

Next Level | Week 1 - Available Friends**Message Big Idea**

Next Level friendships start with availability.

Scripture

Ephesians 4:16 and Mark 2:1-12

Points to Keep In Mind

1. The popular series “The Chosen” depicts the scene in Mark 2:1-12 powerfully. Feel free to include this video segment during group if some of your members missed Sunday’s service. You can find it on YouTube under “The Chosen Scene: Jesus Heals the Paralytic.”
2. Just as in the story of the healing of the person with paralysis, Next Level friends are available to carry each other’s mats, do the hard work and bring us closer to God. That’s precisely what you do by being connected in a small group. You are available for the kind of friendship that lets another person close enough to see the tough stuff in your life. You are giving your time and energy to take your group deeper, and you are helping people find their way back to God by developing friendships in your small group. Thank you! You may want to challenge your group members to invite one friend to your group this week so they too can experience Next Level friendship.
3. Jesus used the title “Son of Man” to describe himself 14 times in Mark’s Gospel. He did this for two reasons: He wanted to remind his disciples that he was a person like them, and “Son of Man” is used in the prophecy of Daniel (Daniel 7:13-14) to describe a figure with authority from God. Many people connect this prophecy with the idea of the coming Messiah.

Additional Questions and Resources

1. Where do you see God at work in your life right now?
2. What next steps do you feel called to take in your faith journey?
3. Have you considered getting baptized? communitychristian.org/baptism
4. What have you been learning from the Community Daily? communitychristian.org/daily
5. If someone is seeking professional counseling, you can always refer them to our resource page: communitychristian.org/mentalhealth/
6. Find out more about having a YOU+ conversation by visiting: youplus.info
7. How have you been able to BLESS others recently? (B-begin with prayer, L-listen, E-eat, S-serve and S-share your story)