

SERMON SERIES

COMMUNITY GROUP NOTES

Sermon title: THEIR faith: the faith of four friends

Summary of sermon:

Mark 2:1-12 recounts how the faith of four friends enabled one man to encounter the healing power of Jesus. Their faith:

- 1) Carried (*airō*) him (Mark 2:3)
- 2) Believed for an open door (Mark 2:4a)
- 3) Was visible (Mark 2:5)

Discussion points:

1. Watch Jayne's testimony again (see either online service or CG leaders hub for access to the video). When have you been carried to Jesus? When have you carried others to Jesus?
2. The word 'carried' in Mark 2:3 is translated from the Greek word, airō, which means 'to raise up, to elevate, to lift up' – how can we apply this faith principle in our own relationships today? In what ways can we, by faith, elevate others?
3. Read verse 4 again – those four men could have interpreted the crowds as a 'sign' from God that it was not in His will and purposes for their friend to be healed (cross ref. Revelation 3:8). THEY DIDN'T. Instead, they made their own door. Would you? How do we know that we are still walking in the will and purposes of God, even when the doors seem to keep shutting in our faces (or in the faces of those we love)? How can we tell the difference between the doors that God has shut and those that he hasn't?
4. Read Galatians 6:2 - How can we commit to carrying one another within our community group?
5. (V5) 'When Jesus SAW their faith ...'
The word 'saw' (horaō) has two meanings:
 - a) 'to see with the eyes'.
 - b) 'to see with the mind, to perceive, to know'.Based on these two different translations of the word, discuss how we can apply faith through our THOUGHTS and our ACTIONS as we seek to lead our loved ones to the feet of Jesus.

Going deeper:

1. Read the following scriptures in Proverbs and discuss what they teach us about biblical friendships: Proverbs 12:26; Proverbs 17:17; Proverbs 18:24; Proverbs 27:17; Proverbs 6:4; Proverbs 27:6; Proverbs 27:9
2. Using Luke 5:19 as a reference point, explore how roofs were constructed in 1st century AD. Discuss how long it may have taken for those four men to make a hole in the roof. What does this tell us about the way in which we should be persevering for the faith of our friends and loved ones?

Action points: *how can we apply the word this week?*

1. In my personal time, consider: am I that friend who will carry a loved one, until they find themselves at the feet of Jesus?
2. Choose one friend that you will commit to praying for regularly, until they find themselves at the feet of Jesus.
3. Consider this week: who are your four? Do they drive you towards Jesus?

Prayer points:

- Discuss prayer needs with your community group and make space to pray for these needs within your session and during the week.
- Prayer for prodigals/unsaved friends and family members.
- Prayer for those with health needs, both within our families, our group and within the wider church.