



Rip off the Roof, Week 2 | Shawn Johnson | 4.9.17

LG Weekly

## START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer these two questions:

**What excites you most about Spring?**

## SHARE

Last week, we dove into the powerful story of the man on the roof, and his friends who lowered him down to meet Jesus. This week, Shawn looked further into this same story, to uncover more truth surrounding what type of friends we have the potential of being.

Let's re-read Mark 2: 1-5, 10-12

In the message, Shawn gave us these three things that each one of us deserves to have in a friend:

- Someone who will exercise their faith
- Someone who will believe in miracles for you
- Someone who will push you closer to Jesus

This week, we were challenged to evaluate whether we embody those three statements for others in our lives. As believers, we have the unique opportunity to be aware and attuned to our friends' and neighbors' needs, and to be able to play a powerful role in their life. Don't pass over that statement too quickly. The Lord **chooses** to invite us into his good work, to love on and support his people. We have the opportunity to partner with the creator of our souls, the healer of all hearts, to be a physical representation of a supernatural God. How incredibly lucky we are!

This invitation manifests for us in two ways. We can exercise this opportunity as a church family, when we are physically at church, and then as individuals, in our own daily lives. When we gather at church, it can be easy to show up, listen to the songs, hopefully like the message, and then leave. If we are not careful, we can start to expect our church experience to be much like going to a movie theater. I want to get some food (donuts for the win), I want to be entertained, and I want to leave feeling good and glad I went. As you can imagine, this is a dangerous place to become complacent because the focus becomes on ourselves – what we want, and what makes us happy. We fill up the house without even noticing the crippled man trying to get in, and he is left with the roof as his only option. Our gaze falls inward, and those we would see if we just looked outward ... remain unseen.

**Why do you think the devil would love to have Christians hang on to an inward approach at church, instead of an outward approach?**

**What does it mean to you personally, that the Lord wants to include you in his work?**

**What holds you back from serving at church, engaging with newcomers or people you don't know, etc.?  
Is it fear, feeling embarrassed, not knowing what to say? Dig deep here.**

## **G R O W**

Along with sharing what we deserve to have in a friend, and challenging us to be that as well; Shawn spoke boldly about what we are called to as followers of Jesus Christ. We are called to:

- Exercise our faith to people around us
- Believe in miracles for people around us
- Carry people around us closer to Jesus
- Go rip off some roofs, so people around us can see Jesus

Let's read Acts 1:8 and Matthew 9:36-38.

The friends in the story in Mark had their own lives. One of them might have been scared of heights; another might have felt like he wasn't strong enough to let his friend down. We will never know what they had going on personally, but we do know they placed all of their needs and desires, possibly ignored the sting of dirty looks or snide remarks, and fought for their friend to have an encounter with Jesus. When is the last time

you fought for someone to experience Christ in a profound way?

For some of us, the life change we have experienced started at a church. The local church is such a beautiful place to reach out from, to invite people to, and as a believer; continue to grow in. The Lord is ready and waiting to use each and every one of us. He does not require qualifications, he does not require perfection, or even near perfection. He does require a sincere love for him, and a sincere love for his people. It may be easy to assume that everyone who walks into church is already saved, or feels comfortable there, or has been a million times. Yet the truth is, we often don't know the story of the person we sit next to. Jesus is personal, and when we love on our friends and neighbors – believers or not – it should feel personal.

Let's read Matthew 18:20 and Matthew 16:18.

**What are tangible ways that you can help further the “family” belief we have at Red Rocks?**

**(We often say we don't do membership; we do family.)**

**Examine that list of qualities that Shawn gave us. Is there a particular one you feel as though you are excelling at currently? Is there one that you are struggling with? Discuss your wins and struggles with the group.**

## **M O V E**

If you are a follower of Christ, your life has undeniably been changed. When we meet Christ, we no longer have the ability to be who we used to be. His relationship changes our lives forever, and thank goodness for that truth.

Let's read Mark 2:10-12 again.

We not only have our church to help us share the love of Christ; we have our own stories. People can argue facts and theology, but they cannot argue our experience of Christ in our hearts and lives. Testimonies are a powerful expression and confession of what the Lord has done in your life. They are also continually growing and evolving. Your testimony is not stagnant. It is powerful and it is intimate. Our stories are a personal invite to others to come and see and hear that the Lord is good.

For some, parts of our testimonies might feel fresh, and still painful or confusing. For others, we might question if our testimony is “exciting enough,” or we might have parts of our testimonies that still feel too

shameful to share. Shawn powerfully shared: what the devil tried to destroy you with is now your testimony. Mistakes, apathy, wrongdoing done unto you, loss, confusion ... the Lord redeems it all. We have a chance to become attuned to what he has done inwardly and personally, and share that outwardly with our church family and surrounding community.

**Does anything hold you back from sharing your testimony with others?**

**What part of your testimony is waiting to be written?** (i.e., are there parts of your story that still need to be redeemed? Things you might be afraid to give to the Lord, etc.?)

**What are the next steps for you in incorporating this message into your daily life, and “family membership” at Red Rocks Church? How can you personally fight for others to know Christ with your church and your testimony?**

#### **P R A Y**

As a group, spend some time praying for each other and the struggles we all face. If you are in a co-ed group, consider breaking up into men's and women's groups to talk more freely.

#### **T O G O**

##### **1 Peter 3:15**

But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect...

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