

## LOVING YOUR FRIENDS

### READ Mark 2:1-12

A few days later, when Jesus came again, the people heard that He had come home. <sup>2</sup> So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and He preached the word to them. <sup>3</sup> Some men came, bringing to Him a paralytic, carried by four of them. <sup>4</sup> Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on. <sup>5</sup> When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

<sup>6</sup> Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, <sup>7</sup> "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

<sup>8</sup> Immediately Jesus knew in His spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and He said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? <sup>9</sup> Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? <sup>10</sup> But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins..." He said to the paralytic, <sup>11</sup> "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." <sup>12</sup> He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

### REFLECT: How did the man's friends show they loved him?

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### How did Jesus reward their faithfulness to their friend?

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The man needed Jesus but the crowd was packed so tight he couldn't get to Him. His friends wouldn't let that stop them and found a way to get their friend to Jesus. When Jesus saw their faith He not only healed the man so he could walk but He also forgave the man His sins. Only Jesus could do that.

God wants us to love our family and friends with the same kind of care that these men showed their friend. Think of ways that you can be faithful to your friends and love them.

### RESPOND: How will you show kindness to your family and friends this week?

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**Thank God for giving us family and friends that love us and ask Him to help you love your family and friends with the same love that He has for you.**

Thank God for \_\_\_\_\_

Pray for \_\_\_\_\_