



Literacy Check

- Mark 2:1-12 - Four friends and a blanket.

Let's Break the Ice

What game show would you be super-awesome at?

Introduction

Are you willing to do anything to see the increase of the Kingdom of God? Do you know someone who doesn't know Jesus, or hates him? What would you be willing to do to save your spouse/child/parent?

A Good Idea

Maybe look up some architectural pictures of homes during Jesus's day or grab some images that you could share while your group reads the passage. Perhaps find some creative way to show your group how difficult the four friends' task would have been to get through that roof and to lower someone down.

Things to Ponder

We like to talk about and sing about how great it would be for the world to experience Jesus's love and presence. Then we curse at cars that cut us off, clam up when someone asks us what our weekend plans are (*gasp* church?!), or any number of activities that don't show that we believe what we believe.

How does your group view the actions of the four friends? Some probing questions if they have trouble getting started could be: were the friends dedicated to the crippled man? Do you think they believed Jesus could heal him? If your group was in the house, what do they think of the four friends?

Really allow this conversation to open up. Let people understand their own heart posture and position when it comes to reaching those who need Jesus (everyone!). We get pretty comfortable with the things that make us comfortable. If that worked for everyone, no one would need saving. People are different, so a different approach should not make us gun shy when inviting our friends to a church being built for them.

Wrapping Up

We've talked a lot about the Christmas season and inviting people...great! DO NOT stop praying for hearts and minds to be reached and to know Jesus!