



Jesus Heals the Paralytic

Success at theWELL is defined by how effectively we move people from our larger Gatherings into Journey Groups. We believe intentional relationships are the key to sustained spiritual growth.

Practically speaking, there will never be a way for the staff or elders to personally minister to everyone who will attend our church. That's why we place such a high premium on group life. It's how we will minister effectively at theWELL. (Everything is about relationships! The rest is just details)

Ask someone to tell the story of Jesus healing the paralytic man in Capernaum. Read Mark 2:1-12 and discuss any details the storyteller may have missed.

Read Mark 2:1-4 What did the paralytic man and his four friends risk during their adventure to meet Jesus? What did their actions say about their impressions of who Jesus was?

Read Mark 2:5-12 Why do you think Mark emphasized that the scribes didn't even need to voice their objections for Jesus to respond to them? Why were Jesus' words problematic to the scribes? If Jesus were to make the same claim in front of your unchurched friends, how would they respond? Why?

We can all identify with someone in this narrative. Some of us feel like the paralyzed man and feel powerless to change our lives. Some of us feel like the four friends—energetic and filled with faith. Some of us identify with the crowds—still checking things out and still very much spectators. Some of us see ourselves as the scribes—not intellectually ready to accept Jesus for who he said he was.

Who in the story do you most identify with?

Who in the story would you rather be?

What barriers would you need to overcome to get there?

In a Journey Group, people study God's word together and discuss the issues and challenges of life. It's also where they pray, care for one another, and are missed if they don't show up. How can this group can be more like the four friends?