivious to needy people who want to see Jesus. In some churches, if the crowd is too thick and too disinterested, a needy person will simply wander away. How sad when the people in a church are so preoccupied with their own relationships and agendas that they don't even see those who are trying to get in. That should never happen. Where Jesus is present, may the faces of the faithful reflect his love, may their hands extend to greet all newcomers and seekers as friends, and may they open a way for others to come in.

[2:4](#) Houses in Bible times were built of stone. They had flat roofs made of mud mixed with straw. Outside stairways led to the roofs. These friends may have carried the paralyzed man up the outside stairs to the roof. They then could easily have taken apart the mud and straw mixture to make a hole through which to lower their friend to Jesus.

[2:6, 7](#) The teachers of religious law were in a perfect position, sitting where they could observe and criticize. Some sitting Christians follow their example. Is the music at church too fast or too loud? Is the sermon too long or too short? Do people aggravate you by sitting in your pew or dressing too casually? How much time do you spend worshiping in church and how much time do you spend complaining and criticizing? How about trying a little healthy activism—the kind that gets involved to work with fellow believers toward real progress on common goals, such as sharing the Good News, helping the needy, and building strong and caring disciples of Christ. Are you criticizing the church or changing the world?

[2:8-11](#) Before saying to the paralyzed man, "Stand up," Jesus said, "Your sins are forgiven." To the Jewish leaders this statement was blasphemous—claiming to do something only God could do. According to the law, the punishment for this sin was death ([Leviticus 24:15, 16](#)). The religious leaders understood correctly that Jesus was claiming divine prerogatives, but their judgment was wrong. Jesus was not blaspheming; his claim was true. Jesus is God, and he proved his claim by healing the paralyzed man ([2:9-12](#)).

[2:10](#) This is the first time in Mark that Jesus is referred to as the "Son of Man," a title emphasizing that Jesus is fully human. The title, *Son of God* (see, for example, [John 20:31](#)) emphasizes that he is fully God. As God's Son, Jesus has the authority to forgive sin. As a man, he can identify with our deepest needs and sufferings and help us overcome sin (see also the note on [8:31](#)).

Mark Study Guide questions and notes are from

