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January 6, 2019



MEDITATION MOMENT

Take 2 minutes to think about how richly God provides for you. Think about how He has provided for you financially in the past. Reflect on the opportunities He has brought your way. Meditate on the gifts and blessings, the people and experiences He has given you. At the end of this meditative moment, pray aloud, *“God, You are my Provider, and I thank You for meeting my every need.”*



BIBLE READING

Mark 2:1-12



THOUGHT FROM NICOLE

In this passage, four men cut a hole in a stranger’s roof and lowered their friend to Jesus. What a sight this must have been! Then imagine being in the room listening to Jesus when you hear a strange racket above you. Debris probably begins to fall. Sunlight pierces from the roof into the room. Figures slowly emerge from the dust as you look up, and before you know it, a

man on a mat is lowered from above to Jesus. What these guys did was gutsy, risky—dangerous even. It was impolite, labor-intensive and costly. *But it was worth it.* Mark 2 tells us, “When Jesus saw the extent of *their* faith” He forgave and healed the paralyzed man. Faith is not an isolated, individualized experience, but one that strengthens in community. When we rally together in faith, not only are we willing to do the extraordinary, but we experience the miraculous!



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How laborious was the process of lowering the paralyzed man in order to get to Jesus? At what lengths have other believers gone to in the past in order for you to encounter Jesus’ love and power? And how far have you gone to help someone else experience spiritual breakthrough in his or her life?

Jesus not only heals the paralyzed man, but He forgives him. What does this show you about Jesus’ desire to heal not only the body, but the soul and spirit as well?



ACTIVATION

Ask yourself who you are most like in Mark 2. Are you in need of a breakthrough much like the paralyzed man? Reach out to a few trusted friends today to let them know you need their support and prayer right now. Or are you more like one of the four and know someone in need of a miracle? Let them know today that you are there for them and that you are praying with them for their breakthrough.