



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

## Community Group Material:

*Bible Reading: Luke 5:12 - 26*

•**Bible Reading:**Luke 5:12-26 NET

•“While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came to him who was covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he bowed down with his face to the ground & begged him, “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.”

13So he stretched out his hand & touched him, saying, “I am willing. Be clean!” And immediately the leprosy left him.

14Then he ordered the man to tell no one, but commanded him, “Go & show yourself to a priest, & bring the offering for your cleansing, as Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.”

15But the news about him spread even more, & large crowds were gathering together to hear him & to be healed of their illnesses.

16Yet Jesus himself frequently withdrew to the wilderness and prayed.” (Luke5:12-16 NET)

•“Now on one of those days, while he was teaching, there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting nearby (who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem), and the power of the Lord was with him to heal.

18Just then some men showed up, carrying a paralyzed man on a stretcher. They were trying to bring him in and place him before Jesus.

19But since they found no way to carry him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down on the stretcher through the roof tiles right in front of Jesus.

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

21Then the experts in the law and the Pharisees began to think to themselves, “Who is this man who is uttering blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

22When Jesus perceived their hostile thoughts, he said to them, “Why are you raising objections

within yourselves?

23Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and walk'?

24But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"

—he said to the paralyzed man

—"I tell you, stand up, take your stretcher and go home."

25Immediately he stood up before them, picked up the stretcher he had been lying on, and went home, glorifying God.

26Then astonishment seized them all, and they glorified

God. They were filled with awe, saying, "We have seen incredible things today." (Luke 5:17-26 NET)

### •SUMMARY:

One of the surest facts about Jesus' ministry is that He worked real miracles. Jesus unleashed God's power wherever He went—the sick were restored, demons fled, lives were transformed.

Each Gospel records numerous healings and exorcisms. Even His opponents admitted Jesus' power, though they wrongly blamed it on Satan. Every miracle declared the long-promised Messiah had arrived and God's kingdom was breaking into a broken world. His exorcisms shattered the grip of darkness and His healings restored broken people to wholeness.

•Skeptics claim Jesus cured no actual diseases, insisting these were mere misdiagnoses or psychosomatic recoveries. But Luke's accounts of the leper cleansed and the paralytic walking expose the poverty of such claims. Scripture presents a far more compelling reality: Jesus truly heals. Jesus truly delivers. And that same risen, reigning Lord still pours out His saving and restoring power on His people today.

### •Discussion

1.Many people accept Jesus' teachings (e.g. parables) but reject NT records of his miracles.

Craig Blomberg says, "Jesus' parables...reflect the authentic voice of the historical Jesus

...[But,]the gospel miracle stories...suffered more criticism & ridicule than any other form of gospel."

Have you encountered this view? What factors lie behind it?

2.The leper says, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean"

(5:12).Where do you see faith in Jesus' power & yet uncertainty about His willingness in that prayer?

How does this mirror the way you pray about your own deep needs?

3.Jesus touches the leper before/as He heals him. What does His physical touch teach about God's heart toward people who feel untouchable/"too dirty" for church? How should this shape the way your group approaches outsiders & the broken?

4.Jesus sends the healed man to the priest to offer the sacrifice Moses commanded.

If the man was already healed why did Jesus do this?

What's the value of verifiable testimony to what God/Jesus has done?

5.What do you notice about the determination & creativity of the 4 friends who bring the paralytic to Jesus (climbing, digging

through the roof, etc.)? What might it look like today to "rip the roof off" to bring someone to Christ?

6."Jesus saw their faith,and said, 'Friend, your sins are forgiven.'"(5:20) What role do the faith & prayers of others play in someone coming to Christ or growing spiritually? Who "carried you" to Jesus,& whom are you "carrying" now?

7.If you were the paralytic, brought in hoping for physical healing, how would you feel hearing Jesus first say, "Your sins are forgiven"? What does this reveal about what Jesus sees as a person's deepest need?

8.Jesus links the visible (healing) to the invisible (forgiveness). What are some "visible" evidences today that Jesus really has forgiven and transformed a person's life?

9.Everyone says, "We have seen remarkable things today"(5:26) What would it look like for your group to walk away from a gathering genuinely saying that — because of repentance, reconciliation, salvation, or answered prayer?

10. How can your group grow to become both (1) a place where the “unclean” & helpless are welcomed & touched with Christ’s love, and (2) a band of friends who will do whatever it takes to bring people to Jesus?