

Next Level | Week 1 - Available Friends

Message Big Idea

Next Level friendships start with availability.

Scripture

Ephesians 4:16 and Mark 2:1-12

Opening Questions

1. Phones have come a long way through the years! What type of phone do you remember using as a kid?
2. What is the story behind your phone or computer's wallpaper?

Series Overview

This new series, Next Level, is about bringing our relationships and friendships to a new and better place. This week we focus on moving our relationships and friendships from accessibility to availability.

Bible Discussion

3. Read Ephesians 4:16. What is the message of this passage? How does the metaphor of a physical body relate to its message? How does it relate to relationships and friendships?
4. Mark 2:1-5 begins the story of Jesus healing a paralyzed man. What do you think motivated the paralyzed man's friends to go to such lengths to bring him to Jesus? Why did Jesus forgive the man's sins before healing his physical condition? What does this reveal about his priorities?
5. Read Mark 2:6-7. What is the significance of the teachers of the law questioning Jesus' words in this passage?
6. Read the conclusion of this incredible miracle in Mark 2:8-12. Jesus refers to himself as the "Son of Man." What do you think that means? (Read Daniel 7:13-14 for reference.)

Life Application

7. Ephesians 4:16 tells us that we are meant to be joined together in relationship and friendship to grow together. Has this been true in your own life? If so, share an example. If not, what would need to change for this to become true for you?
8. How can we apply the example of the friends' persistence and determination in helping the paralyzed man to our own lives when it comes to our relationships and friendships?
9. Can we draw any parallels between the attitudes of the teachers of the law in Mark 2:6-7 and attitudes we encounter today?
10. What can we learn about moving from accessibility to availability in our relationships and friendships from this powerful story? What is one thing you can do this week to be available to be this kind of friend? Close in prayer together, asking for God's help and strength to accomplish this.