

(all together on one slide, keep formatting)
We are story-shaped people
God speaks to us through stories

Mark 2:1-12

“When he entered Capernaum again after some days, it was reported that he was at home. 2 So many people gathered together that there was no more room, not even in the doorway, and he was speaking the word to them. 3 They came to him bringing a paralytic, carried by four of them. 4 Since they were not able to bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and after digging through it, they lowered the mat on which the paralytic was lying. 5 Seeing their faith, Jesus told the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” 6 But some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts: 7 “Why does he speak like this? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” 8 Right away Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were thinking like this within themselves and said to them, “Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? 9 Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat, and walk’? 10 But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” — he told the paralytic — 11 “I tell you: get up, take your mat, and go home.” 12 Immediately he got up, took the mat, and went out in front of everyone. As a result, they were all astounded and gave glory to God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!””

The **authority** and the **power** of Jesus’ **word** are on display in Mark

Mark 1:14-15

“After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee, **proclaiming** the good news of God: 15 “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the **good news!**”

Mark 1:21

“They went into Capernaum, and right away he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath and began to **teach.**”

Mark 1:27

“They were all amazed, and so they began to ask each other, “What is this? A **new teaching with authority!** He commands even the unclean spirits, and they **obey him.**””

Mark 1:36-37

“Simon and his companions **searched** for him, 37 and when they found him they

said, "Everyone is looking for you."

(all on one slide, come up one at a time)

Authority to read hearts

Authority to heal sickness

Authority to forgive sins

The physical need was evident; the spiritual need was ultimate

(All on one slide, come up one at a time)

You can be physically whole and still be spiritually sick

You can be physically sick and be spiritually whole

This moment happened because of the faith and efforts of these friends

Character of the 4 friends:

Courageous

Compassionate

Creative

Contagious

(all on one slide, come up one at a time)

- The friends had to lay down their fear of what people would say
- The friends saw someone who was used to being unseen
- The friends were willing to step into the unknown
- The friends' courage was contagious

Spend time each day focusing on these stories in the word of God

Hebrews 4:12-13

"For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the

thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13 No creature is hidden from him, but all things are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give an account.”

Hebrews 1:1-3

“Long ago God spoke to our ancestors by the prophets at different times and in different ways. 2 In these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son. God has appointed him heir of all things and made the universe through him. 3 The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact expression of his nature, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

TWG Slide

3 questions to ask as you read these stories:

1. What does this story teach me about God?
2. What does this story teach me about life?
3. How can I apply what I have read to my life?

There will be chapters in your life that you simply won’t get through without friendship

Embrace the 3 and 12 principle of friendship that Jesus modeled

Blessable friendships v Unblessable friendships

Blessable friendship (friends)

- Courageous
- Compassionate
- Creative
- Contagious

Unblessable friendship (religious leaders)

- Closed off
- Self centered
- Skeptical
- Critical

See your home as a place set apart for God's purpose

John 14:23

“Jesus answered, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.”