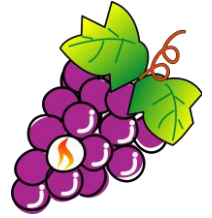# LIFE GROUP PLANNING

Aim of session:
What stops people getting to Jesus?
What is in your life that is a barrier to Jesus?

Key Scriptures

Mark 2:1-12

If you have access to a commentary read some background to get context.

You may also wish to compare the versions found in the other gospels Luke 5:17–26 and Matthew 9:2–8. What similarities are there? What differences and why may these differences exist?

Warm Up

Which people in your life are responsible for bringing you to Christ?

What barriers did they have to overcome?

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity

What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?   This could be a time to discuss and share reflections and ideas on the passage or watch a Bible project type video that helps explain things.

1. Which perspective resonates with you the most; those in the room, on the roof or on the mat?
2. What barriers do you think those outside the church face in the modern world which 'prevent' them from getting to Jesus?
3. Why did Jesus forgive the sins of the man before he healed him?
4. Jesus asks a great question in verse 9. What do you think is the right answer?
5. In verse 11 Jesus tells him to take up his mat. Why do you think this was? Meditating on the smaller details of scripture often produces insight.

Growing in discipleship: Practical application

1. Who within your life are you trying to bring to Jesus? How are you doing this?
2. Are there areas in your life that you may be 'laying on the mat' over?
3. Is there something in your life that you know you need to 'stand' in faith for?
4. What can we do as a church to reduce barriers to Jesus?

Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.