



REACHING PEOPLE WITH THE LIFE GIVING MESSAGE OF JESUS CHRIST

New Year / New You: Rip Off the Roof

Big Idea:

A new year has officially begun and this week we continued a new series “New Year, New You”. A new year means new resolutions and a fresh opportunity to make some changes in your life. On the list of things that have the potential to impact our lives and our futures, our relationships rank high. We studied Mark chapter 2 and learned about the man who was paralyzed but had friends who took him to Jesus and refused to stop pursuing their miracle until their friend was healed. From this passage we saw the importance of developing roof- ripping relationships. Dr. Greg reminded us that our friends will either take us to Jesus or take us away from Him. This year we were challenged to push through uncomfortable obstacles and remember the people that God wants you to influence. Through narrowing our focus and being intentional we can experience all the blessings that God has in store for us.

³Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. ⁴Since 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. ⁵When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” ¹¹“I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” (Mark 2:3-5 & 11)

Community Group Questions:

1. Dr. Greg reminded us that “distractions drain the strength that grace brings.” How does your schedule help or hinder you from entering into deeper community? How can you realistically pursue greater relational depth today?
2. Are you willing to be a roof crasher and prioritize the needs of others? How can you intentionally look for the needs in your circle of influence in order to meet them and help your paralyzed friends get closer to Jesus?
3. Through Mark 2 we see that it was the friends of paralyzed man who had great faith and their faith brought him healing. What are some ways in which your faithfulness helps those in your circle? Why do we tend to forget that our faith impacts those around us?
4. Is there anyone in your life that knows your “mat” and still loves you enough to inconvenience themselves for you? Have you been that person for someone else?

Prayer Focus:

God, thank You for the people you have placed in my life. Today, help me to be intentional about being a blessing to those that You have called me to influence. Use me to be a roof ripping friend and a faithful follower of You. Amen.

Next Steps:

Spend some time this week seeking God and asking Him who He wants you to intentionally grow in relationship with. Ask God to increase your faith and help you to be a blessing to others. Commit to walking closer in your relationship with Jesus and the people He has placed around you.