

GRACE GROUP GUIDE WINTER WEEK #1

JANUARY 17, 2026 | Mark 2:1-12

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1-MIN OVERVIEW

Mark 2:1-12 recounts the forgiving and healing of a paralytic man in Capernaum. Jesus had left Capernaum for “some days” (Mark 2:1) but returned and began to teach in a house full of people. Four men carried a man on a mat who they lowered through the roof in front of Jesus. Jesus forgives the man’s sins, causing controversy inside the scribes who were there. He then heals the man, proving that he, the Son of Man, has authority on earth to forgive sins.



WARM UP

1. *In our Scripture, Jesus comes back to his “home” after traveling to other places. What would you consider is your hometown? When were you last there and how did people receive you? If this is your hometown, what has kept you here?*



KNOW IT

Optional: Watch the Bible Project Video for Mark (<https://bibleproject.com/videos/mark>)

+ To find this video without the link, simply search Google for “Bible Project Mark”

Read Mark 2:1-12 as a group. Note the context (sections before and after). Have someone look up in a study Bible a summary of the Book of Mark (author, audience, themes, etc.). Note any themes in Mark 2:1-12 that tie into bigger themes in the book.

1. *In our Scripture, Jesus returns to Capernaum from the nearby towns. Why did he leave Capernaum and what did he do while he was gone? How does this affect how we view Jesus’ words and actions in Mark 2:1-12?*

2. *On Sunday, Sue mentioned this man was healed because of “their” faith (plural). How could someone else’ faith (the four men carrying the mat) affect the forgiveness the paralytic receives? Without overspiritualizing it, how could our faith affect the spiritual outcomes of others?*



SHARE IT

1. *Mark 2:5 conveys that Jesus forgives the sins of this young man on the mat. Why does nothing seem to happen when he says these words?*

2. *In our Scripture, Jesus used his power to heal to reveal his greater power to forgive. What does this say about what's most important in life? How does this sign help those who don't yet believe trust that Jesus is who he says he is?*



LIVE IT

1. *Review Mark 2:11-12. What is the response in the house when the man is healed? Were the people verbally prompted by Jesus to give God glory and be amazed? What does this say about how we disciple our neighbors, children, or friends?*

2. *Often, we tell people they "should" give God glory or "should" read their Bible or should "have faith". Why does this usually not work? If you had to guess, why do people motivate themselves and others to faith by rules and harsh reminders rather than reflecting on the beauty of Jesus and his gospel?*

Suggested Daily Reading and Reflection

Passages: Day 1: Mark 2:1-2, Day 2: Exodus 16:1-36, Day 3: Exodus 12:1-28, Day 4: Matthew 26:17-30

Memory Verse: Psalm 34:8

Opening Prayer *Dear God, open my eyes so I may see wondrous things in your word. (Psalm 119:18). May your Holy Spirit help me to understand and apply it to my life for your glory. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

 **Observe - 1st Reading** Read the passage to get the general flow. What does the passage say? Write 1-2 sentences summarizing key thought(s). Also, write down a verse you think is significant.

 **Digging Deeper - 2nd Reading** Underline action words and repeated phrases. Answer the questions: Who... is the author? are the recipients? are the key people? What events, teachings, commands, promises do you see? Why was the passage written? What problems are addressed?

 **Searching for Gold - 3rd Reading** Write down key words, themes, and observations. Dig for meaning in repeated phrases or theological terms. How does this passage ultimately point to Jesus?

 **Respond** Since God's Word is true, is there something new about God to ponder, commands to obey, promises to claim, sins to avoid, challenges to face, or examples to follow? Pick one of these and spend time writing how this truth can affect the way you think and live.

 **Connect** with God on what you learned. Praise Him for who He is (consider attributes of God revealed in reading). Thank Him for what He's done. Listen to Him. Confess sin. Bring requests to Him.



Memory Verse Choose one verse from reading and write it down each day.