

February 25, 2024 – Community - BLANKET

Did you have a blanket as a child that you slept with? Took everywhere with you? Perhaps you still have it tucked away somewhere. What about blankets around your house? How many different places do you have blankets stashed so you can always grab one? Blankets are warm and snuggly, and we love them, don't we? This weekend we're going to talk about blankets and let them help teach us an important commUnity characteristic – that of being heard and loved. And since we're talking about them – why not bring a favorite blanket with you to worship this weekend?!



Scripture:

1 John 4:16b-21

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Those who say, "I love God," and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹ The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Mark 2:1-12

When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. ² So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door, and he was speaking the word to them. ³ Then some people^[a] came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. ⁴ And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. ⁵ When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Child, your sins are forgiven." ⁶ Now some of the scribes were sitting there questioning in their hearts, ⁷ "Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" ⁸ At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves, and he said to them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? ⁹ Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk?' ¹⁰ But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the paralytic— ¹¹ "I say to you, stand up, take your mat, and go to your home." ¹² And he stood up and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Questions:

- Who knows you? Really, really knows...you? The you that is at times scared and other times fierce? Who knows what your favorites are and would come running if you called them?
- How good of a listener are you?
- This week, find time to really listen to people. Don't try to always multi-task. Listen. Really listen and see what happens!

Reading for the Week:

Monday: James 1:19

Tuesday: Proverbs 12:15

Wednesday: Philippians 2:3-4

Thursday: 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Friday: John 15:13