



Smith Rock
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group study guide

LUKE

J E S U S F O R E V E R Y O N E

**For the week of
23rd of February 2020**



Suppos you have a sick friend, and desperately want to get her to the doctor, but they don't have an appointment or perhaps it is after hours and the doctor has gone home, what will you do? Take you friend home and make an appointment for a future date when the office is open, hoping your friend will make it, or will you spare no effort to get your friend in front of the doctor, even if it means risking getting yourself in trouble by breaking into the Doctor's house?

The answer to that question depends on how much you care for your friend, how good you think the doctor is, and how much effort you are willing to expend on your friend.

In this week's study we look at a couple of cases where Jesus is asked to heal, and in the healing He reveals more about Himself that some of the witnesses are going to accept.



12 While he was in one of the cities, there came a man full of leprosy. And when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and begged him, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean." 13 And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately the leprosy left him. 14 And he charged him to tell no one, but "go and show yourself to the priest, and make an offering for your cleansing, as Moses commanded, for a proof to them." 15 But now even more the report about him went abroad, and great crowds gathered to hear him and to be healed of their infirmities. 16 But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray. 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.” 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.”

5 Luke 5:12–26 (ESV)

Commentary

When Jesus had read and taught in Nazareth He had used this passage:

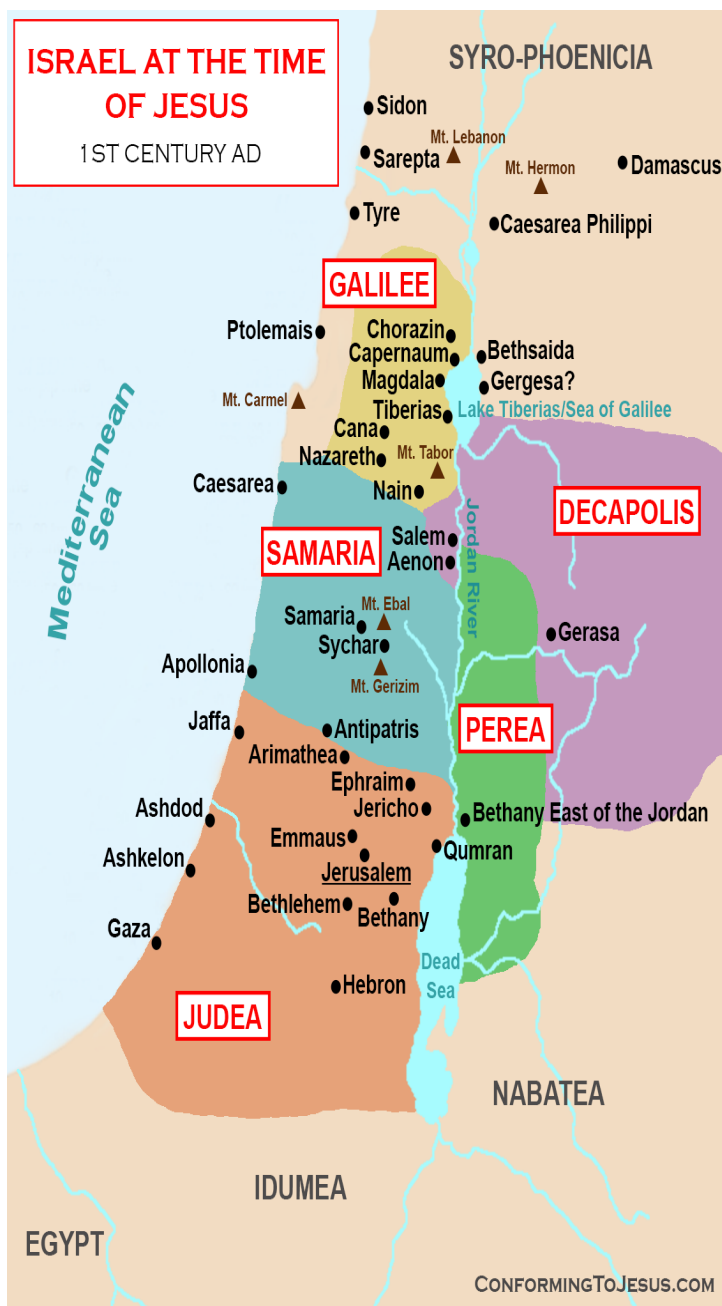
18 *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”*

Luke 4:18–19 (ESV)

Then Jesus stunned them all by telling the congregation that this scripture was being fulfilled in their hearing. In this passage Jesus continues to bring the “Good News” of His Gospel in a holistic way to the people of Galilee.

ISRAEL AT THE TIME OF JESUS

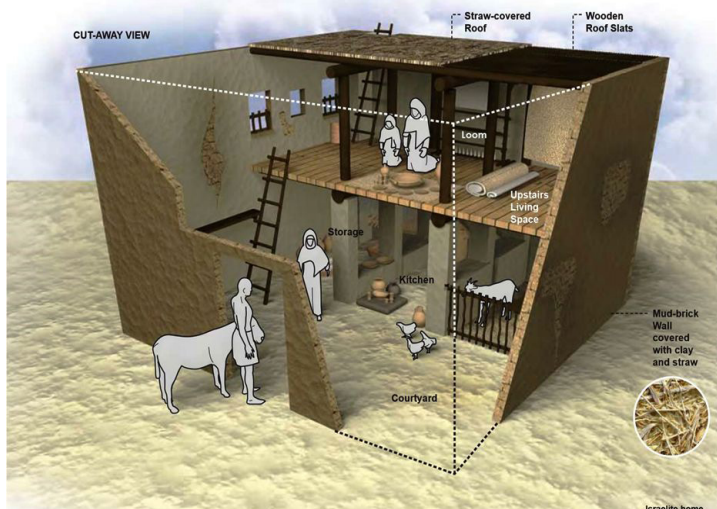
1ST CENTURY AD



Jesus first encounters a man with leprosy, this could refer to a number of skin diseases, but the consequence for the man would have been his exclusion from spiritual and community life, because under the law he would not have been able to be in close proximity to anyone “clean.” The man comes to Jesus in deep reverence, bowing before Him begging Jesus to make him clean. The man understands the authority and power, but does He have the will? Jesus countervailing the law touches the man and tells him “be clean,” but to tell no one and go and show himself to the priest and make an offering as the law specifies Leviticus. It is a testimony both to Jesus’ power and authority and that He operates within the law.

We see why Jesus didn’t want the man to say anything, because the crowds swell as they hear the stories about Jesus, forcing Jesus to retreat into the wilderness so He could pray and connect with His Father. It appears the man did not keep quiet, in fact in Mark 1:45 we are told the man talked freely about it, and you can hardly blame him! The wilderness had before been used as a place of temptation as the devil made an effort to separate Jesus from the Father, but here it is a place of solitude where Jesus can draw near to the Father without all the interruptions of ministry life.

Jesus’ ministry so far has been twofold; teaching and healing, but now a new aspect is about to be added, and it is very much tied to first two; forgiveness. However as Jesus starts to forgive, it brings Him into conflict with the Jewish leaders. There is a ominous note in 5:17; Pharisees and teachers of the law are present and one gets the impression they are there to judge what



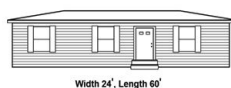
First-Century Israelite House

The homes of poor families were small and plain. They were built of rough stone (or mud-brick) walls and roofs of woven branches covered with clay. Living spaces were used for household work—cooking and weaving. At night, the family's domestic animals were housed in the lower level.

Size comparison:

First-century houses were smaller than modern double-wide trailers and accommodated an entire family.

Double wide mobile home (front view)



Width 24', Length 60'

Israelite home (front view)	
Height 15'	Each floor 7' high
Door	
Width 24', Length 24'	

GRAPHIC BY KARBEL MULTIMEDIA, COPYRIGHT 2011 LOGOS BIBLE SOFTWARE

Jesus is saying and doing. The power of the Holy Spirit was on Jesus to heal, reminding us of the power He had been given after His baptism at the commissioning of His ministry. We know from Mark's description Jesus was in a house, possibly Peter's, and He was surrounded by a crowd, hence the reason why the friends couldn't get their mate to Jesus. Like the leper, this crippled man would have been considered "unclean" and ostracised from society, but apparently he has some good mates who are going to get him before Jesus one way or another, and they take him up on the roof, dig a hole in it and lower him down right before Jesus. Jesus commends the faith of not just the man but his

friends as well, and pronounces the forgiveness of his sins. This immediately prompts questioning in the Pharisees; who is this, only God can forgive sins. Jesus showing His omnipotence calls their thoughts out into view and challenges them which is easier? To say forgive sins or tell someone to rise up and walk? To show He has power over both Jesus commands the man to get up and take his bed and go home which he does. The onlookers are left amazed again, and they glorify God.

Group Study

Open the group with prayer and discuss how you have used your application from last week's study in your life, and what you have learned from it.

With the corona virus and flu season, we are aware of what it means to get sick; quarantine! Describe a time when you have been sick or injured.

How did it effect your ability to interact with your family and friends, workplace and society?

What would it be like living ostracized by society?

What groups of people are left out today because we feel uncomfortable being around them?

How could we touch their lives in meaningful ways?

Read the following story:

18 While he was saying these things to them, behold, a ruler came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." 19 And Jesus rose and followed him, with his disciples. 20 And behold, a woman who had suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, 21 for she said to herself, "If I only touch his garment, I will be made well." 22 Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well.

Matthew 9:18–22 (ESV)

What is the relationship between miracles and faith? Does faith lead to the miracle or does the miracle lead to faith?

In Galatians Paul calls on the church to

2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.
Galatians 6:2 (ESV)

What does it mean to bear one another's burdens in the context of the paralysed man and his friends?

Jesus to the surprise of the onlookers doesn't address the man's physical condition to start with but his spiritual prognosis.

The author of Proverbs says:

5 *Better is open rebuke
than hidden love.*

6 *Faithful are the wounds of a friend;
profuse are the kisses of an enemy.*

Proverbs 27:5–6 (ESV)

How can we address sin in each other's lives in a loving way,
rather ignore them?

Personal study time

Jesus' healing of the man in this passage is proof that He indeed has the authority and power not only to say He can heal and forgive but to demonstrate it.

Read the passage below and reflect on the questions which follow.

8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

1 John 1:8–10 (ESV)

16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the

*world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.
18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does
not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in
the name of the only Son of God.*

John 3:16–18 (ESV)

How do you know God has forgiven you?

A large blue rectangular area with horizontal dashed lines, intended for a student to write their response to the question "How do you know God has forgiven you?".

21 Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

Matthew 18:21–22 (ESV)

Jesus then tells a parable about a king who forgives a servant an enormous debt which he cannot possibly hope to ever repay, but then after the release from his debt he goes out and sees a fellow slave who owes him a pittance by comparison and will not forgive him. (Matthew 18:23-35)

It is easy to say we have been forgiven, but what is the evidence in your life?

Sometimes we it is hard to tell someone we forgive them, but there are times when we tell a person we forgive them because it is the "right" thing to do, but inwardly we really don't.

How does our forgiveness of others directly reflect the forgiveness we have received from God?

*12 and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

*13 And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.*

14 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15 but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Matthew 6:12–15 (ESV)

NAME OF THE BOOK

Reflection

REAP Method of studying Scripture

READ

Find the passages for today's reading in the Bible Reading Plan. Read the passages with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction, and correction (2 Timothy 3:16). Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

Spend some time reflecting and writing about what you've read. Write down one or two of the key verses that stuck out to you. Ask yourself these questions and write down your thoughts:

- * What is going on in the passage?
- * Who is writing and whom is he writing to?
- * When was the author writing?
- * What are the circumstances that the author is addressing?
- * Does the writer mention anything that might indicate his purpose or intent?
- * How do you think the author wants his audience to respond?

APPLY

After examining the passage, apply the text to your own life. Ask yourself these questions:

- * What is God's word for me from this passage?
- * How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?