# Gospel of Mark Weekly Talk Ideas | Sean McGever

## Mark Chapter 2

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| Scripture suggestion, basic overview, and background:  Mark 2 is part of Mark’s fast-moving and dynamic opening of Jesus’ baptism (1:9-11), temptation (1:12-13), preaching (1:14-15), disciple calling (1:16-20), healing (1:21-28), more healing (1:29-34), more preaching (1:35-39), and more healing (1:40-45) … that is a *lot* of action in one chapter – Mark is off to the races in his account of Jesus’ ministry. The action continues in chapter 2 as he settles in a bit to describe Jesus’ healing of a paralytic (2:1-12), calling of Levi (2:13-17), and teaching (1:13-28). Both the healing of the paralytic and calling of Levi could make great early-semester club talks. For this Talk Tuesday I am going to cover the healing of the paralytic because, for us, we are using it in the second semester and the paralytic story has more content (discussion of suffering [paralyzed], sin, forgiveness, Jesus’ authority, and the crowd misunderstanding that forgiveness of sin is more important than healing. NT Wright call this story “a tiny version of the whole gospel.” If it was first semester I would do the Levi story since it is more of an introductory story.  Here is a possible outline for the passage:   1. The setting: Jesus at a home and the home is packed! (2:1-2) 2. Key person #1: Meet the paralyzed man (2:3a) 3. Key people #2: Meet the four friends (2:3b) 4. The short-term challenge: Getting their friend to Jesus (2:4) 5. Key topic: Sin… Who can forgive sin? Only God (2:5-10) 6. Key action: Healing… Who can heal? Only God (2:11a) 7. Key response: They miss the point; they end up amazed but don’t make the obvious request: “Forgive me!”   Many people might make the mistake of thinking that the healing of the paralytic is the climax of this story and the key truth to tell kid (e.g. “Jesus can heal”). Yes, Jesus *can* heal. But, the healing was primarily a tool to convince people that Jesus can do what only God can do: Jesus (as God) can forgive. The proper response should have been: Forgive me Jesus! Perhaps we might invite kids into a two-step response: 1) Be amazed at Jesus [as they do], 2) Ask Jesus for forgiveness. |
| Possible main point(s):   * Do you want to be forgiven of your sins? Put your trust in Jesus since Jesus has proven himself to be God. * If you already know the forgiveness and healing Jesus has given you, carry one of your friends to club next week. |
| What this shows us about Jesus:   * Jesus proves that He is God (by healing the paralytic). * Jesus proves that He can forgive our sins. |
| What this has to do with our life:   * Let Jesus forgive you for the first time tonight. Let Jesus forgive you for the millionth time tonight. * Jesus no longer needs to “prove” that he is God. We can ask him if we want. You never know. |
| Relevant technical details:   * Home (v.1) = It is possible that this was Jesus’ home at his point of his life (scholars: R. Alan Cole, N.T. Wright). * Paralytic (v.3) = No technical details are available other than the fast the man was unable to walk. * Bed (v. 4) = Small and/or temporary mat, cot, or stretcher. * Saw their faith (v.5) = It is possible that Jesus was speaking to all five people (e.g. “their = the four plus the paralyzed man” but it is also possible that Jesus is only speaking to the four friends. * Scribes (v.6) = Experts in the Jewish scriptures (the Old Testament) * Blaspheming (v.7) = Lying about God. Punishment for this was death by stoning (Lev. 24:10-16) |
| Possible illustrations:   * Roof: If possible do something with the roof of the room where you are speaking. Maybe use a window instead? * Mat: Pick four people to carry a fifth person up to the stage to help bring them all into the story. * Mat: Consider sitting on the mat and talk about what it would like to be paralyzed. Consider talking about a time in your life when you felt paralyzed, perhaps by guilt, shame, or fear – and how Jesus worked (or is still working) in your life – do that all from the mat. * Q&A: Ask individuals in the crowd: “Can you forgive sins?” then ask the next person “Can you?” etc. |

*For more details, see ylhelp.com*

Mark 2 (ESV)

**Jesus Heals a Paralytic**

**2**And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. **2**And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. **3**And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. **4**And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. **5**And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” **6**Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, **7**“Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” **8**And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you question these things in your hearts? **9**Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk’? **10**But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic— **11**“I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.” **12**And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

**Jesus Calls Levi**

**13**He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. **14**And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him.

**15**And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. **16**And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?” **17**And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

**A Question About Fasting**

**18**Now John’s disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. And people came and said to him, “Why do John’s disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?” **19**And Jesus said to them, “Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. **20**The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day. **21**No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. **22**And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins—and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins.”

**Jesus Is Lord of the Sabbath**

**23**One Sabbath he was going through the grainfields, and as they made their way, his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. **24**And the Pharisees were saying to him, “Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?” **25**And he said to them, “Have you never read what David did, when he was in need and was hungry, he and those who were with him: **26**how he entered the house of God, in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?” **27**And he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. **28**So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath.”