



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Mark 2:1–12

Questions for the Week: In daily life, what does it mean to “trust” someone? What practices, habits, actions indicate trust? How do we “trust” Jesus? Why is it difficult to “trust” sometimes?

READ THE TEXT – Mark 2:1–12

The Structure

1. The Setting (Mark 2:1–2)
 - 1.1. Return to the House in Capernaum (Mark 2:1; see 1:29)
 - 1.2. Gathering so large more people would not fit (Mark 2:2; see also 1:33; 3:20; 6:31)
 - 1.3. Jesus was speaking “the word” (Mark 2:2; see also 1:45; 2:2; 4:33; 8:32)
2. The Arrival of a Paralytic and Friends (Mark 2:3–4)
 - 2.1. Paralytic carried to him by four (Mark 2:3; see Gal 6:2)
 - 2.2. Not able to carry to him through the crowd (Mark 2:4)
 - 2.2.1. They unroofed the roof
 - 2.2.2. After digging through
 - 2.2.3. They lowered the mat where the paralytic was laying
3. Forgiveness and Healing (Mark 2:5–12)
 - 3.1. Jesus Forgives (Mark 2:5)
 - 3.1.1. Seeing *their faith* (2:5; see also 4:40; 5:34; 10:52; 11:22)
 - 3.1.2. He says to the paralytic, “Child, your sins are forgiven” (2:5; see also 3:28; 3:28; 11:25)
 - 3.2. Response of the Scribes (Mark 2:6–7)
 - 3.2.1. Scribes questioning in their hearts (Mark 2:6)
 - 3.2.2. Why does he speak like this? (Mark 2:7)
 - 3.2.3. He is blaspheming. (see also Mark 14:64; Lev 24:10–16)
 - 3.2.4. Who can forgive sins but God alone? (see Exod 34:6–7; Isa 43:25; 44:22)
 - 3.3. Jesus demonstrates his authority to forgive by healing (Mark 2:8–12)
 - 3.3.1. Jesus, knowing in his spirit that they were questioning says, “Why do you question these things in your hearts?” (Mark 2:8; see Ps 139:23; Prov 24:12; 1 Sam 16:7; Jer 17:10)
 - 3.3.2. “What is easier to say to the paralytic: (2:9)
 - 3.3.2.1. ‘Your sins are forgiven’
 - 3.3.2.2. ‘Rise, take your mat and walk’

3.3.3. “In order that you know that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on the earth . . . I say to you, ‘Rise, take your mat and go to your house.’” (Mark 2:10–11; see Dan 7:13–14; Mark 8:31, 38)

4. Conclusion (Mark 2:12)

- 4.1. The Paralytic: Arose, took his mat, and went out before everyone
- 4.2. All were amazed and glorified God saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

Activities and Questions this Week:

- Read and compare Mark’s version of this story with Matthew and Luke (Mark 2:1–12 // Matt 9:1–8 // Luke 5:17–26).
- Read and reflect on the language of “faith” in the Gospel of Mark:
 - The noun “faith” occurs five times in Mark (Mark 2:5; 4:40; 5:34; 10:52; 11:22)
 - The verb “believe” occurs ten times in Mark (Mark 1:15; 5:36; 9:23, 24, 42; 11:23, 24, 31; 13:21; 15:32 [see also Mark 16:13, 14, 16, 17]).
- What circumstances make it difficult for us to “trust” Jesus?
- The best way we can reaffirm our trust is to pray. The only other time in the Gospel of Mark that faith and forgiveness are connected is when Jesus teaches about prayer in Mark 11:22–25.
 - Notice that in Jesus’s teaching about prayer, he connects “faith” and “forgiveness.”
 - Why do you think Jesus connects faith and forgiveness in the story of Mark 2:1–12 and his teaching about prayer?
 - Who do we need to forgive?
 - How can we express our trust in Jesus? Be as specific as you can.
 - What areas of your life do you need to ask God to grow your faith?

Weekly Questions:

- What does this passage say about God?
- What stood out to you from the text this week?
- What does this text say about the Lord’s reign and what it means to be his set apart people?
- Who are the characters of this story?
- What does this passage invite us to:
 - Do?
 - Think?
 - Feel?
- How did the sermon or passage encourage you to Love God and Love People?
- Which characters do you identify with most in the story? Why?