WOODVALE
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Connect Group Sermon Aligned Discussion Guide.

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Sermon Title: **Removing Hinderances**
Key Scripture: **Mark 2:1-12**
Recorded Sermon: ***www.youtube.com/watch?v=dIdWYm87rOc***
Date + Speaker: **June 22, 2025 Pastor Mark Scarr**

The Big Idea:

The pastoral leadership believes that the Holy Spirit has equipped the congregants at WPC with the expertise, gifts and resources needed to overcome any hinderances to seeing the Lord's will being done in our community.

Starter:

1. When travelling there are various ways things can go wrong. These 'hinderances' can disrupt our plans. Can you think of an instance when this happened to you? What was the hinderance; what were the consequences and how did you overcome it?

Discussion:

2. Read the passage and then share the 'who', 'what', 'where' and 'when'. What else stands out to the group members and why?
3. Invite the group members to close their eyes and imagine themselves in the story. In the crowd, in the house, watching and listening. What hinderances and challenges can they identify as they 'look around'?
4. Invite the group members to share how they express their God–given Creativity?
5. "Son, Your sins are forgiven." Invite the group members to respond to this statement keeping in mind that everyone in the room has witnessed an obviously sick man be lowered through the roof and placed in front of Jesus. How do the group members feel? Can they relate to the response of the teachers of the law (v. 6&7)? How?

6. Why is it important for us, when faced with challenges and opposition, to acknowledge the AUTHORITY of Jesus?

Diving Deeper:

7. Compassion and Courage preceded everything. Invite group members to pray for one another. That they would have their hearts moved by the same things that move the heart of God.

Additional Resources:

Question 2*: most study bibles or apps will provide the context for this story*
Question 3: *the place is crowded; there are religious leaders and common folk crammed into a small space; there is a LOT of need represented; the friend was severely ill; they couldn't get close*
Question 4: *The crowd presented an obstacle to getting their friend to Jesus. Lowering through the roof took collaboration and creativity. Be prepared to wrestle through the myth that creativity = artistic ability [engineers who design bridges are creative; scientists who discover cures for diseases are creative; executives who lead well and foster a collaborative workplace are creative; planning nutritious meals on a budget is creative]*
Question 7: *Some group members may be willing to share specific challenges or hinderances they are facing for which they need a special measure of creativity, compassion and/or courage*