

A Church That Pleases God—5

This Love Breaks the Rules

A church that pleases God is made up of people who love like Jesus.

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:34-35 NIV

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. ²They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. ³Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. ⁴Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. ⁵When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” Mark 2:1-5 NIV

A loving church carries burdens.

Some men came, bringing to [Jesus] a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Mark 2:3 NIV

Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2 NIV

Love doesn’t just point people to Jesus; it carries them to Him.

Love breaks the rules to serve and save people.

Since [the four friends] could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on.

Mark 2:4 NIV

... Jesus saw their faith ... Mark 2:5 NIV

TALK IT OVER

Read **Mark 2:1-5**. How do you see love in action through this passage? What would it look like for you to care for others in the same way the friends of the paralyzed man cared for him?

What does “love breaks the rules to serve and save people” mean to you? What are some rules that need to be broken?

Share about a time you experienced Jesus’ love through the actions of someone else. How did that build your faith or strengthen your relationships?

Start the Bible Plan *Reach the World, Care for the One* using Plans With Friends: www.go2.lc/reach