Review:

Lesson 1: Breaking Ground **Lesson 4:** Spiritual Authority

Lesson 2: Begin with Identity **Lesson 5:** Touching the Untouchables

Lesson 3: Building Community

Amazement

Mark 2:1-12
We (the church) can show people our best works or we can show people Jesus. One will always be subject to skepticism. The other will always
Discussion 1. How would you describe the difference between a church or ministry that draws a crowd and a church or ministry that truly amazes? Can you think of any examples of things in a church or ministry that can only be explained in terms of the activity of God?
There is a Christian culture that loves to talk about sin but couldn't care less about helping or healing, and then there is a Christian culture that is all about helping and healing but is uncomfortable talking about sin. Jesus either culture.
Discussion 2. How can we combine helping people who are hurting with talking about forgiveness of sins? Have you ever seen examples of this done well?
Outward behavior barely scratches the surface of what it means to follow Christ. Below that is my thought life, and below that are the desires of my heart. The call to follow Christ is a call to be regularly myself at all these levels.
Discussion 3. What disciplines help you to examine and/or control your thought life? How often do you take time with God to truly examine (together) the desires of your heart? How does that work for you?
If my goal is to amaze, I will fail more times than not. If my goal is simply to allow the Spirit of God to work through me, things get pretty quickly.
Discussion 4. When were you last amazed at God's working around you? When was someone else last amazed at God's working through you?

Discussion 5. How does this lesson cause you to pray? How does it prepare your heart for worship?