



Growth Group Discussion Questions for Luke 5:17-26
Week of March 10-13, 2019

1. Scripture memory: Review and meditate on Psalm 63:1-8.
2. Carefully read Luke 5:17-26 at least twice.
3. Whose faith did Jesus see (v. 20)? What comes to your mind when you think about this? Think about your ministry to one another in the body of Christ.
4. The Bible is clear that Jesus is not merely a man. What attributes of God does Jesus demonstrate in this passage?
5. The men brought their friend to Jesus because they knew he could perform miracles.
 - a) What was wrong with their friend and what did they want Jesus to do for him? Did Jesus do this for him?
 - b) Before Jesus did what their friends hoped for, what did Jesus do for him first? Why do you think he started with that? (v. 20)
 - c) Beyond the healing of any disease, no matter how debilitating, or the fixing of any imaginable bad circumstance, what is every unbeliever's first and most important need? Why?
(John 3:16-18, Luke 4:43, 1 John 5:11-12)

d) If your answer to c) is true, why do you think Jesus went ahead and healed the man's physical problem? (v. 23-24; Acts 2:22, what else?) If Jesus had *not* healed the man's paralysis, it would not be unloving of him. Why?

6. We all deal with physical and circumstantial problems throughout our lives, some of them quite severe. It is not wrong to pray that God would alleviate your pain; God does heal, etc. But how can you grow in contentment, gratitude, and even joy in the midst of your pain if it is not God's good plan to take it away? (2 Cor. 12:7-10, James 1:2-4, 1 Cor. 10:31)

7. Why were the teachers of the law (scribes) and the Pharisees so alarmed in v. 21? Should they have been? Why or why not? Why do you think Jesus so publicly forgave the man?

8. Jesus healed the paralyzed man, but Jesus doesn't always heal (Luke 4:42-43). Why do you think that is? What are God's highest purposes for his people, if not perfect physical wholeness? (Matt. 22:36-40, Luke 9:23-26, Rom. 12:1-2, etc.)

9. What principles or thoughts had the most impact on you from the message on Sunday, March 10th? How were you specifically challenged? What points of application did you take away from the message?

PRAY IN THE GROUP: Pray that our congregation would grow in their devotion to Jesus, grow in their contentment, and grow in their joy in following Christ regardless of life's hardships. Pray also for our upcoming women's ministry meetings and men's breakfast – for encouraging fellowship and spiritual growth.