

# RELATIONSHIP



## MARK 2:1-22

Mark shows us how Jesus' ministry is different from the normal religious practices around him. One story takes place in a house where people have gathered to hear Jesus teach. While Jesus is teaching, some people cut a hole in the roof of the house. They lower their friend, who is paralyzed, down through the hole, because they think it's the only way they can get him close to Jesus. Jesus forgives the man of his sins and heals him of his paralysis, frustrating the religious leaders in the process.

In another story, Jesus calls a hated tax collector to be a disciple. Then he shares a meal with the tax collector and other social outcasts. The religious leaders are mad that Jesus is eating the wrong food in the wrong place with the wrong people.

In the third story, the religious leaders are fasting while Jesus is not, and again they get mad at Jesus. Can Jesus' movement be taken seriously if it doesn't follow strict rules? Is Jesus religious enough?

Jesus encounters many people, and all of them need healing. Some, like the paralyzed man, are aware that they need it. Some, like the outcasts, are brought into healing relationship. Others haven't realized that their sickness is pride and the inability to realize that they need help. And Jesus' healing comes in the gracious act of forgiveness.

### TALK ABOUT THIS ...

Who makes the religious rules? Do we have to follow them? Why, or why not? Is Jesus religious enough to be a Christian? Does Jesus think anyone is an outcast? How does Jesus heal people? Why does Jesus heal people? How does this happen today?



#### RELATIONSHIP

How can your faith help other people?  
How can someone else's faith help you?  
Why are relationships important?



#### PROGRESS

What does it mean to have a spiritual imagination? Can you try to see God in a new way during this new year?



#### SURPRISE

How can Jesus' example in these stories influence your daily life? Who can you include?

## FAITH<sup>5</sup> ... A BEDTIME ROUTINE FOR FAMILIES

SHARE your highs and lows from the day. READ the Bible story. TALK about how the Bible story relates to your highs and lows. PRAY for one another's highs and lows, and BLESS one another.

MORE INFORMATION: [faith5.org](http://faith5.org)