RVL REFLECTIONS
MSG: FAITH-FILLED FRIENDS
SCRIPTURE: Matthew 9:1–8
SZN 1: Revival Through Living

Matthew 9:1–8 NIV
“Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. Some men brought to him a paralyzed man, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, ‘Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.’ At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, ‘This fellow is blaspheming!’ Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, ‘Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, “Your sins are forgiven,” or to say, “Get up and walk”? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.’ So he said to the paralyzed man, ‘Get up, take your mat and go home.’ Then the man got up and went home. When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to man.”

Hebrews 10:24–25 NIV
“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”
bible

- **Who in your life currently helps you get closer to Jesus? How have they challenged you to grow beyond your limitations?**

- **Friendship is “not just about having someone beside you,” but about helping one another turn toward Jesus. What does that difference look like in everyday life?**

1. FAITH-FILLED FRIENDS BRING YOU TO THE ONE WHO FORGIVES.

Colossians 3:13 NIV
“Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

- **“My condition is not the whole of who I am.” When have you needed someone to see beyond your struggle and care about you as a person?**

- **What makes it difficult to share our hidden needs with others? How can we build friendships where people feel safe being honest?’**

- **“Receiving forgiveness should change how I extend forgiveness.” How does that statement challenge the way you handle hurt or conflict in your relationships?**

2. FAITH-FILLED FRIENDS BRING YOU TO THE ONE WHO HAS THE FINAL SAY.

Proverbs 29:25 NIV
“Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.”

- **Faith-filled friends do not just agree with us; they help us keep our hearts open to Jesus. How do you respond when a friend challenges your attitude or assumptions?**

- **When have you been so focused on being right that you missed an opportunity to respond with grace? What would a more open heart have looked like?**

- **Where are you allowing people's opinions to carry more weight than what Jesus says? How could a faith-filled friend help you trust his authority rather than seek their approval?**

3. FAITH-FILLED FRIENDS BRING YOU TO THE ONE WHO CAN RAISE YOU UP.

James 1:22 NIV
"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

- **"Faith does not just listen; faith responds." What step of obedience do you need to take, and how could a friend support you without taking that step for you?**

- **We distinguish earning grace from expressing trust. How does that distinction change the way you approach obedience?**

- **"Let my private living agree with my public praise." What would the people in your home say about how your faith shows up in your words, attitudes, and actions?**