

1. Have you ever been asked to do something that stretched you beyond what you had ever done before?
2. **Read Mark 3:1-6**
Note the place, the time and the people who were there.
Do you see anything ironic about all of this?
3. **Conflict can be caused by differing religions or different attitudes to faith.**
 - a. What have you read about such conflict in history?
 - b. Have you ever experienced conflict like this?
 - c. Have you ever caused it?
 - d. Has anybody in the group experienced misunderstanding and conflict when they changed churches?
 - e. Has conflict caused anybody to change churches?
4. **Reactions of the Pharisees.**
 - a. In what ways are the Pharisees feeling, seeing and reacting in this story?
 - b. How does their reaction differ to the way Jesus reacted?
5. **The following are instances when law and compassion sometimes clash. What would you do in these cases?**
 - a. Your elderly mother, dying a painful death, begs you to arrange a lethal overdose.
 - b. Your 14 year old daughter is raped and becomes pregnant.
 - c. You believe in nonviolence but an intruder breaks into your home and threatens your family.
 - d. You are a minister who does not believe in infant baptism. You are called to a hospital where one of your new worshippers has had a miscarriage. You are asked to baptize the foetus.
6. Why didn't Jesus simply heal the man?
Why do you think he asked him to stretch out his hand?
7. **Reflect on the answers given to the opening question.**
 - a. What else could Jesus call you to do that may involve stretching yourself beyond your present capacity?
 - b. Have you seen people grow in areas because God has called them to "stretch" themselves?
8. **People left the synagogue with different emotions and feelings.**
 - a. How would the paralysed man have felt?
 - b. In what ways would he "never be the same" after this encounter?
 - c. What do we know about the feelings of the Pharisees?
 - d. What about the feelings of Jesus? What clues are we given about his emotions?
9. **Do you ever leave a church service feeling:**
 - a. Stretched?
 - b. Healed?
 - c. Angry?
 - d. Just the same as when you came in?
10.
 - a. What does this story say to us personally?
 - b. What does it tell us about Jesus?
 - c. What is one thing we should now do because of this encounter?