

DISCIPLE

THE JOURNEY OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH



Bridge City
CHURCH

Part 7: Circles, Not Rows

May 31, 2026



CONVERSATION GUIDE



SMALL GROUPS

As we continue through this series, we have seen that following Jesus transforms different areas of our lives. This week, we discover that discipleship was never meant to be lived in isolation. God calls us to walk alongside others because many of life's battles and challenges find support, strength, and direction when we live in community—in "circles" rather than "rows."

In **Mark 2**, a group of friends brought a paralyzed man to Jesus because they believed He could change his situation. Their faith moved them to take action and help someone who could not get there on his own. This story reminds us that God often uses healthy relationships to draw us closer to Him, strengthen us during difficult seasons, and help us keep moving forward when our own strength is limited.

While he was preaching God's word to them, four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat... Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "My child, your sins are forgiven."... Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!" And the man jumped up, grabbed his mat, and walked out through the stunned onlookers. They were all amazed and praised God, exclaiming, "We've never seen anything like this before!"

Mark 2:2-3;5;10-12 (NLT)



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. Jesus saw the faith of the friends who brought the paralyzed man and responded to his need. What does this passage teach you about the importance of supporting and walking alongside others in their journey toward God?

2. **Ecclesiastes 4:9–12** teaches that two are better than one and that a cord of three strands is not easily broken. Can you think of a time when the support of others helped you persevere through a difficult situation?
3. What barriers commonly keep people from being transparent, receiving help, or allowing others to walk with them through their struggles?

There are battles that don't disappear just by praying, but by walking alongside other people in community.

MAKE IT PRACTICAL

This week, let's take intentional steps toward a more connected life:

1. **From Isolation to Community.** Take an honest look at whether you have been facing something completely on your own. Take one simple step toward a healthy relationship where you can receive support, guidance, and encouragement.
2. **Open Your Life to the Right People.** Think of a trustworthy person with whom you can have an honest conversation this week. Share a struggle you would normally keep to yourself and allow them to support you through prayer or encouragement.
3. **Help Others Carry Their Mat.** Identify someone who is going through a difficult situation and take one practical step to help them. It could be a phone call, an encouraging message, or a simple act of service that eases part of their burden.

PRAYER

"Jesus, thank You for not calling us to walk alone. Thank You for the people You have placed in our lives to encourage us, support us, and draw us closer to You. Help us build healthy relationships, receive help with humility, and be available to help others. May we live out our faith in community this week and reflect Your love through our relationships. Amen."

TIPS

- Decisions of faith are often strengthened when we share them and walk them out alongside mature and trustworthy people.
- If you feel tired or discouraged this week, remember that asking for help is also a sign of wisdom and courage.
- Following Christ is a lifelong journey; the right relationships can help you remain steadfast and continue growing over time.

CONNECTION GROUPS

Starting Monday, June 1st

https://bridgcitymd.churchcenter.com/groups/grupos-de-conexion?enrollment=open_signup%2Crequest_to_join&filter=enrollment

