

Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of October 9, 2016

Luke 5:17-26

These questions are to be used as a spring board for discussion.

Answers may or may not be found in the sermons.

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

¹⁷ One day, while he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting near by (they had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem); and the power of the Lord was with him to heal. ¹⁸ Just then some men came, carrying a paralyzed man on a bed. They were trying to bring him in and lay him before Jesus; ¹⁹ but finding no way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the middle of the crowd in front of Jesus. ²⁰ When he saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven you." ²¹ Then the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, "Who is this who is speaking blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" ²² When Jesus perceived their questionings, he answered them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? ²³ Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Stand up and walk'? ²⁴ But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" —he said to the one who was paralyzed—"I say to you, stand up and take your bed and go to your home." ²⁵ Immediately he stood up before them, took what he had been lying on, and went to his home, glorifying God. ²⁶ Amazement seized all of them, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, "We have seen strange things today."

Connection Questions:

1. What can we learn about faith from the example of the men who carried the paralytic to Jesus?

2. The friends had the philosophy, "Where there's a will, there's a way." If there was a closed door, they found an open roof. Describe a time when friends went out of their way to help you.

3. Describe a time when you went out of your way to help others. How did it make you feel?

4. Which of the two phrases is easier to say? "Your sins are forgiven!" OR "Get up, take your mat, and go home!" Why?

5. Jesus didn't immediately heal the man physically. The first thing Jesus did was to forgive the man's sins. How would that have been challenging or confusing for some of the people? Why did Jesus attend to the man's spiritual healing before his physical healing? What can we learn from this?

6. What were all the ways God was glorified in this story? How could God be glorified through your response to this story?