

How Loud is Your Faith?

Mark 10:46-52

Ice Breaker: Describe a time when you risked confiding in someone about an area of weakness, brokenness or hurt. Was it difficult for you to share? Why? What was the experience itself like?

Big Idea: Churches that are marked by the healing power of God are also marked by a bold, humble desperation, by a willingness to publicly acknowledge that we are broken and in need of Christ's healing and help – regardless of what the people around us might think.

Digging Deeper:

- 1) Do a quick survey of the stories in Mark's Gospel where people who experienced Christ's healing needed to do something bold (in public) to receive it? What does this pattern say to those of us who prefer a more privatized ("me and Jesus") spirituality?
- 2) Read Mark 10:46-48. How does the crowd respond to Bartimaeus' shouting for Jesus? Why do you think the crowd wanted him to be quiet? How does Bartimaeus respond to the peer pressure to stop yelling? What would you have done if you were Bartimaeus?
- 3) Read Mark 10:49-52. Why do you think Jesus asks Bartimaeus the question: "What do you want me to do for you?" If Jesus were to ask you that question today – what would you ask him to do for you? Are you willing to ask Him (in public) to do it for you?
- 4) What would happen if our church/small groups became a place(s) where we shared more transparently about our needs and our brokenness? What holds us back from doing so?
- 5) Spend some time sharing with each other where you are in need or broken. Then pray for each other, asking Jesus to do what only He can do in these situations.