

TAKING WORSHIP INTO YOUR WEEK



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The way we care for one another has changed, and we need to “keep” that change. The changes? This past year, we have been more aware than ever before of the suffering of our loved ones, who have struggled in spirit, soul, and/or body because of the pandemic and the upheavals in our society. We have reached out to those we love like never before; we’ve come up with solutions that meet their needs in spite of all the limitations we’ve been under. Now that some of these limitations are easing up or gone, the last thing we want to do is to return to our former ways of caring. . . let’s “**keep the change!**”

1. Ponder who God has used in your life in this past year when you needed extra care; who are they? How did they show that care? Take some time to thank the Lord for them now.
2. Read Job chapters 1 and 2 and notice how Satan isolates Job: He kills his family, destroys his belongings, he inspires Job’s wife to curse God. Ask yourself: Is there anyone in my life right now who has been similarly isolated? How can I, like Job’s three friends, go to their side and comfort and be with them in their time of need?
3. Turn to Mark 2:1-12. What is the first action the Lord takes when the friends of the paralyzed man bring him into Jesus’ presence? (vs. 5) Why do the teachers of the law object?
4. Look at Is. 35:5-6. What was one of the “marks” of the Messiah? In addition to showing compassion to the paralyzed man, what other motive might Jesus have had by demonstrating his power to his old neighbors in his hometown?
5. Use a concordance to find at least three other healings of Jesus (there are many right there in Mark) and ponder how those healings also announced the arrival of the kingdom of God in their midst.

We pray: Lord, when I am in misery, sitting in my heap of ashes, and when I am paralyzed by the trouble of life, in your mercy, send me people like Job’s friends and the paralyzed man’s friends. When I, in turn, become aware of my friend who needs your presence, move me to gather with others to meet those needs, just as you have met our every need. We pray it in your name; amen.