



STUDY GUIDE:

March 9, 2025

Message Series:

Out of the Ordinary

Message Title:

What's Our Part?

Teaching Pastor:

Brian Hughes

Warm-up/Icebreaker: (10 min.)

Have you ever experienced being on the roof of a home or building? What were the circumstances and how did you feel?

Pray:

Heavenly Father, we are so grateful to be in relationship with You. You are worthy of all our praise, honor, and affection. Guide our conversation with the Truth of Your Word, speak to us in a way that we can clearly understand, and then help us to put what we learn into practice in our lives. Thank You for Your love and Your grace. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Get Started: (30 - 40 min.)

"We ALL come towards God initially as consumers. "What can God do for me?" is our starting point. It's a good question. It's the right question. Many of us are in the early stages of a journey towards God and that's the question you're asking - can God make my life better? Can he help me become a better or different person? Can he help me overcome my internal demons, bring me joy, help me experience peace. All of those are included in 'what can God do for me' and it's where we all start. And it's good. But God doesn't leave any of us there. Because at the end of the day, God CAN and WILL do for you what you cannot do for you THEN He'll make it NOT about you! In other words, it was ALWAYS God's plan to help you and then send you to help other people like you." -Pastor Brian Hughes

- What are some reasons why people may stay stuck in their consumerism when it comes to a relationship with God?
- If you have moved beyond this point and are serving others, when and how did your focus shift?

Read Mark 2:1-12.

- Why do you think Jesus forgave the man's sins before healing him physically?
- What does this passage reveal about Jesus' identity and authority?
- Why do you think the faith of the paralyzed man's friends was so significant in this story?

"These guys aren't crazy. They're not insensitive to the others who've been there longer. They're not trying to cut in line. They just have a determined mission and they are willing to go to extraordinary lengths to accomplish it. They are committed at all costs to get their friend face to face with the one person they KNEW could change his life – Jesus Christ. They were obsessed with making that encounter happen." -Pastor Brian Hughes

- Have you ever had a situation in which you were considered obsessed over getting someone in front of Jesus? Describe the circumstances. If you haven't, then why do you think that is?

"They made a huge sacrifice, carrying the man, risking safety and reputation to tear the roof apart, materials and time to put it back together again. Why not just wait until a more convenient moment? Because they didn't know what the future held. They knew that Jesus was around today. They could clearly see that God was at work - right then and there. Waiting was not an option. This was urgent. The moment had come. They would not be hindered from their mission: to get the one who needed Jesus in front of Jesus." -Pastor Brian Hughes

- How can you increase your sense of urgency when it comes to sharing your story of faith?

Reflect and Commit: (30 min.)

Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-21.

- What does Paul mean when he says, "Since we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others"?
- How can this passage shape the way you view others, especially those who don't know Christ yet?

"From our very first day as a church, we have had this obsession with helping every person in every community around every campus and every prison and every mission partner experience the unimaginable life change that an encounter with Jesus can offer. We KNOW how God can change a person, because he changed US. We KNOW how God can alter the future, transform our hearts, heal the deep wounds of our past and give us a sense of purpose, peace and joy. We know it because it happened to us." -Pastor Brian Hughes

- Describe how God has changed you, briefly share your story of faith by answering the following statement, "There was a time in my life when _____, but God...."
- Who in your life needs to hear your story? How can you share it with them?

Gather prayer requests and pray. (5-10 min.)

Dear Lord, we praise You that when we were first introduced to You, You helped us to feel comfortable, guided and loved, not just for our benefit but for the good of those around us. Help our church, and the Church, to regain its influence by teaching us to look outside of ourselves, knowing it was always Your plan for us to be part of helping others to know Your love and saving grace. May we continue to be obsessed with reaching those who are far from You and helping them to live the fullest lives possible through Jesus Christ. It's in His name that we pray. Amen.

Describe a situation in which you were geographically lost? How did you find your way?