

# *Living the Word*

## A Bible Study for Missionary Discipleship

### Session 3

### Mark 2:1-12

*“When Jesus saw their faith.”*



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Living the Word  
Missionary Discipleship Bible Study  
Session 3

OPENING PRAYER

God of life and love, pour forth Your Spirit to inspire me with Your words of compassion, forgiveness and love. Stir in me a desire to renew my faith and deepen my relationship with Jesus, Your son. Open my heart to hear and live your Gospel message. Strengthen me to be a Missionary Disciple, a sharer of the Good News in words and witness proclaiming your all-inclusive love, mercy, and grace in all that I do. Amen

OPENING PSALM

(create two groups and take turns reading together)

**Psalm 95:**

**A Call to Worship and Obedience  
Group 1**

**1** O come, let us sing to the LORD;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!  
**2** Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!  
**3** For the LORD is a great God,  
and a great King above all gods.  
**4** In his hand are the depths of the earth;  
the heights of the mountains are his also.  
**5** The sea is his, for he made it,  
and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

**Group 2**

**6** O come, let us worship and bow down,  
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!  
**7** For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture,  
and the sheep of his hand.  
O that today you would listen to his voice!  
**8** Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,  
**9** when your ancestors tested me,  
and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

## OPENING REFLECTION VIDEO

<https://www.catholicapostolatecenter.org/accompaniment.html> Stop at 6:36 minutes of video

## THIS WEEKS BIBLE PASSAGE

*“Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them.”*

Are you willing to bring a friend to Jesus at any cost?

Mark 2: 1-12

### **Jesus Heals a Paralytic**

**1** When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. **2** So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. **3** Then some people<sup>[a]</sup> came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. **4** And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. **5** When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” **6** Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, **7** “Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” **8** At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, “Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? **9** Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Stand up and take your mat and walk’? **10** But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic— **11** “I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home.” **12** And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

## REFLECTION

Jesus spends much of His public ministry not only teaching but also healing people. What makes this encounter with the Lord somewhat unusual is the effort the four men go through to bring their loved one closer to Christ.

A common concept in a bible study is to insert yourself as one of the characters in the passage.

Where do you see yourself in the passage?

Are you the paralytic? Does something have a grip on you preventing you from sharing the gospel with others? Are you *one* of the four friends who enjoys accompanying others drawing them closer to Christ? Or maybe you gathered in the room just to hear or see Jesus teach?

Might we ask the question, what would our Church be like if we could follow this example of accompaniment, by focusing our attention on two by two friendship ministry. Is there someone you know who may not be physically disabled but are instead may be emotionally or spiritually struggling?

If we were to look into our communities, is there someone feeling trapped or isolated by their own negative thoughts? How can we accompany someone to the mercy of God's grace so that they may receive forgiveness of sins? Or at least bring them one step closer? We are all called to conversion, which happens through prayer and when we open our hearts to God.

It is important to remember that accompaniment is a process of relationship-building that moves at a gradual pace. Imagine the cooperation it took of the four men to lift in unison to raise the paralytic upon the roof, without flipping him to the ground.

Accompaniment aims for a deeper conversion for all involved. When we accompany others one by one, or two by two we are going somewhere: in and through the Church, to the heart of Christ.

This isn't **EASY**, there are obstacles that we must all overcome. This event could have taken place during the heat of a hot summer day. The roofing material most likely would have been sod-like dirt and the only utensils they would've had to create a hole, was their hands. Under the hot sun these friends used their hands to claw through the hardened dirt roof in order to bring their friend to Jesus.

Are we willing to make the same kind of sacrifices and imitate the paralytics companions and roll up our sleeves and get dirt under our nails to help someone we love?

It took initiative for the four friends to carry and climb up to the roof, working together to bring their beloved brother closer to Jesus? That's the good news; we mustn't think we have to do this alone. Remember the first session, Jesus sent his disciples out in pairs.

Our goal in discipleship is to bring people to Jesus and ultimately help each other get to heaven.

Our goal is to help people encounter the Lord, to grow in love and friendship with Him, and share our witness with others by inspiring them to become followers of Jesus.

### PAUSE FOR SILENT PRAYER

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Do you see yourself as a Missionary Disciple who is willing to accompanying or befriending someone? Are you being called to connect with someone this week to share the Good News of the Gospel?
2. Who will help you carry out a plan of accompaniment?
3. Do we leave Mass with this mission?

### CALL TO ACTION

Sitting in a different area at Church during Sunday Mass might help you to connect with someone you don't know as well. Show a willingness to learn something new about that person.

Unless we make an intentional plan to reach out to someone, its likely not going to happen. What are other ways you might try to form a new relationship with someone.

### CLOSING PRAYER

## **Missionary Discipleship Prayer**

Leader: *"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."*

*But how can they call on him in whom they have not believed?*

*And how can they believe in him of whom they have not heard?*

*And how can they hear without someone to preach?*

*And how can people preach unless they are sent? –Romans 10: 13-15*

All: Heavenly Father,

Pour forth your Holy Spirit to inspire us with these words from Holy Scripture, so that we might be strengthened to go forth and witness to the Gospel in our daily lives through our words and actions.

In moments of hesitation, remind us:

- If not me, then who will proclaim the Gospel?
- If not now, then when will the Gospel be proclaimed?
- If not the truth of the Gospel, then what shall I proclaim?

Give us the grace that we might hear the call of the New Evangelization

and become a Missionary Disciple, deepening our faith,  
growing in confidence to proclaim the Gospel  
and boldly witnessing to the saving grace of your Son,  
Jesus Christ.

O Mary, our Immaculate Mother, pray for us.

Inspire us to imitate your example  
as the first disciple of your son, Jesus,  
who is Lord for ever and ever.

Amen.

Leader: *Mary, Star of the New Evangelization*, All: pray for us.

*St. Joseph*, All: pray for us.

*St. Thérèse of Lisieux*, All: pray for us.

*St. John Paul II*, All: pray for us.