

## Life Group Discussion Questions

### *Grab a Handle – Becoming a Stretcher Bearer*

#### What is a Stretcher Bearer?

#### Gospel Gain:

**A stretcher bearer does what it takes to get help for a person in need.**

#### Gathering Together (Icebreaker)

What do you think of when you hear the phrase – *stretcher bearer*? What do you think this would involve, include or be in reference to?

#### Growing Together (Truth/Equipping)

This series is about learning to provide support, encouragement and care to people who have found themselves on a stretcher. What kind of “stretchers” do you think a person could find themselves on?

One day you may find yourself on one of these stretchers. What kind of care and support would be valuable to you in that situation?

Read **Mark 2:1-12**.

Describe all of the characters mentioned in this passage. What do you know about these characters based on this passage?

In what ways do these characters interact with one another in this passage? What interactions are significant and why? What are the results of these various interactions?

Stretcher Bearers carefully watch for needs. What makes these observations difficult in our life today? Why would it be important for us to keep our eyes open and aware of needs around us?

Stretcher Bearers actively respond to needs. What tends to hinder our response time? Why do we wrestle with God or ourselves when we sense He is prompting us to respond to a need we have observed?

Stretcher Bearers gently provide support and encouragement to people in need. What are some of the ways in which people have demonstrated this kind of care to you and how was it meaningful to your time on a stretcher?

Stretcher Bearers creatively work through obstacles. What were the obstacles in Mark 2 that these four friends had to work through to get their paralyzed friend to Jesus? Do you ever feel like the obstacles are too large and it is not worth the effort? How can we seek to overcome those feelings and learn to push forward?

Stretcher Bearers intentionally get people to Jesus. Stretcher Bearers are not intended to fix everything but get people to the best sources of help. As people find themselves on a physically stretcher, an emotional stretcher, a relational stretcher, a spiritual stretcher, etc...How can Jesus provide the healing and help that is needed?

### **Getting Real with One Another (Accessibility)**

How can this group make sure that if someone in our group or close to us does not go through a time on the stretcher without stretcher bearers around them? Is anyone in the group on one of these stretchers right now? How can we pray for you and support you?

### **Group Prayer Time (Supplication)**

- Pray for anyone we know that is on a stretcher right now.
- Pray that God would use Oakwood to be Stretcher Bearers to people in need.
- Pray that Oakwood Church would continue to develop a passion for God and compassion for people.