**Striving for 2nd Best? Study Guide and Small Group Discussion Questions**

Pastor Kevin highlighted the structure of Mark 2:1-12, centering on Jesus and his authority to forgive sins.

What does it mean to you that even in “our” stories, Jesus should still be the center or main character? How do we avoid making ourselves the focus?

Though the paralyzed man was physically healed, Pastor Kevin emphasized that a more meaningful healing took place - the forgiveness of his sins.

How do we react when God does not heal us or people that we are praying for from their physical illnesses? Can we still rejoice in God knowing that we/they were not physically healed?

The Gospel message and even Biblical passages were something that Pastor Kevin were familiar with.

How do you think believing in the Gospel message as opposed to just knowing the Biblical passages, made a difference in his mindset? How can we also move beyond just knowing into believing what we already know?

Our natural human instinct seeks to be in control of almost all things, otherwise this may lead to feelings of worry and anxiety, especially when things don’t go according to our plans.

Have you ever felt this way also? How were you able to overcome this need for total control?

What were the things that were holding you back from completely surrendering to God? How can we be more ready in surrendering control to Jesus?