**National Staff Conference 2023 - Mundelein**

**Online** **Small Group Preparation –** **Tuesday, March 21**

**Individual Study**

Goal: Explore Mark 2

This passage of scripture is uniquely set after the healing of the leper. It’s at the beginning of Jesus’ ministry and people are starting to hear about him. He is starting to draw crowds wherever he goes. He is healing people, driving out demons, and developing his team of disciples. A stir is starting among the religious elite about him.

**Mark 2 - NIV**

**2**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!”

Read or listen to the passage several times. Take a few moments to sit in silence. Reflect on what stands out to you? Where is your attention drawn? What words or phrases stand out to you? Spend time in bringing your thoughts before the Lord.