

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS



REVIEW: Read Mark 2:1-12. Was there anything in the story that caught your attention, you would like to comment on or had questions about?

1. Pastor Jim has been in this series on complications, which he defines as hurts, pain, opposition, difficulties, failure or bad decisions. He has made the statement: "The difference between where you are and where you'd like to be is the amount of difficulty you are willing to endure." What is your take on that statement?

2. This week's topic was "Pain Partners." Everyone needs some close friends in place before a crisis season begins. Who are the best friends you've ever known? What did they, or do they mean to you? What would your life be without them?

GOING DEEPER

1. Read Matthew 11:2-6. It is clear that John the Baptist is in prison. He is experiencing some doubt. His faith in Jesus is getting clouded because of the complications. Thinking about the interaction between John and his buddies, what insight do you draw from this story regarding the need for friends . . . pain partners?

2. All strong lasting friendships need certain qualities: Listening—Self disclosure—Common ground—Honesty—Forgiveness—Putting up with others—Investing in them.

Which of these qualities for building friendships do you need to apply or grow in and why?

3. On Sunday Pastor Jim said that some people believe that all they need is God. Just God and them, and they do not need anyone else. It sounds good on paper but it isn't Bible. Being sensitive to others, why do you think some people might hide behind such a statement?

4. Is it possible that a person who once hurt or betrayed us . . . or someone we once hurt or betrayed could one day become a close friend? Why or why not?

*How do these verses confirm this possibility?

Acts 13:13, Acts 15:36-40 (John is John Mark)

II Timothy 4:11 (Paul is in prison at this writing)

TAKING IT HOME: What is the one thing talked about tonight that you need to take home with you?

PRAYER REQUESTS: