

Blessed Are Those Who Seek the Lord Power in Faith-Filled Friends

Sunday, August 15, 2021

Mark 2: 1-5 NIV

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. ²They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. ³Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. ⁴Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. ⁵When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

1. Rally Around You

Proverbs 17:17 A brother is born to help in a time of need.

Proverbs 18:24 A real friend sticks closer than a brother.

Romans 1: 11-12 We may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.

2. Carry You When You Are Weak

Ecclesiastes 4: 9-10 Two are better than one. If either falls down one can help the other up.

Isaiah 46:4 I AM He- who will sustain you and carry you.

3. Storm the Gates of Heaven

Matthew 9:2 And seeing *their faith*, Jesus said, “your sins are forgiven.”

1 Peter 3:12 The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, His ears attentive to their prayer.

Philippians 1: 18-19 I know through your prayers and God's provision what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.

Conclusion: It is because of the faith and intercession of his friends the paralyzed man was healed. Let us nurture friendships like this and cherish the gift they are. Let us in turn storm the gates of Heaven for others in their time of need. Jesus is our Power activated by faith.

LIFE GROUP LESSON Power in Faith-Filled Friends

Week of August 15 – August 21, 2021

Ice Breaker: Can you think of a time because of someone else's faith, God's blessings/healing/forgiveness showed up for you? How did that make you feel?

Read Mark 2: 1-5.

1. What was the scene in this moment? What is happening? (v. 2)
2. If you were paralyzed what might you be feeling as you saw the crowds forming?
3. Have you felt like that before as you try to get close to Jesus?
Discouraged, why bother, He doesn't see me...
4. What do we learn about this man? (v. 3) Is he on his own?
5. What can we assume about these friends who are with the man?
6. Have you had times in your life you have helped “carry” another in some regard-whether physically, spiritually or emotionally? *Have you had times you were carried?* How did both feel to you?
7. What extreme measures did these friends take so this man could encounter Jesus? (v. 4)
8. What did Jesus first say to the man when he was lowered in front of him? (v. 5)
9. Why would Jesus say, “son your sins are forgiven”? What does this show you about this man's heart and willingness to believe?
10. What does this statement tell us about what is most important to God?
11. Read vs. 9-12. What did his faithful friends witness?
12. Read Proverbs 17:17 and 18:24. Do we have responsibility to others?
13. Read Isaiah 46:4 What is God's promise to us? Who might He use?
14. Read Matthew 9:2. Whose faith did Jesus respond to? Who benefited?
15. Read 1 Peter 3:12 and Philippians 1: 18-19. How important are the prayers of the righteous and faithful? Does God listen and respond?
16. Why do you think this story is in the Bible for us to read?

Point to ponder: The Lord responds to our level of faith shown in Him. Sometimes our faith is stronger and we can step in to carry a friend. Sometimes we need the help of a faith-filled friend to carry us back to Jesus. Let us be that friend and let us receive the help of our faithful friends, knowing it is God Himself carrying us for He is faithful to His promises.