

SERIES: CHURCH 101
SERMON #6

GETTING STARTED

Pray and ask God to be a part of your group during this time. Inviting God into your group often helps to prepare us to hear from him and to see the potential of hearing God's direction in the midst of our group discussion.

DIGGING IN

Read Mark 2:1-12. What observations can you make about the group who carry the paralytic in the story?

In verse 5, Jesus acts because he sees "their faith." What value does this put on group life?

In verse 12, we read about the group's celebration of God's work in the life of the paralyzed man. What would it have been like to witness that event? How do you think the relationships of that group of men changed as a result?

LIVING IT OUT

In the sermon this week, we talked about the following components of doing life together as a group: connect, care, engage, seek, and celebrate. Take some time to explore these components in your group's life together.

Connect

On a scale of one to ten, how easy is it for a newcomer to connect with your group? Write your answer down on the page, and then go around the group to share your answer. What was the average of your answers?

Care

Groups have the opportunity to care for one another's needs. We all experience various physical (i.e. health), emotional (i.e. stress, depression, anger, etc.), spiritual (i.e. relationship with God), financial (i.e. debt, loss of job, big inheritance, etc.), moral/ethical (i.e. moral struggle, ethical decision at work), and relational (i.e. dating or marital concerns, broken relationships with friends, parents or children) needs in the course of life. Which of these types of needs would you be comfortable sharing with this group?

Is there anyone that would be willing to share a need with the group at this time?

Engage

What would it look like for the group to commit to engage the needs of one person in the group? What realistic next steps could be taken to meet that area of need? If no one has shared any needs, maybe you could just think through how you might be a blessing and encouragement to a group member at this time.

Seek

Read James 1:5-8 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Because of these truths, how should a group seek God? What is the danger of a group that gives advice to one another apart from prayer and Scripture?

In what ways will your group remember to live out these two verses as you seek God together?

Celebrate

Celebration is an important part of group life. Do you have a plan for how you will celebrate God's work in the lives of the people in your group? Will you do this periodically as events take place? Will you do it systematically on certain dates (birthdays, anniversary of the date that someone joined the group, etc.)? Brainstorm about a plan to celebrate together.

These sermon notes are produced each week for further study and discussion in our small groups. If you are interested in joining a small group, please contact Leslie Ann Yell at smallgroups@chathamchurch.org or 545-9589.