# Preparing for Mission

**Grace Bible Church**
WORSHIP, COMMUNITY, DISCIPLESHIP

## Session Thoughts:

- Among your group discuss if you were able EAT with a few people over the past week.

- Read Mark 1:35-2:17 at least twice. Try reading the text from two different translations.What do you observe in the text? What jumps out at you and grabs your attention? What questions do you have from the text?

## Discussion Questions:

1. Read Mark 1:35-38. Jesus had begun to preach and teach publicly. News of him spread like wildfire, and soon there were crowds surging forward to see him. How did Jesus respond? What does this show us about Jesus' goals and motives?

2. Read Mark 2:1-5. How is Jesus' treatment of the paralytic surprising? Why was forgiveness the paralytic's deepest need? Why is it our deepest need? What other needs do we feel are deeper than our need for forgiveness?

> "You've distorted your deepest wish by trying to make it into your savior, and now that you finally have it, it's turned on you… Jesus is not going to play the rotten practical joke of giving you your deepest wish- until he has shown you that it was for him all along."

3. Why were the Pharisees offended? What is the magnitude of Jesus offering forgiveness to this man?

4. What is significant about the paralytic's friends? Do you have friends like this, who will do whatever it takes to get you to Jesus?

5. Read Mark 2:13-17. What was Jesus attitude towards sinners? Are Jesus' words a comfort to you? In what way?

## Next Steps:

- Describe a time when you experienced disappointment. You might recall a relationship or friendship that didn't work out as you had hoped, or something that you needed but didn't get (such as a job offer or physical healing.) Or conversely, you might recall a time you got something that you wanted, but it didn't satisfy as you thought it would.

- This week take either one hour, or 10 minutes a day to read from the Gospel of Mark. Write down things you LEARN from Jesus. What is his relationship with is Father like? How does he treat marginalized people? Anything note worthy.