

# J O H N : servant king : the gospel of mark

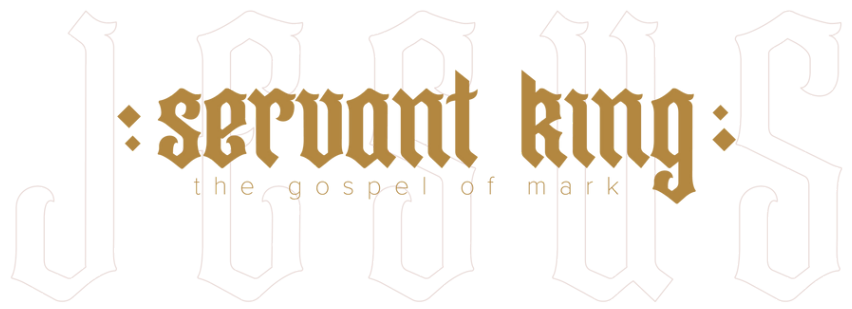
## ✦ week 2: jesus the forgiver - mark 2:1-12

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A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. 2 They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. 3 Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. 4 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. 5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

6 Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, 7 “Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

8 Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, “Why are you thinking these things? 9 Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’? 10 But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the man, 11 “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” 12 He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”



## ✦ personal study sheet

**DIRECTIONS:** Use the questions below to spend time in Scripture, dig deeper into the weekly sermon message, and to worship and pray. Each day, begin with prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you learn and apply what you read. Then, read **Mark 2:1-12** and answer the day's questions.

### ◆ DAY 1: FOCUS ON PEOPLE AND THEIR NATURAL, FALLEN CONDITION

**Read Mark 2:1-5**

- Illness is often a reason people consider looking to God for answers. In what other areas do people ask for prayer today? \_\_\_\_\_  
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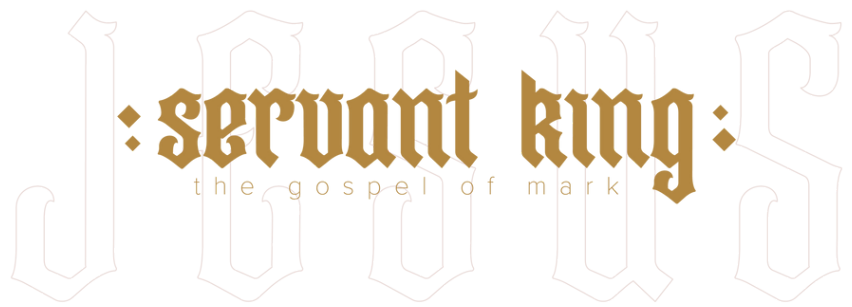
- Where do requests of God become demands to fulfill our desires, like asking a genie in a bottle to produce our next idol? In contrast, where do requests align with God's desire for us? \_\_\_\_\_  
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### ◆ DAY 2: FOCUS ON JESUS' WISDOM AND AUTHORITY

**Read verses Mark 2:5-12; re-read Chapter 1:14-15, 38**

- Why is Christ's priority first to grant forgiveness of sins to the paralyzed man? What is required to receive forgiveness from Christ? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- The scribes questioned Christ's authority to forgive and were stunned that He knew their thoughts. Why is what God calls sin something we should repent of and receive Christ's forgiveness for? How difficult is it for you to recognize your own sin and to truly repent of it? Why is Christ's forgiveness the greater miracle than the healing of the paralyzed man? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



### ◆ DAY 3: APPLICATION

- Consider your conversations and actions which point to your greatest desire or focus. Is this centered first on God’s direction or your own? What might God be calling you to change, if anything, after hearing this week’s message? (Share with a trusted friend/small group.)

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- Prioritize reflection on your relationship with God daily. Do you trust Him, your Creator? Study a passage of Scripture and learn more about God’s loving, perfect character. Seek to obey Him, which will change your priorities for the better. Thank God for revealing your sin and blind spots so that you can live with the contentment, joy, and peace that you are meant to have. Thank Him for sending Christ, our Redeemer who forgives sin! Let Him work on you so that you can live and love others the way you are meant to do. This is true healing, from the all-knowing Christ our Redeemer whom we encounter in Mark.

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### ◆ DAY 4: WORSHIP & PRAYER

**Use the words of Psalm 51:9-13, 15 in a time of worship and prayer.**

- Begin prayer by recognizing who God is,
- then as you recognize your position with respect to Him, confess any sin He is convicting you of to receive His cleansing transforming power to release this stronghold,
- thank Him for answers to prayers (He answers yes, no, or wait!),
- and then ask Him to align your requests with His will.
- Requests can be for yourself, friends, family, communities, nations, and the world.
- Don’t forget to ask Him what role He wants you to take on in answering His call to proclaim and demonstrate Christ’s love for others!