

## Ripping off the Roof - Discussion Questions

Mark 2:1-12

### Open It

What would you think of a person who claimed to be something he or she was not?  
What do you think would be most difficult about being paralyzed?

### Explore It

Where did the events of this story take place? (2:1-2)  
What exactly was Jesus doing when the events of this story took place? (2:2)  
What dilemma did the paralytic man and his friends face? (2:2-4)  
What do the details of the story tell you about the paralytic man, his friends, and Jesus' reputation? (2:3-4)  
How did the paralytic man's friends solve the dilemma that they faced? (2:4)  
How did the paralytic man's friends get Jesus' attention? (2:4-5)  
How did Jesus evaluate the faith of the paralytic man and his friends? (2:5)  
What motivated Jesus to respond to the paralytic man's plight? (2:5)  
Why did the Pharisees accuse Jesus of blasphemy? (2:6-7)  
How did Jesus respond to the thoughts of the Pharisees? (2:8-9)  
How did Jesus show that He had authority to forgive sins? (2:9)  
What did Jesus mean by "Son of Man"? (2:10)  
Why did Jesus heal the paralytic man? (2:10-12)  
Until now, Jesus had been preaching but not performing miracles; why did He heal this particular man? (2:10-12)

### Get It

Why do you think Jesus chose to forgive the man's sins before healing him physically?  
Which is it easier for us to do—forgive others or care for them when they're sick?  
How is God's viewpoint different from ours regarding the forgiveness of sins?  
What connection is there between a person's faith and God's working in his or her life?  
What does God require or not require to forgive us of our sins?  
How would you compare Jesus' response in this story to the Pharisees' attitudes?  
What does this story tell you is the difference between true spirituality and counterfeit spirituality?  
What is one paralysis in your life from which you want Jesus to release you?  
What problems, needs, or weaknesses in your life are there that God can use?

### Apply It

What specific steps can you take this week to show faith in Christ?  
What broken area of your life will you ask God to heal?  
Following the example of the paralytic man's friends, how could you go out of your way to help another believer who is experiencing pain or suffering?