

FURTHER STUDY GUIDE

Faith and Forgiveness | Mark 2:1-12

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Mark 2:1–12 takes place in Capernaum, likely in a typical first-century home with a flat roof made of beams, thatch, and packed mud. Homes often had an external staircase, making roof access common. The crowded setting underscores Jesus' growing reputation and the desperation of those seeking Him. This passage marks a turning point in Mark's Gospel, as opposition from the scribes becomes explicit. The central issue is not Jesus' ability to heal but His authority to forgive sins—a divine prerogative in Jewish theology. The miracle serves as a visible confirmation of Jesus' invisible authority, revealing Him as the Son of Man who brings God's restoring power.

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

Have you ever had to depend on someone else to help you get what you needed—especially when you couldn't do it on your own? What made that difficult or meaningful?

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Faith in Action (vv. 1–4)**

What stands out about the faith of the paralytic's friends? How does their persistence challenge common ideas about faith being purely personal or private?

2. **Unexpected Words (v. 5)**

Why do you think Jesus addresses the man's sins before his paralysis? What does this reveal about Jesus' understanding of human need?

3. **The Charge of Blasphemy (vv. 6–7)**

Why do the scribes consider Jesus' statement blasphemous? What assumptions are they making—and are they theologically correct?

4. **Authority of the Son of Man (vv. 8–10)**

Why does Jesus refer to Himself as the “Son of Man”? How does this title deepen the significance of His authority to forgive sins?

5. **Visible Proof of Invisible Authority (vv. 11–12)**

How does the healing function as evidence of Jesus’ authority? Why is this connection important for understanding the gospel?

6. **Response of the Crowd (v. 12)**

The crowd praises God but does not necessarily follow Jesus. What does this tell us about the difference between amazement and discipleship?

PERSONAL DEVOTION

This week, read **Mark 2:1–12** slowly and prayerfully. Imagine yourself in the room—perhaps as the paralytic, one of the friends, a scribe, or a bystander. Reflect on these questions:

- **Need:** What is the deeper need in my life that I tend to overlook while focusing on surface problems?
- **Faith:** Am I willing to trust Jesus with what only He can address, even when His response isn't what I expect?
- **Authority:** Do I truly believe Jesus has the authority to forgive my sins, or do I still carry guilt that He has already removed?

End your time by thanking Jesus that He does not merely improve our circumstances but restores us completely—body, soul, and relationship with God. Ask the Spirit to help you trust His authority and walk in the freedom He provides.

QUESTIONS | REFLECTIONS | OBSERVATIONS
