



6 WEEK SERMON SERIES

Dear Friends,

I am so excited to be entering into this significant sermon and study series with you. I believe you'll find this to be a deeply meaningful "reset" for your Christian experience or, perhaps, the framework you've been seeking to make your discipleship truly central and transforming in your life. Please do all that you can to be present for every one of these messages. Ask God to show you His heart and shape your heart and mine to be more like His. Pray that the LORD will give me words that are truly helpful to YOU.

Rev. Dr. Daniel Meyer | Lead Pastor

THE FIVE FINGERS OF FAITH

Like the five fingers of a hand, there are five movements of faith that God seeks to inspire in us, so that He can use us to LIFT others. Each finger of faith is important.

1. **Following** God where He leads us
2. **Trusting** God's promises with all that we are
3. **Prioritizing** God and His Kingdom above everything
4. **Surrendering** our possessions for the sake of God and His service
5. **Committing** to God's vision and power regardless of our circumstances

JOURNAL your response to the message

Jesus, I feel

about

because

RESPONDING to the message

- TABLE TALK | At a meal this week, discuss this question with those around the table: **If you were there, how would you have responded to what the four friends did?**
- Text, email or post to your small group or social media sites one big idea from this week's message that has stayed with you.
- Prepare for small group by reviewing the related questions.
- Pray this week's breath prayer every day.

● GROUP DISCUSSION

PREPARE

A. Pray together this week's breath prayer.

INHALE | Where You Lead **EXHALE | May We Follow**

B. Share how you completed the journaling prompt at the end of this weekend's worship service?

C. Ice breaker question: Share a favorite podcast, author, YouTuber, Instagrammer, chef, etc., that you follow. What draws you to follow them?

RECEIVE

Slowly and prayerfully read or listen to Mark 2:1–12 twice.

Begin and end each reading with a few moments of silence.

In the quiet, ask the Holy Spirit to guide you into knowing and living what you are to receive from this passage of Scripture.

REFLECT

1. There is potentially a lot of "following God" that can be read into this passage: the gathering crowds, so many eager to hear Jesus' message, and probably a lot more not described in the text specifically. How would you characterize the quality of faith and "following" of those carrying their friend to Jesus? How do they differ from the rest of the crowd?

2. Why did the four friends go to so much trouble to help the paralyzed man? What was in it for them?

3. In verse 5, we read that "Jesus saw their faith." What does this reveal to us about how Jesus evaluates their faith?

4. How did their actions embody their faith?

5. Read verse 5 again. Why do you think Jesus chose to forgive the man's sins (heal him spiritually) before healing him physically?

6. What does this story tell you about the difference between a spirituality and faith that transforms us and a counterfeit spirituality and faith that cannot? Compare and contrast the Pharisees and the five friends.

- Follow God’s leading by contemplating who you can lift toward Jesus, by helping...
 - Physically with a practical task
 - Emotionally through encouragement or your presence
 - Spiritually through prayer or reminding them of the promises of God’s Word

Doing so, you will be creating space for Jesus to do what only Jesus can do—transform a life. When you gather next week, let your group know where God led you, so they can lift that person to Jesus all the more in prayer and celebrate God’s goodness with you.

- Pray this week’s breath prayer every day.

HEAVENLY FATHER,

We praise Your holy name, King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

You offer us unfailing faithfulness, perfect love and unending grace.

You are worthy of our adoration and praise!

Thank You for the ultimate gift in Jesus Christ, who through His life, death and resurrection lifted us out of our sin and shame, offering us a grace greater than the gravity of life.

Father, this world is aching, confused and seemingly hopeless.

We seek Your will, Father.

We lift our eyes to You, Lord, for You are our helper and provider.

You raise the poor from the dust and lift the needy from the ash heap.

Ignite in us an insatiable hunger to LIFT those who are hurting or in need of hope in Jesus' holy and powerful name.

Thank You for this church, Your body at work.

You have trusted us with much.

Grant us the courage to respond boldly to Your call to invest the gifts of time, talent and treasure You've given us to LIFT others who so desperately need You, both locally and globally.

Gracious Lord, we ask You to take Your rightful place on the throne of our lives and make us a remarkably generous, kingdom-impacting people.

All glory and honor and praise to You, our good and faithful Father!

AMEN.

LEARN MORE ABOUT LIFT

LiftTogether.us

IMPORTANT DATES

Advance Commitment Night

Friday, January 27 | Oak Brook

Commitment Sunday

Sunday, February 12

CHRIST CHURCH 

OAK BROOK | 501 Oak Brook Rd., Oak Brook | 630.654.1882

BUTTERFIELD | 25361 Glen Park Rd., Lombard | 630.654.1884

LiftTogether.us

Scan the
QR code to
learn more
about LIFT.



LiftTogether.us | XLI