

Talk About It

Small Group Discussion Guide

God Encounters

Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man

June 29-July 2, 2023

Start Talking

Share about a time a friend helped you when you couldn't help yourself.

Main Idea

The Bible is full of stories of people encountering God in various ways. These encounters often transformed people's lives and set them on a new path. In our Summer Series, God Encounters, we explore some of these encounters and learn what they can teach us about our spiritual journeys. This week, Pastor Drew shared the story from Mark 2 of four friends who carried their paralyzed friend to Jesus. Pastor Drew helped us see that we all need friends who will "carry" us to Jesus, and we need to "carry" others to Jesus so they, too, can find friends and experience the freedom only God provides.

Personalize It

1. Pastor Drew reminded us that it is our job as the Church to set our friends and family up to encounter God, but it is always God's role to make that encounter life-changing. In what ways does this change how we view our role?
2. Think about the people God has placed in your life. Who could you "carry" toward an encounter with Him?
3. Did you find it interesting Jesus first forgave the paralyzed man's sins and then healed him physically? What do you think was the paralyzed man's greatest need? Is there something in your life that's "paralyzing you"? What is one step you can take this week to experience the healing and freedom you need?

Let's Do It! Commit to a step and live it out this week!

1. Pastor Drew shared three primary ways we hear God's voice today. Which one do you need to focus on and pursue this week? The three ways are by His word, His spirit, and a trusted few.
2. The paralyzed man had a community of friends who cared for and served him in his time of need. He may have never had a healing encounter with Jesus without this community. Living in community is one way God moves in our hearts and lives. If you are not currently in a small

group, check our Group Directory this week or talk to your Campus Small Group Leader and pray about your next step to join a small group. If you haven't experienced Getting Started, that's one of the best next steps to finding friends and a place to serve. If you are already in a small group, who could you invite to join you?

3. Pastor Drew shared, "if the truth sets us free, a lie will hold us captive." Think of a lie you've been believing in your heart. Now think of the truth that contradicts this lie. Remind yourself daily this week of this truth, speaking it over your heart and mind.

Let's Pray

Jesus, thank You for the creative ways You bring us to encounters with You. We thank You that we weren't made to do this life alone and that You bring people into our lives who will love us enough to carry us to Your feet and encounter Your life-changing healing. We pray for You to use us to show this same love to those around us. We pray against the enemy's lies and ask for Your truth to fill our hearts and minds this week. Amen.

Key Scriptures

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."

John 8:31-32 (NLT)

"Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Mark 2:1-12 (NIV)

"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!"