

The Adventure of Spiritual Multiplication

Mark 2:1-12

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July 30, 2017

Vol. 7 Num. 31

Using This Study

1 EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

2 EXPLORE His Word

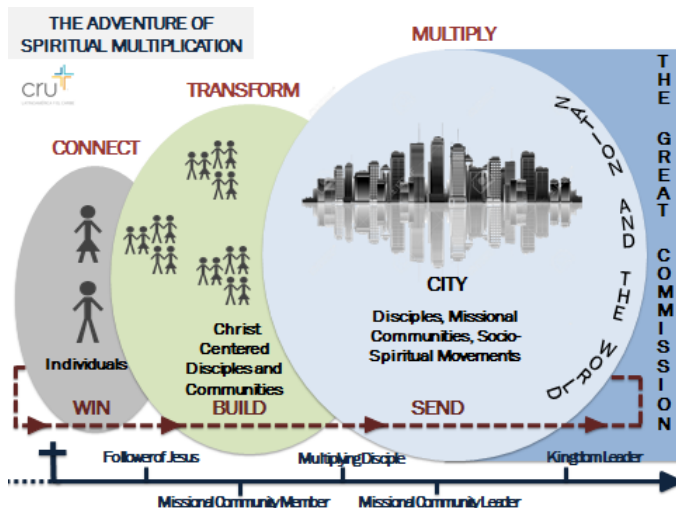
What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

3 EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



This week Layo and Luchy Leiva are in town! It is our privilege to learn about the “Adventure of Spiritual Multiplication” from our Cru missionaries in Costa Rica. In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus said to his disciples, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” We have been given the great commission and are called to win individuals to Christ, build them up in the faith, and send them out to multiply God’s kingdom.



Mark 2:1-12 (NIV)

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!"

🕯 EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?

6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?

7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

2 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)
What does God MEAN?

8. What are the main qualities of the four friends?

9. Why do you think Jesus was so impressed by the faith of the four friends?

3 EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)
Why does this MATTER to me?

10. How am I helping others get connected to Jesus? Share recent stories of connections you have helped to make...

11. Why are the two dimensions of Jesus' healing so important? How would that healing look like today?

12. Do you agree with the statement that "the Christian life was designed to be lived in the context of community"? Why? What is it about community that brings about personal transformation?

13. Share a recent story of a transformational experience you have had in the context of a community of believers.

14. Do you think all Christians can become spiritual multipliers? Why? What's needed to start multiplying?

15. Do you see yourself as a spiritual multiplier?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage:

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

Sermon Notes: