



May 3, 2026

THEME:

Luke – Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man

LIFE APPLICATION:

Have faith in what Jesus can do.

SCRIPTURE:

Luke 5:17–26

MEMORY VERSE:

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” **Romans 8:28**

READ AND DISCUSS LUKE 5:17–20

17 On one of those days, as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with him to heal. 18 And behold, some men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they were seeking 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 midst before Jesus. 20 And when he saw their faith, he said, “Man, your sins are forgiven you.”

1. In **verse 17**, who was there to hear Jesus’s teaching? (Pharisees and teachers of the law from every village of Galilee, from Judea, and from Jerusalem)

2. What is a Pharisee? In the sermon this weekend, we learned this about the Pharisees:
 - They were the religious authorities of the day.
 - They were deeply committed to strict adherence to the Law.
 - They were skeptical of Jesus (not sure they believed what he was saying). Ultimately, the Pharisees played a role in the death of Jesus.
 - If we really look at the Pharisees, we can see similarities to how many of us like to operate today. We like control. We like rules.
 3. What does **verse 17** say about Jesus? (The power of the Lord was with him to heal.)
 4. What happened while Jesus was teaching? (**Verses 18, 19** — some men brought their friend who was paralyzed.) The friends wanted to lay the man before Jesus! Why? (They wanted him to be healed.)
 5. What was their problem? (They couldn't get to Jesus because of the crowd.) So, what did they do? (They made a hole in the roof and lowered the man right in front of Jesus!) Wow! Do you think the men had faith that Jesus could heal their friend? (Discuss.) How about the man who was paralyzed? Did he have faith? (He must have had faith in his friends to let them carry him to Jesus.) Are friendships with people who don't know Jesus important? Why or why not?
 6. Read **verse 20**. At first, instead of healing, Jesus forgave the man of his sins. Do you think that being forgiven of our sins is healing to us? (Discuss.) Jesus healed the man of his sins BEFORE he healed his body.
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READ AND DISCUSS LUKE 5:21-26

21 And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" 22 When Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answered them, "Why do you question in your hearts? 23 Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? 24 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" — he said to the man who was paralyzed — "I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home." 25 And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God. 26 And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, "We have seen extraordinary things today."

1. How did the scribes and Pharisees react to Jesus forgiving the man? (**Verse 21** — they said this was blasphemy, that Jesus was lying.) Why did they say this? (They said that no one but God can forgive sins.)
2. In **verses 23-24**, Jesus confirmed that he has the authority from God to forgive sins, and also to heal. What did he say, in **verse 24**, to the man who was paralyzed? ("I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home.")
3. What did the man do? (Immediately, he obeyed Jesus. He rose, picked up his bed, and went home — glorifying God!) Can you imagine how he must have felt to be able to get up and walk? Give me some words or actions to describe how he felt. (Let everyone do so.)

4. Read **verse 26**. How did everyone react to what had happened? (They were amazed and they glorified God. They were filled with awe!) What did they say? (“We have seen extraordinary things today.”)
 5. Because of the faith of the paralyzed man’s friends, Jesus forgave him and also healed him. Do you believe that Jesus can do amazing things in our lives because of our faith? (Discuss.)
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LIFE APPLICATION: WHICH ONE ARE YOU?

- Some of us are like the Pharisees: you know about Jesus, but you don’t **know** him.
- Some of us are like the man: you need forgiveness, healing and hope.
- Some of us are like the friends: you’re called to bring others to him.

No matter which of these you relate to right now, we all need to: **Have faith and believe in Jesus — he is our only hope in this world!**

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” **Romans 8:28**

FAMILY CHALLENGE

1. Talk about the characters in this passage: the Pharisees, the man who needed healing, and his friends. Which one seems most like who you are at this place in your life right now? (Discuss.)
 2. In your opinion, which one needs Jesus most? Why?
 3. Do you think that having faith in what God can do is important? (Discuss.)
 4. Keeping track of prayers and answered prayers increases our faith. If your family is not already doing this, begin doing so now. Then, on a regular basis, go back and see what God has done in your lives!
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PRAYER:

Dear Jesus, thank you for showing us that our faith in your power and authority on earth is important. Because of our faith, you can do amazing things! Help us to show our faith to those around us who don’t know you. We love you. Amen.