

**KEY SCRIPTURE:**

*“Seeing **their faith**, Jesus told the paralytic, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven.’”  
Mark 2:5 CSB*

*“They couldn’t bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, **so they dug a hole through the roof above his head**. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus.” Mark 2:4 NLT*

*“‘Don’t be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. **Fear only God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell.**”  
Matthew 10:28 NLT*

*“Deacons likewise must be dignified, **not double-tongued**, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain.”  
1 Timothy 3:8 ESV*

*“**But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.**” Matthew 6:33 ESV*

*“**Be alert and strengthen what remains**, which is about to die, for I have not found your works complete before my God.”  
Revelation 3:2 CSB*

*“**Go, therefore, and make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.””  
Matthew 28:19-20 CSB*

*“‘You have heard that it was said, Love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, For if you love those who love you, what reward will you have? **Don’t even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what are you doing out of the ordinary? Don’t even the Gentiles do the same?’**”  
Matthew 5:43-44, 46-47 CSB*

**Start Reading:** Mark 2:1-12 (Luke 5 is a parallel account)

**Start Talking.** Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Share the story of how God moved in your life to get you to a point where you worship him as a consistent part of Christian Community? Who did He use to “get you in here?”

**Start Thinking.** Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Think about all of the potential obstacles the friends had to overcome to get the paralytic to Jesus.
- What are some common obstacles you face that hinder you from “taking people to Jesus?”
- Pastor Jeff referenced a difference between sympathetic and offensive sins, with the paralytic as an example of a “sympathetic sin” situation and rudeness as an “offensive sin.” What are some examples of both, and what are some ways to minister to people with offensive sins?

**Start Sharing.** Choose a question to create openness.

- Which part of the message impacted you the most, and why?  
Note: this sermon covered an extra wide spectrum of life and issues. Spending extra time on this question may help everyone unpack where they need to move forward with this study.
- After Pastor Jeff’s cooking class (smile), he introduced three traits (unity, priority, and commitment) modeled by the friends as ways to change the “recipe of your life.” List each of the three steps and identify which one is most crucial for this season of your walk with Jesus?
- The paralytic’s friends had alignment of their aspirational priority and actual priority (aka aspirational values/actually values). What are some aspirational values that you are going to turn into actual values? How are you going to do so?

**Start Praying.** Pray this prayer in your own words with your group.

*Father in Heaven, thank you for inviting us into your family. Thank you for the great lengths you went to adopt us, even dying on the cross for our sins. Please place a burden in our heart to be active in sharing our faith and saying “get in here” to everyone we know and may we do so while modeling the deep joy and significance in walking with you and with other Christians along the way. Place us in gospel situations and give us wisdom to have healthy gospel conversations. We humbly ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen!*

**Start Doing.** Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Think of a person that God has used to “reel you in” when you were on the verge of walking away from God before you were saved or a person that kept you accountable when you were walking with Jesus but had issues with being faithful to Jesus and/or Christian community. Write them a note or letter thanking them for going out of their way to say “get in here” when you needed it most.
- Pray for the courage to be someone else’s “get in here” person when you see them needing it most.