

Week 3: Mark 2:1-12

CONTEXT

The Big Picture: Spend a few minutes reviewing the big picture of this gospel book from Week One. Who wrote this book? When might it have been written? Who was it written to? Where are the main events located? Where are we in the large story of Scripture?

A quick look back: Spend a few minutes reviewing what you have read so far in this study. What have been some of the main points/stories/ themes/or learnings from the past week or weeks.

Today's passage: As a leader, take a look at where today's passage is located in the book of Mark. Is there anything happening before this passage that is important? Anything that comes right after? Share with your group any observations that might be helpful for them to understand what is happening in this passage.

CONTENT

First, read the passage out loud, or listen to it from an app (e.g. Dwell, Audio Bible).

Next, choose your own adventure by **picking ONE of the following ways to help your group engage with this passage.**

Option A. Guided Bible Study Questions¹: Take one question at a time; answer it and move on; be sure everyone gets a chance to speak/no one dominates)

- 1) What do you think is the most surprising thing Jesus does in this encounter?
- 2) If someone in a crowd of people said to you, "Your sins are forgiven," what would you and everyone else think of that person?
- 3) How does Jesus demonstrate his claim to be able to forgive sins?
- 4) What difference do you think his authority should make in our own lives?

Option B. Notice/Wonder: Ask everyone to read the passage again quietly on their own. As they read,
Option C. Lectio Divina ("Holy Reading"): Scripture is read four times pausing after each reading:

¹ Taken from *One to One Bible Reading* by David Helm, ©2010, Matthias Media

Give everyone paper and drawing/coloring supplies. Have everyone to read the passage again on their own. Invite everyone to spend some time illustrating the passage in whatever way they want- concrete, abstract, colors, images, words. When everyone has completed their art, come together and spend time sharing with each other what you drew and why.

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