



## From the Inside Out Tim Ross

- Focus** God wants everyone to experience His miraculous power from the inside out. Sometimes we're only concerned with our "outside" need; however, God wants to heal our "inside" need—a broken heart. When our sins are forgiven and we're set free, God has performed a miracle in our lives from the inside out.
- Fun** If you could have two minutes face-to-face with Jesus, what would you talk to Him about?
- Review** Key Scripture: Mark 2:1–12
- The message of the gospel is simple: God loved the world and because of His great love, He sent His Son, Jesus, to forgive us of our sins and to set us free. Salvation is a miracle from God that works from the inside out.
  - True need and determination drive us to Jesus. When we have a need that's too heavy to carry, we must bring it to Jesus and leave it there. Jesus wants to heal us and care for our needs. We all have different reasons or needs that cause us to come to Jesus.
  - Jesus always sees what we don't see, and He wants to heal us and set us free from the inside out. Salvation, the "internal" miracle, is the greatest miracle of all. When Jesus says: "Your sins are forgiven," all of heaven rejoices in amazement. To have a heart of stone turned into a heart of flesh is the greatest miracle.

### **\*Group Dynamics Idea\***

Time with your small group is one of the best ways to bond and build community. Plan a group retreat for an extended weekend. Allow everyone to contribute ideas. Next, determine what type of retreat would work best for your group's dynamic and get ready to make some wonderful memories!

#### **Discuss**

1. What is the scariest or most challenging thing you've ever done? In retrospect, are you glad you did it? If you could change one thing about this experience, what would it be? Explain.
2. Most of us are familiar with the story of the paralyzed man, but did you learn anything new as Pastor Tim shared? In this story, do you feel like you can relate the most with the paralyzed man or with his friends who carried him? Share with the group.
3. Are you quick to come to God with your "outside" needs? What about your "inside" needs? Why do you think it's sometimes easier to come to God with outside needs than inside needs?
4. Can you think of a time you had an outside need and you brought it to God? What about an inside need? How did you feel after finally bringing your need to Jesus?
5. Are you carrying any needs right now that you need to bring to God? Are they outside or inside needs? Take a moment to break into smaller groups of two or three. Share some of the needs you have right now, and take a moment to pray for one another.

#### **Take Home**

As we conclude, remember the following:

- God want us all to experience His miraculous power from the inside out.
- We're concerned about our outside needs, but God is concerned about our inside needs (the needs of the heart).
- When our sins are forgiven and we're set free, God has performed a miracle in our lives from the inside out.

#### **Prayer**

Heavenly Father, thank You for all the ways You love and care for us. Help us to open up our hearts to You in new ways. Give us the courage we need to be completely honest with You and bring both our outside and our inside needs

to You. Shine Your light on our lives and help us to see Jesus more clearly. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**\*New Leader Tip\***

The first five minutes of a group meeting are the most important. Use this time to make each person feel relaxed; encourage sharing and discussion about nonthreatening topics. Laughing together is also a great way to help everyone feel more comfortable. This will help ensure more open communication and connection throughout the entire meeting.