



4/3/2016

Week 2 Member Guide

THE WIN

Group members will explore the miraculous, forgiving power of Jesus and how a small group of faithful friends can be an important part in helping us to continue to walk in His grace by caring for one another.

SERMON RECAP: WHAT DID THE TEXT MEAN? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

We learned that a small group of faithful, believing friends helped a man overcome his obstacles and found forgiveness through Jesus' forgiving power.

- What was most memorable about the message this week?

WARM UP

- Describe a time God led you through a difficult time with the help of some faithful friends?
 1. Choose three people
 2. Blindfold one of them
 3. Position the blindfolded person between the two that are able to see
 4. Lead the three of them on a course throughout the house and bring them back to where you started
 5. Have the blindfolded person try to retrace the course by themselves
- What can we learn from this activity about the obstacle of sin in our lives?

THE TEXT: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?

Read Mark 2:1-12

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- Reading between the lines in this story, what were all the possible obstacles the paralytic man and his friends might have faced in getting to Jesus?
 - What kind of obstacles did you face in trusting Jesus to forgive your sins?
 - What would have been the possible outcome if the paralytic man did not have a small group of caring friends?
 - Who do you know that is far from God and what lengths would you go to bring them to meet Jesus?

Read 1 John 1: 5-10

- What is the connection between “walking in the light”, “fellowship with one another” and forgiveness of sins?
- What do you think the relationship was like between the paralytic man and his friends before their encounter with Jesus? In what way do you think their relationship was changed after meeting Jesus?
- How does walking in the light help us as a group experience deeper relationships with each other?

Read James 5:13-16

- What is the connection between prayer, confession and healing?
- Why do you think Jesus focused on the paralytic’s forgiveness of sins instead of his obvious need of healing?
- What benefits could we experience if we confessed our sins to each other?

DIGGING DEEPER

It is interesting that the paralytic man never says a word about why he and his friends went to such great lengths to see Jesus. The obvious reason is that he wanted to be healed of his physical problem but what he received was a gift that was far greater. He received eternal life!

- Describe a time in your life when God provided what you needed instead of what you wanted?