



PART 4: TEAR THE ROOF OFF

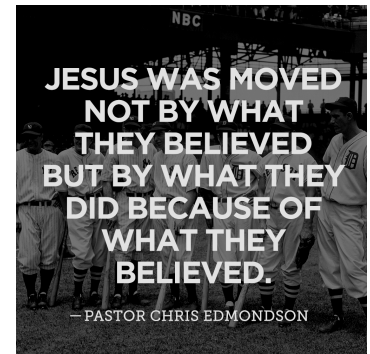
How should you respond when others face *bottom-of-the-ninth* moments? What do you say in the face of people's loss and pain? What can you do to try to ease their suffering? How can you offer hope?

It's not about saying something or doing something. It's about being *someone*.

BIG IDEA: Be the body to anybody who needs somebody.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some reasons that other people's *bottom-of-the-ninth* moments make us uncomfortable? How do you tend to respond to other people's messes? Would you change that tendency if you could? Why or why not?
2. Talk about a time when someone was facing loss or pain and you didn't know what to say or do. How did you eventually respond? Is there anything you would do differently?
3. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Mark 2:1–12.*



A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Mark 2:1-12 (NIV)

4. What stands out to you about Jesus' interactions with the paralyzed man, his friends, or the religious leaders? In what ways does this story challenge your assumptions about faith and having a relationship with God?
5. During the message, Chris said, "Faith is best expressed through actions." Do you agree? Why or why not?
6. Think of someone who is currently facing a *bottom-of-the-ninth* moment. What can you do this week to be the body of Christ for that person? How can this group support you?

MOVING FORWARD

The church is the body of Christ. When someone we know is facing a *bottom-of-the-ninth* moment, if we can get him or her to Jesus, something good will happen. Imagine the impact we could make if we were able to be the body to somebody who needs somebody. Imagine the impact we could make if we responded to others' *bottom-of-the-ninth* moments with extraordinary compassion and generosity. Imagine the impact if we chose to invest in someone's life who does not attend church and to invite them to oneChurch.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 1 Corinthians 12:27