

WONDERS

Title: **THE WONDERFUL FAITH**

Date: **June 23, 2024**

Leader's Tips:

- S** - Sensitivity with others. No one should feel left out.
- P** - Participation is encouraged during discussion.
- A** - Acknowledge guests. Make them feel welcome.
- C** - Confidentiality is key. What is shared stays in the group.
- E** - Encourage the group to pray for one another.

WORSHIP: (15 mins)

Venue Option 1: Home gatherings

Sing one or two songs or play a song from You Tube.

Venue Option 2: Public place (school, café, park, etc.) or Via Online, ask, "What is your "high" or "your "low" this past week?"

WELCOME:(15 mins): Remember I.W.C.

I - Introduce yourself.

W - Welcome guests/first-time visitors.

C - Cheer up (someone within the group).

Memory Verse for the week: Mark 2:5

Ice-breaker/Humor: *One day, a doctor shared a great news to his patient with a terminal illness. He said, "Your recovery could nothing be but a miracle!!" His patient replied, "Hallelujah Jesus! Now I don't need to worry about my medical bills!"*

WORD (30–45 mins) - Text: Mark 2:1-12

This story reveals the kind of faith that pleases the Lord. Four men who exercised their faith so that their friend can receive his miracle. The faith of these men is commendable! Let's discover what we can learn from this passage:

1. Their faith was expressed in service to others - vv.1-4

Those four men do not have a need for themselves. They exercised their faith by bringing their friend to Jesus which He acknowledged! Faith expressed in service for others can make us do UNTHINKABLE THINGS! These men were motivated to help and support their paralyzed friend. Faith is trusting God but makes us move into action!

Q: Do you have friends you can lead to encounter the love, forgiveness or healing of Jesus?

Q: What can you do this week to make them feel you care for them?

2. Faith that embraces the difficult – v.4

Since the men could not get their friend inside the house because of the big crowd, they tore the roof right above Jesus and then lowered the mat the man was lying on.

These men displayed confidence despite challenging situations. They displayed steadfast and resilient faith despite the difficulties. They didn't allow anything to stand in the way for their friend to receive his miracle from Jesus. They did not run away from the "difficult," from the hindrance of the crowded house!

Q: Are there things that could hinder you and me from leading someone to Christ? What could be those things?

Q: Was there a time in your life that you faced a great difficulty when it comes to leading someone to Christ? Can you share your experience? vv.3-4

3. Faith that cannot be denied –

Those four men had confidence in the Lord which led them to do unthinkable, unquestionable and undeniable. They had the conviction that didn't care what others will say or think. They believed Jesus can heal their paralyzed friend.

They did whatever they can to ensure their friend could reach the Lord and receive his much-needed miracle. James emphasized that faith without actions is dead (James 2:17). Faith comes by listening to God's Word (Romans 10:17), which leads to repentance and action from those who hear them.

Q: Do you know someone (a friend, a loved one, etc.) who needs a miracle touch from the Lord?

Conclusion:

Faith is a fact, but faith is an act.

Faith will bring us closer to Jesus, but fear has the potential to hinder us in our pursuit of God. Faith will bring the miraculous, but fear can hinder us from experiencing the miraculous. Faith empowers us to believe for others, while fear will prevent us from impacting others. Faith will move us to action, but fear will paralyze us. Faith can move mountains, but fear will cause the mountains to crush us! What is our choice? What will be your story? My prayer is that it becomes a tale of remarkable faith achievements that will impact other lives for Christ!

Q: What is your take-away from the discussion? Partner with someone in prayer.

WORK: The Challenge (15 mins.)

P- Pray for one another. Ask "what can I pray for you?" (7mins.)

R- Remind to invite a friend on the next gathering.

A- Apply the message during the week.

Y- Yearn to share your faith with someone during the week.