

Look for the Least and Change a World

Week of January 27, 2019



These Digging Deeper questions can be used the week following the Sunday message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your family or Connect Group discussions.

Message Recap:

Read Mark 2:1-12

So often, the busyness and chaos tends to override our faith and make it seem small and insignificant. The noise drowns out the still, small voice of God, sometimes to the point where we don't think we can hear it anymore. The world tries to keep us distracted so that we won't turn to faith in times of need. It tries to make our problems seem so big that we give up before we even start. In Mark Chapter 2, the four friends were faced with what seemed an impossible situation, and yet they found a way to Jesus through faith. And it was this faith that healed a paralyzed man, which again, seemed an impossible situation to get out of. But faith has ways of moving mountains, and when we believe, Jesus meets us wherever we are. When we believe, Jesus does the impossible. We can be like the four friends in Mark 2 and help others see Jesus through our faith as well.

Pray

Lord, as humans we tend to focus on the negative, which includes all the obstacles in our path. Faith is not a natural, human response to difficult situations, as we tend to try to solve our own problems and avoid seemingly impossible tasks. Lord, we don't want to lose faith any longer. Give us the strength to trust in you fully, through all circumstances. Give us eyes and ears for the broken in the world, not looking at it as an impossible "to-do" list, but an opportunity to continually trust you, and bring about world-altering change in the lives of those we touch.

Getting Started

- Children often believe in things like magic and Santa because they are willing to embrace what we as adults consider impossible. Was there anything in your childhood that you believed in so much that it felt real?
- Growing up, did the people around you believe in you, or not? Either way, describe how that affected you, and how it shaped who you are today.

Digging Deeper

1. On a scale of 1 to 10 (ten is high), where do you think your faith is right now? Explain why.
2. What are some things in your life that seem impossible?
3. It's easy to simply define "broken" as the homeless, handicapped, and impoverished, but the truth is, broken is all around us. So, where are you finding broken in your everyday life right now?
4. In Mark 2:5, the first thing Jesus did was forgive the paralyzed man's sins. Why do you think that is? Why did Jesus later heal him after addressing the religious teachers?
5. Are there any moves towards broken that you have felt the tug for recently? What has your response been?
6. Are there any suggestions for the group at large for some ways to move towards a broken in the local community?

Living Jesus

In Mark Chapter 2, the four friends of the paralyzed man are representative of what it means to be Jesus to the broken of the world. Without them, the paralyzed man could have never gotten to Jesus on his own accord. Jesus himself came to Earth to be the direct connection between us and the Father. Without him, we would have remained forever broken. And so, we are called to be the direct connection between Jesus and the broken of this world. If we won't be that connection, then many may never come face to face with the healing grace of a God that loves beyond measure. Jesus will always meet us where we are in faith; always. But, we have to move in belief first.

What's Your Story?

You can choose to live unbelieving, stumbling blindly through life, or you can choose to have faith and see the grand colors and designs of God's plans, moving through a million dreams that will change a world forever...

Share how God is working in your life at SevernRunner.info/stories.