



Leader's Guide for the Sermon, "Courage to Reach With Others"

Mark 2:1–12 | Pastor Dave Bennett | Series: Courage to Reach | November 23, 2025

Session Overview

This week's discussion focuses on Mark 2:1–12, where four friends refuse to let obstacles keep them from bringing a paralyzed man to Jesus. Pastor Dave emphasizes that courageous faith is not only personal—it is shared.

We are called to "rip the roof off" anything that stands between others and Jesus. This passage challenges us to reach with others, rely on community, and allow collective faith to bring transformation.

Session Flow (60–75 minutes)

1. Welcome and Icebreaker (10 min)

Example Question: "Share a time when someone else's support helped you reach Jesus in a deeper way."

2. Scripture Reading (5 min)

- Read Mark 2:1–12 aloud.
- Optional: Read again in NLT or The Message to emphasize imagery and urgency.

3. Discussion (40–50 min)

Use 6–8 of the following questions depending on time and group size.

Discussion Questions

1. What stands out to you most about the four friends who carried the paralyzed man to Jesus?

Leader Note: Emphasize teamwork, unity, and determination.

2. Pastor Dave said we must “rip the roof off” of silo thinking. What does silo thinking look like in the church or in your own life?

Leader Note: Discuss how independence can hinder spiritual growth.

3. Verse 5 says Jesus saw “their faith.” What does collective or shared faith look like today?

Leader Note: Highlight prayer, group life, serving together.

4. What ceilings or barriers keep us from carrying others to Jesus? (Pride, fear, busyness, judgment, etc.)

Leader Note: Identify internal and external obstacles.

5. Pastor Dave warned about the “paralysis of analysis.” How does overthinking keep us from compassion or action?

Leader Note: Encourage practical examples of overthinking.

6. Why is compassion often the starting point for meaningful ministry?

Leader Note: Help the group name what compassion looks like in action.

7. Jesus told the healed man to “take your mat and go home.” What does your “mat” (your testimony) look like?

Leader Note: Explore testimony as a tool for influence.

8. Who is someone Jesus may be calling you to reach *with* others this week?

Leader Note: Encourage concrete, actionable steps.

4. Application and Prayer (10–15 minutes)

- Identify one ceiling you need to “rip the roof off” for the sake of someone else.
- Pray for courage, unity, and compassion.
- Optional: Read Mark 2:12 aloud as a declaration of praise.

Closing Prayer Suggestion

Lord, thank You for placing people in our lives who carry us when we cannot carry ourselves. Give us courage to tear away anything that keeps others from reaching You. Strengthen our compassion, deepen our unity, and use our testimony to bring hope to others. Amen.