



## Overcoming the Lie of Labels

July 20-21, 2019

**If I were to describe myself in three words or phrases—what would those words be?**

### **If I wear labels too long they stop describing my past and begin to determine my future.**

When Jesus returned to Capernaum several days later, the news spread quickly that he was back home. Soon the house where he was staying was so packed with visitors that there was no more room, even outside the door. Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. Mark 2:1-3

They couldn't bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above his head. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Mark 2:4-5

If anyone is in Christ they are a new creation. The old is gone, new things have come. 2 Corinthians 5:17

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ. Ephesians 2:1,5

### **A label describes my past. An identity defines my future.**

"So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!"

And the man jumped up, grabbed his mat, and walked out through the stunned onlookers. They were all amazed and praised God, exclaiming, "We've never seen anything like this before!" Mark 2:10-12

*The sins of Rahab were not too big to be forgiven, but the work of God in Rahab's life was too big to be denied. -Tim Doremus*

1 Timothy 1:15-16   Romans 15:7   Ephesians 1:5  
Colossians 2:10   1 Peter 2:9.   Romans 8:37  
Ephesians 2:10   2 Corinthians 5:17

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! 1 John 3:1

### **Talk it Over! Thoughts and Questions for your LifeGroup or accountability partner...**

What were the three words you wrote down that describe you? Have you ever been 'labelled' by others? How did that feel? Have you ever 'hidden' behind a label?

Read the story in Mark 2:1-12. What is the story saying to you? What life lessons does God want you and I to learn?

Why do you think Jesus heals the man of his sins before healing him of his paralysis?

Look up the verses listed above and read them together. Which stands out to you the most?

Pray together, asking God to help glorify Himself through our old labels and our new identity.