# "Digging Holes"

Get comfortable in your seat…  Ready?

Now read the following text. Take your time, don't rush through it.

## Mark 2:1-12

When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. **2** So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. **3** Then some people[a] came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. **4** And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. **5** When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." **6** Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, **7** "Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" **8** At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? **9** Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk'? **10** But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the paralytic— **11** "I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home." **12** And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

What kind of hospitality was shown to the man who was paralyzed? What sort of "welcome" was there for him or not?  How did the friends show "welcome" and hospitality"? What does this passage show us about the hospitality and/or welcome of God?

On the back of this sheet of paper, **take some time to write a prayer** to God in response to what you've read here. Are there questions you want to ask God? Do you want to ask God to show you what loving hospitality and welcome looks like?