



People Looking for Help

People aren't avoiding church because they don't have needs, but because they're unsure church is a safe place to be honest about them.

Discussion Questions:

1. Growing up, what did you learn—explicitly or implicitly—about who church is for?
2. When life gets difficult, what's your default posture: handle it privately, look for help, or something else?
3. Read **Mark 2:1–5** aloud.

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

What do you think stands out about the role the friends played in this story?

4. What responsibility do you think the friends felt in this story, and how does that challenge the idea that faith is only a private matter?
5. What's one area of your life right now where you need help—and what would it look like to take a small step toward bringing that need into community?