

## BRIARCLIFF CHURCH

### Small Group Study Guide: Mark

Week of September 16 (Week 5)

Mark 2:1-12



### Sermon Overview

In the first part of Mark 2 we are introduced to the concept of faith for the first time in Mark's Gospel. In the pronouncement of faith, we are more shown than told about the nature of saving and healing faith in Jesus Christ.

In being our forgiveness, Jesus knowingly sets himself on a path of fatal conflict with the religious leaders of his day. The revelation of Jesus' absolute authority and power over life and sin threatened those who believed they mastered those domains. Jesus' actions drew a stark line between those who would sacrifice to follow him and those who would sacrifice to fight him.

### Getting Started

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1. How has forgiving someone or being forgiven changed you?

### Starting with God

2. In Mark 2:1-5, how is Jesus' treatment of the paralytic surprising?

3. In Mark 2:6-12, why do both Jesus (v. 10) and the teachers (v. 7) say it takes authority to forgive sins?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. In Mark 2:9, what is the answer to Jesus' question? What is the point of asking it?

### **Living God's Word**

5. Forgiveness is necessary in all relationships. Where it is needed and not given or accepted, pride rules. Asking for and extending forgiveness is another way of pointing to the grace and lordship of Jesus in our lives. When we refuse to recognize God's grace and sovereignty in our relationships, bitterness is the result. Where can you extend or accept forgiveness? What relationship(s) are in need of God's healing gospel of forgiveness?

### **Prayer**

*Father God,  
We praise you for the perfect life and forgiving sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Please let our relationships  
be signposts to one another of Jesus' authority and forgiveness in our lives.  
Amen.*