

Read Mark 2:1–12 together.

1. Why do you think Jesus chose to forgive the man's sins before healing his body?

- What does this say about what Jesus sees as most important?

- How does this challenge the way we usually pray?

2. Ephesians 2:8–9.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."

If faith is a gift from God, how should that shape the way we pray—for ourselves and for others?

3. Luke 17:5 The apostles said to the Lord, Increase our faith!'" Mark 9:24 I believe; help my unbelief!"

What do these verses teach us about having weak or struggling faith?

- Is it okay to admit doubt or weakness?

- How might God respond when we pray and ask him to increase our faith or help with our unbelief?

4. 1 Timothy 2:1–4. I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people... This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."

Why is prayer important when it comes to people who don't yet know Jesus? - How does praying for them prepare the way for faith?

5. Ephesians 1:16–18.

Paul: I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers... so that you may know him better."

How can we actively pray for the spiritual growth and faith of other believers in our lives?

6. Reflection Question

What would change in your own life if you regularly prayed for eternal things—like faith, salvation, and spiritual growth—instead of just temporary needs?