

# GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide  
SB 10.15.2023

FROM PARALYSIS TO PRAISE— MARK 2:1-12

## Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles or observations stood out to you from this week’s message? Discuss with your group.

Paul and Virginia Freisen tell us “In our story we see a man with physical paralysis. This is a condition that hinders one from physically experiencing life fully. Some of us may have or know someone who has some form of paralysis that limits them. All of us, however, suffer as individuals in some way from Spiritual or Relational paralysis that hinder us from fully living as God designed us to live personally. If we are married, we can identify areas of relational paralysis that hinder us from fully experiencing all God has for us in marriage. If we are single, issues connected with loneliness, unfulfilled dreams and desires, and grief related to loss can be paralyzing. If we are in a family, we may be experiencing disappointments and dysfunction relationally that keep us from experiencing the family life we expected or desired. Though not always, it is often sinful choices, decisions we make, to live outside of God’s design, that paralyze us both spiritually and relationally.” Let’s get into our lesson...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you most from the Friesen’s sermon?
2. When you begin a new adventure or new way of life, what is it that keeps you from turning back?

The church has a God-given mission to change the world for Christ. Serving is not optional for Christ followers. We can find our motivation in what Christ has done for us and what He desires to do in and through our lives to reach a lost world. When it comes to being on a mission, there’s no turning back. Because Christ has changed us, we are fueled by His compassion to change the world.

## Digging Deeper in God’s Word: Life Lessons

### HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MARK 2:1-5

In this familiar story, we find friends with such incredible faith that they will stop at nothing to bring a paralytic to Jesus. Their faith, compassion, purpose, and teamwork provide a clear example of how we can be the body of Christ in the world.

1. What evidence do you see in this passage that the friends of the paralytic man were on mission for him?
2. What paralyzes you from following and obeying Jesus?

The Freisen’s stated that one of the biggest barriers to depression and loss of purpose is to forget yourself and learn to serve others. Many times, it’s our own sin that hinders us from walking with God.

3. What sin “so easily besets you from walking with God?
4. How is service an antidote to selfishness?
5. Why is meeting the physical needs of the hurting and helpless so important for the Christ-follower?

## ***“PROMISES” in 2023***

6. How do the obstacles confronting the friends compare and contrast with obstacles that hinder believers today from bringing others to Jesus?

### **HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MARK 2:6-12**

1. Why were the teachers of the law upset when Jesus offered the paralytic man forgiveness?
2. In this story, do you identify more with the paralytic, his friends, or the teachers? Why?
3. How might we, like the teachers, paralyze ourselves by determining what Jesus can and cannot do? What’s the cure for that paralysis?

**The teachers of the law understood that Jesus was acting as if He were God when He claimed to forgive the sins of the paralyzed man. Not only did they not believe He was God, but they also viewed His claims as blasphemies. Jesus was perceiving their thoughts because He knew their intentions. Jesus expressed the heart of their doubt. It was much easier to just say “your sins are forgiven” than to heal a paralytic since there could be no visible proof of whether sins had been forgiven.**

1. Why did Jesus heal the man’s paralysis, even though He had already treated the more important problem of his spiritual health?
2. What do we learn about Jesus from this miracle?

**To demonstrate that He had power to do the invisible miracle of forgiving sins, Jesus performed the visible miracle of healing the paralytic. The man got up immediately and went home glorifying God. Without his friends’ help, the paralyzed man wouldn’t have experienced Jesus’ physical healing, but even more tragically, he would’ve missed out on Jesus’ forgiveness of sins and eternity with Him.**

### **HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-21.**

1. What happens when we are compelled to serve by something other than love?
2. Does your heart match Paul’s heart in pleading with people to be saved?

#### **Applying God’s Word**

**What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.**

**Then came four friends of the man and said, We are taking you to Jesus... Somehow they were convinced JESUS could heal their friend....True friends don’t stop helping at the first obstacle.**

1. They had to carry him a distance.
2. When they arrived, there was no way to get into the already packed room where Jesus was.
3. They climbed on top of the roof...with the paralytic on the stretcher!
4. They began dismantling someone else’s roof to get a hole big enough to lower the paralytic to Jesus.

**They would not stop short of getting the paralytic to Jesus....because they believed He alone could heal him.**

**\*\*Are you convinced the greatest thing you can do for your marriage, family or others is to be introduced to Christ? Are we convinced that taking our family to JESUS is the only way to fully heal that which hinders us from living honorably and peaceably with one another? Do we REALLY believe our HOPE is in the LORD? Do we believe the only HOPE for our troubled marriage, for our family dysfunction is in the Lord?**

**This is the Good News that heals.**

## ***“PROMISES” in 2023***

1. Is your faith inspiring to others? How can you tell?
2. What is a hurt that God has healed in your heart that He can use to help others? What might the first step look like?
3. The four carried their friend and placed him before Jesus. How can people today bring their spiritually needy friends to Jesus?

**PRAYER: Ask God to open your eyes to the people around you who need to know Him and feel His love.**

**“The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.”  
{Ecclesiastes 12:13}**