

Life Group #4

Luke 5:17-26

Note for those leading discussions- be aware that our default mode is to focus more on information than transformation. The goal of these studies is to see Jesus and to follow Him with our lives in community. Before you lead this, think about how the truths about Jesus in this passage should impact your life. Leave time for your small groups to discuss how it impacts their lives.

Key objectives for the night: We want to see that Jesus has the power, authority and willingness to forgive sins. We desire students to recognize their own sins and turn to Jesus for forgiveness and healing.

Intro (use your own words)

Each week we want to be together in community and get to know Jesus through the Bible. Many people have opinions about who Jesus is and why he came to earth. Instead of our opinions, we want to look at how Jesus describes himself and his purpose. Our goal is simple- we are going to read one of those passages and seek to answer 2 questions: Who is Jesus? How do I relate to Him and follow Him?

Each week we are going to give a little background to the passage, read it and break into smaller groups for discussion. It doesn't matter if you know a lot about Jesus or a little, we want everyone to be able to engage in the discussion. So far we have seen that Jesus describes himself as gentle and lowly. He came to seek and save those who are lost. Last week we read a passage where Jesus claimed to be the Messiah who would proclaim good news, freedom to the oppressed, sight for blind people and abundance for all (Luke 4:18-19).

This week we are going to look at a story that took place in his hometown. There are 3 main characters in this story: Jesus, the paralyzed man and his friends, the religious leaders. There are 2 things to note that will help us understand the story better:

1. The Pharisees and teachers of the law were the most powerful and respected people in Israel.
2. In that culture people believed that if you were physically healthy you were blessed by God. If you had major physical problems, it was because you or your parents had sinned.

Read Luke 5:17-26

Small Group Discussion

- What is interesting or surprising about this story?
- How does Jesus describe Himself in this passage?
- What do his actions and/or interactions with the religious leaders teach us about Jesus?
- The paralyzed man came to Jesus seeking healing. What are reasons that people come to Jesus today?
- What are reasons why you are seeking Jesus (wherever you are at in your journey)?
- Jesus seemed to think that the authority to forgive sins was more important than the power to heal a paralyzed man. Why is forgiveness of sins a big deal?
- The religious leaders and paralytic each interact with Jesus. Compare and contrast how they each interact and respond to Jesus.
- Which group (religious leader or paralytic/friends) do you most identify with? Why?
- If you knew that Jesus had the power, authority and willingness to forgive sin, would you desire to receive forgiveness from Him? Why or why not?
- If your group wants to go there you can allow people to share their sins (in the group or silently) and receive forgiveness. You can read 1 John 1:9 as an assurance of God's forgiveness. *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*
- If not- in light of who Jesus is, what is one way you can respond to him tonight?
- Pray for one another