

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

The Fellowship of the Mat

Questions written by Scotty James

September 13, 2009



ANNOUNCEMENTS

We have three new members of our ministry! Join us in welcoming our new Small Groups Pastor, Gary Beneventi, and two new Area Coordinators, Nicole Moser and Scotty James. They look forward to getting to know and serve all of you!

MEMORY VERSE

“When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven”. Mark 2: 5

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE MAT

GETTING STARTED

Pastor Danny Quimlat titled his message, “The Fellowship of the Mat”. Why do you think he gave it that title?

DIGGING DEEPER

The paralytic in the story was despised by all of society. No one associated with the disabled, and they were stigmatized and shunned by everyone around them. Though this is not the case today in our culture, there are still different types of people shunned in our society. Can you think of any?

If associating with a paralytic was uncommon, then carrying one’s mat would have been extremely rare. What does this tell you about the 4 men who did this? What character traits must they have had that allowed them to do this? Being honest with ourselves, do you see these traits in your personal life?

The pastor used the mat of the paralytic in a symbolic way; he used it to represent “human brokenness”. What do you think he meant by “human brokenness”?

Human brokenness is something every human being deals with, and it varies among each person. Some feel incomplete. Some lack confidence. Some are shy or embarrassed about something. Some try to hide who they really are, or what they really look like. Can you think of any ways that people try to fix their human brokenness?

There are tons of ways that people try to fix their brokenness, and though it may help for a while, the resolution is almost always temporary. The friends of the paralytic provided a permanent resolution for him. Can you think of any ways to permanently fix our human brokenness?

Just like in the case of the paralytic, many of us need assistance in fixing our brokenness. This is not always easy. In the case of the 4 friends, they faced an obstacle when trying to help the paralytic. What was the obstacle they faced, and how did they handle it? Were they diligent, or did they give up? What does their reaction tell you about them, and would you have done the same thing?

BRINGING IT HOME

There are plenty of people with mats that need help carrying them. What can we do to help these people?

There are likely people in our small groups that need help with their mats. How can we help carry their burdens?

This week, let's actively engage at least one person who needs help, and if they allow us, let's carry them.