

Luke 5:17-26 CSI: Capernaum

17 One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick. 18 Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. 19 When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.

20 When Jesus saw their faith, he said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.”

21 The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, “Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

22 Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, “Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? 23 Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? 24 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, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” 25 Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. 26 Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, “We have seen remarkable things today.”

COME TO THE PARTY (5 Sessions in Luke): Leader's Notes

Read & Discuss:

- Read the biblical story out loud.
- Give a few minutes of quiet for each person to read the story again on their own and note things that are interesting or confusing.
- Ask open-ended questions that keep the conversation focused on the biblical story.
 - **What do you notice about Jesus and how he interacts with people? What impresses you about him?**
 - **Which of the characters do you find most interesting? Why?**
 - **What do you find surprising or troubling?**
 - **What does the story communicate about God?**
- Let the scripture speak for itself and don't worry about coming to agreement or answering all your friends' questions.

Share & Invite:

- Share a story of how Jesus has been real to you. To prepare, ask the Holy Spirit to show you what part of your story your friend needs to hear. Consider for yourself:
 - **What character in the biblical story do you identify with? Why?**
 - **How has Jesus touched your life and brought healing?**
 - **How has Jesus answered your questions or resolved your doubts?**
 - **Do you relate to my story or to one of the characters in the passage?**
- Ask them to pick a need, struggle, or situation in their life that they can invite Jesus to interact with, e.g. **Is there a place in your life where you've worked hard, but haven't gotten the results you are hoping for? What would it be like to invite Jesus into that area?**
- **What do you think Jesus might want you to do?**

Pray & Watch:

- **I realize it might be new to you to talk to Jesus directly, but let's ask him to interact with your life as he did in the biblical story.** Give your friend the option to pray out loud or silently.
- Finish by praying out loud in a natural way for the areas shared.
- Trust God to get involved in your friend's life. Remember, Jesus is always seeking the lost.
- As you see God speaking to your friend, take a risk to invite them to become a follower of Jesus, e.g. **It looks like Jesus is pursuing you. Would you like to say yes to following him?**
- A great resource for new believers is launch.intervarsity.org.