

## STUDY GUIDE

for the week of September 7, 2008

### DESPERATE LIVES

Brad Watson

Desperate  
Housewives  
Things are not always as they seem.

### OPEN IN PRAYER

**A TIME OF WORSHIP** (Optional) - You may want to sing a hymn or chorus

### INTRODUCTION

Christianity is for desperate people because it is only when we feel that Jesus is all we have that we discover that He is all we need. Many people resist admitting that they are desperate and as a result things get even more desperate. But if our desperation leads us to faith then it can also lead us to healing.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*Begin by reading the story of the paralyzed man in Mark 2:1-12.*

1. Describe an experience or situation where you were feeling desperate?
2. Is there a place in your life or someone's life you know that you could describe as "desperate?"
3. Brad listed three realities about our desperate situations. Which realities do you remember. Of these three which one do you wrestle with the most? Why?
4. Have you ever had a real time, real life experience of God's forgiving power? Describe what that was like for you.
5. Healing happens best in community. Is there anything that strikes you about the paralyzed man and his friendship with his "fab" four?
6. If you had a friend in a desperate situation, what advice would you give him/her based upon what you have learned about relying on God?

### MOVING FORWARD

Brad said that Jesus is always amazed by our faith or our unbelief. In fact, sermons come in all shapes and sizes but if you listen closely, you'll hear God saying the same thing in most of them - "just trust Me." When life gets desperate and you feel God leading you to depend upon Him, do you place your trust in Him *or* something/someone else?

**Read Psalm 46.**

### CHANGING YOUR MIND

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."  
Mark 2:5

### CLOSING PRAYER



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