

August 2, 2020 | Together Again Group Discussion Questions

GROUP PREP

In preparation for group, read [Mark 2:1-12](#) and [watch Emmanuel's weekend service message](#), then answer the following discussion questions.

SOCIAL TIME (10-15 minutes)

For your first meeting, use the ice breaker, [Meet My New BFF](#). It gives all your group members something to do as soon as they walk in the door, which removes a lot of the initial awkward standing around with nothing to do. To prepare, print one copy for each group member and have pens available.

CHECK-IN (15-20 minutes)

If this is your first meeting, there's no need to force an official Check-In. Use this time to review the [Group Agreement](#) and [Group Commitment Card](#).

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

At some point, we will all face something we cannot overcome by ourselves. None of us are immune to depression, anxiety, sickness, financial problems, anger, addiction, pride, etc. Many of us are facing something difficult right now. Maybe you've asked God for help, but you're still unable to get passed it. Some problems require the help of friends.

1. After reading [Mark 2:1-12](#), what do you find significant about this story?

Although Jesus is the one who heals this paralyzed man's body and soul, this man would've never made it to Jesus without the help of his friends. What obstacles did these men overcome to get their friend to Jesus?

2. We all need God, but we also need people around us who will bring us before Jesus. There are 4 characteristics the paralytic's friends had that we need in our friends.

- **The right friends carry your burdens.** Read [Galatians 6:1-2](#). What burden has been most difficult to overcome in recent years, and in what way do you need help carrying it?
- **The right friends carry you to Jesus.** Who in your life does a good job of continually pointing you to Jesus, and how do they do it?
- **The right friends don't give up.** Read [Mark 2:4](#). Is there anybody in your life you're giving up on, and why?

- **The right friends are people of deep faith.** Read [Mark 2:5](#). How did the friends of the paralytic exhibit deep faith? What does the term “deep faith” mean and how do we find someone with it?

3. The paralytic’s friends went to great lengths to bring him to Jesus. How could we emulate their example? In what ways could this group team up to bring lost or hurting friends to Jesus?

Based off of the four characteristics of the right friends, would you say you have the right friends around you? If not, what could be done to improve your circle of friends?

4. There are two sides to this discussion. We need the right friends around us and we must be the right friends for others. Which side needs more focus and why?

For the coming week, how will you commit to being the right friend and take steps to surround yourself with the right friends.

ACTION STEP (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the following or create your own.

- **Thank those who’ve brought you to Jesus.** Write down the three people who helped you most in creating a relationship with Jesus Christ. Write them each a thank you note and encourage them this week.
- **Do something.** Determine one thing you can do each day to be the right friend for another and journal about what you did.
- **Find the right friends.** Determine who could be a friend with the characteristics mentioned in the discussion above and invite them to coffee.

PRAYER (5-10 minutes)

Give everyone in your group an index card. Ask them to write their name and action step on one side and a prayer request on the other. When finished, have everyone pass their cards to the left. Everyone in the group now has someone to connect with throughout the coming week for three reasons:

- 1) To build the relationship
- 2) To encourage to accomplish their action step
- 3) To pray for in a specific way

Ask them to place the index card on their night stand or another place that would allow them to see it and use it every day.

GROUP SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

To determine how your group can serve together in the surrounding community, email Breanne Schafer, Emmanuel’s Outreach Coordinator, at bschafer@eclife.org.

FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW FOR THIS UPCOMING WEEK'S ACTION STEPS.

My action step is _____.

This coming week, I will encourage _____ to complete their action step.

Their action step is _____.

My memory verse is _____.

This coming week, I will pray for the group's following prayer requests:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____