

01/25

HOME GROUP GUIDE

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

LISTEN

Listen to the sermon and read through the main passages(s)



REFLECT

Prayerfully answer the questions below



DISCUSS

Meet with your group to discuss



RESPOND

Apply the truth of God's word to your life

BACKGROUND:

In this familiar story from Mark 2:1–12, a large crowd gathers so densely around Jesus that the door is blocked. Four men carrying their paralyzed friend can't get through the crowd, so they climb onto the roof. They make an opening and lower the man to Jesus. Seeing their faith, Jesus forgives the man's sins and heals him.

The people in this story fall into one of three groups: the crowd, the critics, and the carriers. Some are simply present, listening, but go unnoticed. Others observe critically with hardened hearts. Meanwhile, a small group of friends steps forward in faith, carrying their paralyzed friend to Jesus despite the personal cost, trusting him with the outcome. In this story, we are reminded that God uses ordinary people to be the means by which others encounter his grace. May we be those people.

OPEN:

1. When you think about social gatherings, are you normally an observer, a critic, or a participant? Why do you think that is?

REFLECT:

2. Read Mark 12:1-8. What is the difference between the crowd and those carrying the paralytic? What do the carriers' actions reveal about their faith? What risks or inconveniences were they willing to accept?

3. How would you describe the critics' attitude toward Jesus in verses 6–8? What does it reveal about their hearts?

4. Read Mark 12:9-12. Why does Jesus address forgiveness before physical healing? What does this reveal about this man's true need?

APPLY:

5. What are some ways we can remain part of the crowd by being "around" Jesus without being "involved" in helping others come to him? Why is this such a temptation for people today?

6. Who in your life might need you to act as a "carrier" to help them draw nearer to Jesus? What could "carrying" look like in that relationship?

7. How can you use Home Group to help others grow closer to Jesus? And how can Home Group help prepare us to invest in others' spiritual growth?

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