

Lesson Aim: To learn more about the reality and implications of Jesus' authority to forgive sins.

Prayer: Ask the Holy Spirit to lead your personal study time and/or discussion.

Icebreaker: Describe a time when somebody went out of their way to help you.

1. **READ Luke 5:17-26.** The crowds and packed house forced the paralytic's four friends to resort to desperate measures to get him healed. Is there a time in your life when you resorted to desperate measures to get something you really wanted? Tell your group about this time and what happened.
2. In the teaching Sunday, Pastor Scott shared the principle that *religious tradition can be a real stumbling block for people trying to find reality with God*. This is exemplified in how the Pharisees responded to the words and actions of Jesus. What do you think motivated the Pharisees to respond the way they did?
3. Have you ever seen or experienced religious tradition becoming a stumbling block to people trying to find God today? How so?
4. What might be some ways this can be changed or overcome?
5. Another principle from the teaching Sunday was that *the task of a Christ-follower is to help people however we can to get to Jesus* and is exemplified by the actions of the paralytic's four friends. Have you ever taken extensive action to help someone come to know Jesus (or has someone ever done this for you)? Tell your group about it.
6. How do you think the paralytic's four friends may have been feeling when they heard Jesus' first response, "Friend, your sins are forgiven"? Why did Jesus say this?
7. **READ Hebrews 9:11-15.** How is the priesthood and work of Christ distinguished from the Old Testament's sacrificial system? How do these verses support the argument that Jesus has authority to say to anyone "your sins are forgiven"?
8. In what ways have you experienced Jesus saying to you "your sins are forgiven"?

Close in prayer as the Lord leads you.

LUKE 5:17-26

❶ THE SETTING (v.17)

PRINCIPLE #1: Religious tradition can be a real stumbling block for people trying to find reality with God.

❷ THE MAN WITH A PROBLEM (v.18)

PRINCIPLE #2: The task of a Christ-follower is to help people however we can to get to Jesus.

❸ OVERCOMING THE OBSTACLES (vv.18-19)

PRINCIPLE #3: Sometimes you need to temporarily loan your faith to others.

❹ THE STRANGE TWIST (v.20)

PRINCIPLE #4: Above everything else in life, you need to be right with God.

- See Isaiah 59:1-2

❺ THE OBJECTION (v.21)

PRINCIPLE #5: Jesus Christ can read your thoughts.

❻ THE PROOF / THE SECOND HEALING (vv.22-25)

- ▶ The Authority & Power to Forgive Sins - Invisible & Unprovable
- ▶ The Authority & Power to Heal Paralysis - Visible & Provable
- ▶ Multi-faceted miracle

❼ THE RESPONSE (v.26)

- ▶ Will you ask for Christ's eternal forgiveness today?
- ▶ Are you willing to offer friendly transfusions of faith to those around you?