

# LIFE GROUP

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Challenges & Responses: New Ways of Living January 21, 2024

#### Summary

Jesus is not who we think He is. He is more than a teacher. He is our way of being forgiven, but He is also a transforming presence who brings change to our life.

#### Scripture

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." Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" 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? Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." 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!" Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them. As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him. While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. Some people came and asked Jesus, "How is it that John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees are fasting, but yours are not?" Jesus answered, "How can the guests of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? They cannot, so long as they have him with them. But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them, and on that day they will fast. "No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. Otherwise, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse. And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins." Mark 2:1-22 (NIV)

#### Let's Start

When was a time when you were challenged and "rose" to the challenge?

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### Gratitude and Prayer

How has God worked in your life since we were together?

### Let's Talk

1. What impacted you most about the sermon?
2. How did Jesus challenge the traditional thinking in the story of the paralyzed man?
3. How can Christian community, like the friends who brought the paralyzed man to Jesus, play a role in supporting and challenging individuals toward transformation?
4. Pastor Kyle made the following statements:
  - Where there is no challenge, there is no change.
  - Jesus challenges our way of thinking.
  - Jesus challenges our pride to heal our souls.
  - Jesus challenges our expectations to bring transformation to our lives.Have you seen/experienced these challenges? How?
5. Pastor Kyle shared Coach Dre's story in the message. Do you have any personal experiences where embracing the challenge to change led to transformation?

### Let's Act

Specifically, how will you "tear open the roof of your calendar" this week, integrating faith into your daily life?

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