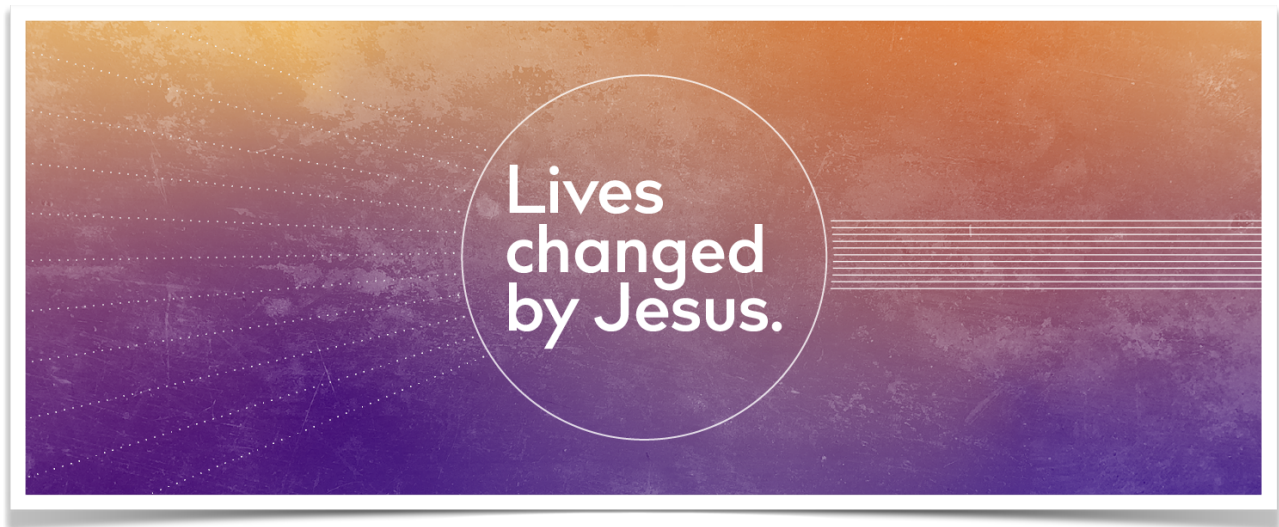


GBC Discipleship RESOURCE



Lives changed by Jesus.

Week Two | The Paralytic - Forgiven and Healed (Mark 2:2-12)

For a brief overview of why (and how) to engage in each of these practices, you can read the Guideline For Growing on our website.

<https://www.gymeabaptist.org.au/growing/pages/guideline-for-growing>

OVERVIEW

In this series we will be exploring several New Testament characters whose lives were changed by an encounter with Jesus. Over the course of the series we will dive into the transformation they experienced, the focus of their encounter, the required response, any friends who were involved, and the invitation into mission. The importance of these five aspects will vary but will be a consistent part of the discipleship menus.

As in previous “menus” there will be a variety of activities to take up. These can be done by yourself (God and You), with a couple of friends (You and a Few), or in a Life Group (You and a Crew). As with any menu, choose what resonates with you. In other words, there is no need to do all of the menu!

Just one more reminder that you can listen to the sermon that accompanies the discipleship menu - it can be found on our website or wherever you listen to podcasts. You may also want to listen to The Big Ill podcast; a mid-week podcast that explores three big questions raised by the sermon.

1. PASSAGES TO MEDITATE ON

Make Mark 2:1-12 the central reading this week. Read it aloud multiple times. As you do, you may want to picture the scene in your mind and picture where you are in the scene. Who do you associate with? How close are you to the “action”? This kind of imaginative reading is a very helpful way to read narrative texts.

Additional encounters with Jesus that focus on forgiveness include: Matthew 18:21-35; Luke 18:9-14; John 5:1-15; 7:53-8:11.

2. JOURNALING QUESTIONS

In the sermon (which you can listen to again on the GBC Sermon Podcast) the various responses of the characters were the focus. Use the following questions to reflect further on these responses.

The religious leaders are correct that only God can forgive sins. Where they were mistaken, of course, was in their estimation of Jesus’ identity. The healing miracle was a sign pointing to Jesus’ identity as the Son of God. What has Jesus done in your life or in the lives of those you know that have contributed to your understanding of who he is?

The crowd was amazed at what they saw and praised God. This response is all well and good, but falls short of the desired response of faith. What is the difference between an amazement and recognition of God’s work and the response of faith?

We can assume that the paralytic was surprised when Jesus addressed his sin rather than his withered legs. We understand that sin is ultimately the root of the evil we experience, but it is often the experiences of evil that we wish would be addressed first! Why do we “overlook” sin in the face of the brokenness we experience? Do you truly feel like your sin is your deepest need that Jesus can address? Why or why not?

3. PRAYER THEME

With an eye to last week's menu where the focus was the state of our hearts, continue to ask the Holy Spirit to reveal your sin – in all its shapes and sizes – and turn to Jesus who has authority to forgive (and he has!).

4. FORGIVENESS

Throughout the New Testament there is a strong link between our forgiveness by God and the responsibility we have to forgive others (Matthew 6:12; Colossians 3:13; Ephesians 4:32). This may need to begin with our forgiveness of ourselves (in recognition of God's forgiveness) but extends to others as well.

This is not always an easy thing and if you have experienced significant hurt this may only mark the beginning of a journey towards forgiveness. Regardless of how long the journey is, practice holding a posture of forgiveness. Bring those who you need to forgive to the Lord and ask that he might help you let go of the hurt and offense and act with justice and mercy.