

COME AND SEE

THE POWER OF FRIENDSHIP

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GROUP ICE BREAKER

What is the most memorable thing a friend has ever done for you?

REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week? How did it go?

- I will take the 3 Month Tithe Challenge.
- I will text Tithe to 925-275-5520.
- I will take Financial Peace University and get out of debt.
- I will move from giving nothing to giving something.
- I will move from occasional giving to consistently giving each month.
- I will begin tithing.
- I will give generously of my time and money.

MESSAGE SUMMARY

This week was about friendships and making a goal; that you would devote yourself, with God's help, to cultivating great, life-changing, heart-shaping, character-forming friends.

Mark 2 tells the story of a paralytic man whose four friends loyally bring him to the feet of Jesus. In order to have these types of friends, you must choose to be vulnerable. You can't do this all at once, but you have to start by building trust over time. If you want a deep friendship, you cannot live with deep secrets. These friends dug a hole in a roof in order to get their friend to Jesus' feet. That's what great friends do for each other; they help each other get close to Jesus. A friend is someone you commit to, not because of what they can do for you, but just because they're your friend. If someone is really your friend, their deepest concern should be for the well-being of your soul.

The greatest sign of spiritual maturity is a heart that desperately loves people and desperately loves Jesus and desperately wants to bring them together. A huge part of our mission as a church is to live in friendship with God and friendship with each other. So if you don't have these friendships already, start opening yourself up to them and cultivate them.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever been totally dependent on someone else or had someone totally dependent on you? How did it make you feel?
2. Read Proverbs 17:17 and Ecclesiastes 4:9-12. How would you describe the friendships in your life right now; close or casual; whatever you need or whenever it's convenient? How could you deepen those friendships?
3. Read Mark 2:3-5. At the moment Jesus says, "your sins are forgiven," what would you be thinking if you were (1) the paralytic, (2) one of his four friends, (3) one of the religious leaders, and (4) someone watching from the crowd?
4. Why do we tend to forget, or not believe, that our faith impacts those around us? In what areas of your life might God be calling you to demonstrate bold and creative faith like these friends of the paralyzed man?
5. Is there anyone in your life that knows your "mat" and loves you enough to inconvenience themselves for you? If so, how does that make you feel? Have you been that person for someone else?
6. When was the last time you brought someone to "come and see" Jesus? If you never have, or it's been some time, what has kept you from doing it?
7. Read Mark 2:6-12. What had the religious leaders lost sight of? What is the meaning of Jesus' response to them?
8. Would you consider yourself a friend of others or simply friendly with others? Share why you answered as you did.

NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

Use these as a guide to take your next step and commit to what you learned this week:

- I will look for ways to deepen my current friendships.
- I will take a relational risk and be vulnerable with someone this week.
- I will model appropriate self-disclosure with my small group.
- I will speak truth to friends so they can grow even though it will be difficult.
- I will plan something for a friend to show my appreciation.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- John 1:41-46
- Mark 2:1-12
- John 9:1