



**WELCOME**  
*to*  
**RIVERSIDE**  
CHURCH

*Big Lake*  
*Buffalo*  
*Sauk Rapids*

*April 26, 2026*

# SG

Your group matters.

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

*If you could be the spokesperson for any product on the market, what product would you choose to enthusiastically represent? Come up with a 10-second pitch and give it to the group.*

1. When you think of being desperate or desperation in someone else, what are some thoughts that come to mind? Can you think of positive and negative examples of desperation?
2. Think of a time when you experienced something really great and thought that everyone should know about it. What lengths would or did you go to, to ensure that they did? Would you say you were “desperate” to tell people?
3. Just like the example we see in **Mark 2:4**, what was the last thing that you were so desperate to tell or show someone that you wouldn’t let anything get in your way? Why was it so important for you in that moment to become like the people carrying the “mat”?
4. What level of belief (faith) and circumstance would it take for you to cast aside propriety, cultural and social acceptance, and concerns for reputation, that you would even vandalize property to bring someone to meet Jesus? Who would you do that for, or have you, and why?
5. In Jesus, God is desperately reaching out to rescue us from our “mats.” Like the men in **Mark 2:4**, are you willing to become a “mat carrier” and bring people to Jesus? Who is one person in your life who is “paralyzed” (spiritually, emotionally, or otherwise) that you long to see meet Him? Spend some time sharing their name with the group and pray together for them this week.

## PERSONAL GUIDE

*This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner’s Bible Reading System.*

*Day One:* John 2; Psalm 14

*Day Two:* Deuteronomy 11; Proverbs 9

*Day Three:* Romans 8; 1 Corinthians 13

*Day Four:* 2 Peter 2; Ezekiel 41

*Day Five:* Job 40; Acts 24

**“DESPERATE  
CHURCH”**

**Pastor Kyle Asmus**  
**April 26, 2026**

**Mark 2:1-4**

*When Jesus returned to Capernaum several days later, the news spread quickly that He was back home. Soon the house where He was staying was so packed with visitors that there was no more room, even outside the door. While He was preaching God's word to them, four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. They couldn't bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above his head. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus.*

**The Desperation of \_\_\_\_\_**

**Mark 2:2b-4**

*While He was preaching God's word to them, four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. They couldn't bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above his head. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus.*

**Discouragement \_\_\_\_\_ Desperation**

**The Desperation of \_\_\_\_\_**

**It's Only the \_\_\_\_\_ that Lead to Life**

**The Desperation of \_\_\_\_\_**

## Mark 2:5

Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "My child, your sins are forgiven."

## Mark 2:9-12

"Is it easier to say to the paralyzed man 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk'? So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!" And the man jumped up, grabbed his mat, and walked out through the stunned onlookers. They were all amazed and praised God, exclaiming, "We've never seen anything like this before!"

Church is desperate \_\_\_\_\_ in desperate \_\_\_\_\_  
saved by a desperate \_\_\_\_\_.

Desperate churches are \_\_\_\_\_.

Desperate churches are \_\_\_\_\_.

Desperate churches \_\_\_\_\_.

***Tell us about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!***

**App:** Message Notes/Connect Card **Or:** MYRC.LINK/CONNECT

### **“DESPERATE CHURCH”**

**Pastor Kyle Asmus**  
**April 26, 2026**

#### **Mark 2:1-4**

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#### **The Desperation of the Friends**

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#### **Discouragement Numbs Desperation**

#### **The Desperation of the Mat**

#### **It's Only the Words of Jesus that Lead to Life**

#### **The Desperation of Jesus**

## Mark 2:5

Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "My child, your sins are forgiven."

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"Is it easier to say to the paralyzed man 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk'? So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!" And the man jumped up, grabbed his mat, and walked out through the stunned onlookers. They were all amazed and praised God, exclaiming, "We've never seen anything like this before!"

Church is desperate people in desperate situations saved by a desperate Savior.

Desperate churches are persistent.

Desperate churches are uncomfortable.

Desperate churches look foolish.

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