



READ MARK 2: 1-17

Pursue

- Jesus heals the ultimate need (eternal) of the paralytic before he heals his physical need (temporal). How aware are you of your need for Jesus in your life? What can you learn from this story to help you grow in that awareness, humility, and dependency on God?
- After Jesus heals the paralytic of his sin, shocking and infuriating the religious elite, He then calls into relationship and ministry what many would have considered a chief sinner and betrayer of their people, Levi, a tax collector. What does this reveal about the heart and nature of God and His Kingdom? How does this influence how you think God relates to you?
- After calling Levi as one of His disciples, Jesus is found hanging out with “tax collectors and sinners” who also followed Him. Why do you think people with bad reputations are drawn to Jesus? Are they drawn to you? Why or why not? What are some reasons that keep you from drawing near to them?

Practice

LEADERS, YOU WILL LIKELY ONLY HAVE TIME FOR ONE OF THESE ACTIVITIES.

- **OPTION 1 | Bringing One Another to Christ.** Depending on the size of your group, you may need to gather in smaller groups of 3-4 people. Have each person share something they need the ministry of Jesus in. After each person shares, practice speaking and praying truth in scripture over and with each person.
 - Questions to help you think:
 - Jesus faced every temptation we face, yet did not sin. This means he was able to become our sin on our behalf and pay fully for it. Do they need reminding of that truth? Do they need help believing or walking in that truth? The Spirit is our helper; ask for His help.
 - Jesus is also our empathetic high priest, He understands what living this side of heaven is like. Can you think of a time that Jesus experienced something similar to what this person is expressing? What is His response? Did He teach anything about it? What does His response reveal about the heart of God towards this person?
 - Are they experiencing difficult emotions (fear, anxiety, anger, disappointment, guilt, regret, etc.) Can you think of a biblical story or scripture where someone is experiencing this emotion? How does God respond? If Jesus is the ultimate response of God to all sin and suffering, what does that mean for what they are experiencing?
- **OPTION 2 | Followers & Enemies Chart.** Our Bible Study classes received this document, and this could be a great tool to use throughout our study as well. Throughout Mark, we will see two main types of people: followers of Jesus and enemies of Jesus. While the narrator will not often explicitly label someone as a follower or enemy, the reader can use the actions or responses described in the text to determine if someone is a follower or enemy. Use this linked chart to keep track of the characteristics of both types of people and how they specifically respond to Jesus. Use this list as an opportunity to consider your own character and actions: Which category do you think best describes you? Where might God be calling you to repentance or growth?
 - We watched several responses to Jesus this week, unclean spirits, the crowds, and the followers of Jesus. What can you note about them in this chart?

Proclaim

- Do you ever find yourself trying to be the savior for others instead of bringing them to the Savior? How can you be more like the friends in this story today in your relationships with unbelievers? Whom do you need to bring to Jesus? What is one step you can take in this relationship?