

Vineyard Community Church

Community Group Discussion Guide 3/7/10

How Do You Serve Humanity?

Mark 2:1-12

Getting Acquainted

1. Using the game of football as an analogy of life, where would you place yourself: outside the park, in the grandstand or on the field? Why?

Sermon Discussion

2. Did God reveal anything specific to you through Sunday's sermon?
3. Everyone is dealing with something in their life whether they are a Christian or not. How can you become more aware of people's struggles around you?
4. The paralytic's friends faced several obstacles as they tried to bring him to Jesus. What obstacles do you see in the story? What can you learn from the paralytic's friends? To what lengths are you willing to go to in order to help others get closer to Jesus?
5. In verse 5 it says that it was when Jesus saw the faith of the paralytic's friends that he forgave the paralytic? What do you think about the role that the friend's faith played in his healing?
6. Who do you think you are in this story? The paralytic, the four friends, the crowd, Jesus or the Scribes and Pharisees? Explain.
7. What does removing the roof mean to you? How do you typically view people in need of healing? Do you believe that God can use you to make a difference in the lives of others?
8. Why is it important for you to bring people in need of healing to the crowd? What does the crowd represent to you? Who are you to lead people to? How can you remove the roof at VCC?

Digging Deeper

9. Read Philippians 2:1-4. How do you see this passage relating to the situation with the paralytic?
10. Explore your gifts in more detail. See "Help Me Find My Fit at VCC."

Vineyard Community Church

Help me find my fit at VCC

Name: _____

e-mail address: _____

Phone number: _____

**Each person is given something to do that shows who God is:
Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. I Cor. 12:7 MSG**

1. Spiritual gifts are God-given abilities to serve and strengthen the body of Christ in the following ways. I believe my spiritual gifts are...

_____ **Administration:**

Effectively organizing resources and people in order to efficiently reach ministry goals.

_____ **Apostleship:**

Launching and leading new ministry adventures that advance God's purposes and expand His kingdom. The original Greek meaning of the word is "sent one" (literally, one sent with authority, or as an ambassador.)

_____ **Discernment:**

Recognizing truth or error within a message, person or event.

_____ **Encouragement:**

Helping others live God-centered lives through inspiration, encouragement, counseling, and empowerment.

_____ **Evangelism:**

Sharing the love of Christ with others in a way that draws them to respond by accepting God's free gift of eternal life.

_____ **Faith:**

Stepping out in faith in order to see God's purposes accomplished, trusting Him to handle any and all obstacles along the way.

_____ **Giving:**

Joyfully supporting and funding various kingdom initiatives through material contributions beyond the tithe.

_____ **Healing:**

Healing and restoring to health, beyond traditional and natural means, those who are sick, hurting and suffering.

_____ **Helping/Serving:**

Offering others assistance in reaching goals that glorify God and strengthen the body of Christ.

_____ **Hospitality:**

Providing others with a warm and welcoming environment for fellowship.

_____ **Interpretation:**

Understanding, at a specific time, God's meaning when spoken by another using a special language unknown to the others in attendance.

_____ **Knowledge:**

Communicating God's truth to others in a way that promotes justice, honesty and understanding.

_____ **Leadership:**

Casting vision, stimulating spiritual growth, applying strategies, and achieving success where God's purposes are concerned.

_____ **Mercy:**

Ministering to those who suffer physically, emotionally, spiritually, or relationally. Their actions are characterized by love, care, compassion, and kindness towards others.

_____ **Miracles:**

Through supernatural acts that bring validity to God and His power.

_____ **Pastoring:**

By taking spiritual responsibility for a group of believers and equipping them to live Christ-centered lives.

_____ **Prophecy:**

Offering messages from God that comfort, encourage, guide, warn, or reveal sin in a way that leads to repentance and spiritual growth. The original Greek meaning of this word is to "speak forth the truth." The gift of prophecy includes both "forth telling" (preaching), and "foretelling" (revelation).

_____ **Teaching:**

Teaching sound doctrine in relevant ways, empowering people to gain a sound and mature spiritual education.

_____ **Tongues:**

Communicating God's message in a special language unknown to the speaker.

_____ **Wisdom:**

Making wise decisions and counseling others with sound advice, all in accordance with God's will.

2. What things are you passionate about? What things do you get excited about doing? What causes are you willing to fight for?

3. Skills... what skills have you acquired?

- Adapting... The ability to adjust, change, alter, modify
- Administrating... the ability to govern, run, rule
- Analyzing... the ability to examine, investigate, probe, evaluate
- Building... The ability to construct, make, assemble.
- Coaching... The ability to prepare, instruct, train, equip, develop.
- Communicating... The ability to share, convey, impart.
- Competing... The ability to contend, win, battle.
- Computing... The ability to add, estimate, total, calculate.
- Connecting... The ability to link together, involve, relate.
- Consulting... The ability to advise, discuss, confer.
- Cooking... The ability to prepare, serve, feed, cater.
- Coordinating... The ability to organize, match, harmonize.
- Counseling... The ability to guide, advise, support, listen, care for.
- Decorating... The ability to beautify, enhance, adorn.
- Designing... The ability to draw, create, picture, outline.
- Developing... The ability to expand, grow, advance, increase.
- Directing... The ability to aim, oversee, manage, supervise.
- Editing... The ability to correct, amend, alter, improve.
- Encouraging... The ability to cheer, inspire, support.
- Engineering... The ability to construct, design, plan.
- Facilitating... The ability to help, aid, assist, make possible.
- Forecasting... The ability to predict, calculate, see trends, patterns and themes.
- Implementing...The ability to apply, execute, make happen.
- Improving... The ability to better, enhance, further, enrich.
- Influencing... The ability to affect, sway, shape, change.
- Landscaping... The ability to garden, plant, improve.
- Leading... The ability to pave the way, direct, excel, win.
- Learning... The ability to study, gather, understand, improve, expand self.
- Managing... The ability to run, handle, oversee.
- Mentoring... The ability to advise, guide, teach.
- Motivating... The ability to provoke, induce, prompt.
- Negotiating... The ability to discuss, consult, settle.
- Operating... The ability to run mechanical or technical things.
- Organizing... The ability to simplify, arrange, fix, classify.
- Performing... The ability to sing, speak, dance, play an instrument.
- Pioneering... The ability to bring about something new, groundbreaking, original
- Planning... The ability to arrange, map out, prepare.
- Promoting... The ability to sell, sponsor, endorse, showcase.
- Recruiting... The ability to draft, enlist, hire, engage
- Repairing... The ability to fix, mend, restore, heal.
- Researching... The ability to seek, gather, examine, study.
- Resourcing... The ability to furnish, provide, deliver.
- Serving... The ability to help, assist, fulfill
- Strategizing... The ability to think ahead, calculate, scheme.
- Teaching... The ability to explain, demonstrate, tutor.
- Translating... The ability to interpret, decode, explain, speak.

- _____ Traveling... The ability to journey, visit, explore.
- _____ Visualizing... The ability to picture, imagine, envision, dream, conceptualize.
- _____ Welcoming... The ability to entertain, greet, embrace, make comfortable.
- _____ Writing... The ability to compose, create, record.

4. Now... go back and circle the top five of the above skills that most define you.

5. When it comes to your personality, circle the one in each pair that best describes you, below.

Outgoing or Reserved

People or Projects

Follow or Lead

Team or Solo

Routine or Variety

Cooperative or Competitive

High risk or Low risk

Self-expressive or Self-controlled

6. Anything else you might want to share...

When completed, please give this to your Community Group leader or place it in the Fit Your Serve Box on the counter in the information area.