

Life Group Notes & Discussion Guide, October 19th, 2025

Series: **“A Biblical Look at Healing”**

Message: **“Understanding Man’s Authority”**

Sermon Text: **Luke 5:17-26**; Old Testament Text: **Psalms 41:1-4**; New Testament Text: **James 5:13-16**. Read **Luke 5:17-26** as you listen to the sermon, then answer the questions below.

1. Read **Luke 5:17**. Why do you think so many Pharisees and teachers of the law from so many different places were all present to see what Jesus was up to on this day?
2. Why do you think Luke felt compelled to tell us, *“And the power of the Lord was with him to heal?”*
3. Read **Luke 5:18-19**. What do the actions of the men who carried the paralyzed man tell you about their faith?
4. Read **Luke 5:20**. How do you think the paralyzed man felt when he heard Jesus say, *“Man, your sins are forgiven you?”*
5. How do you think the men who carried the paralyzed man felt when he heard Jesus say, *“Man, your sins are forgiven you?”*
6. Read **Luke 5:21**. How did the scribes & the Pharisees react to the words Jesus spoke over the paralyzed man?
7. Was what the scribes and Pharisees said correct?

8. Read **Luke 5:22-23**. How did Pr. Dave say that *Jesus perceived their thoughts*?
9. What lesson was Jesus trying to teach the Pharisees and teachers of the law on this day?
10. Read **Luke 5:24-25**. What unmistakable message should the religious leaders have been able to understand from Jesus's healing of the paralyzed man?
11. What did the healed man go home doing?
12. Read **Luke 5:26**. How did the entire crowd react, Pharisees and teachers of the law included?
13. **Matthew 9:1-8** is another account of the healing of the paralytic. Turn to **Matthew 9:8** on **p. 1034 of the pew Bible**. What conclusion did the crowd come to in this account?
14. What will you remember most from this message?

Discussion Guide for Your Life Group Meeting

- I. At your Life Group meeting, first read **Psalm 41:1-4** aloud. It can be helpful to have several people each read one verse from their Bible. This helps people feel involved and can also introduce some interesting discussion if several translations are used. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
1. Why does God bless those who consider the plight of the needy?
 2. When you encounter people in need, does your heart first seek to help them or to judge them?
 3. When we refuse to help the poor, of what benefits of God may we be depriving ourselves?
 4. According to **Psalm 41:4**, for what does King David feel compelled to ask God?
 5. After reading those four verses, did you feel convicted of anything? If so, what?
- II. Next read **James 5:13-16**, utilizing several group members to each read one verse aloud. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
1. According to **James 5:13**, what is James's instruction for those who are suffering?
 2. According to **James 5:13**, what is James's instruction for those who are cheerful?
 3. When you've taken James's advice in either of these cases, what have you discovered?
 4. According to **James 5:14**, what is James's instruction for those who are sick?
 5. Do the *elders of the church* refer only to those who serve on the Church Council?
 6. Who should be counted among the *elders of the church*?
 7. What is the purpose of anointing the sick person with *anointing oil*?
 8. According to **James 5:15**, what does James say will happen for the one who receives such prayer.
 9. How would you define a *prayer of faith*?
 10. When you read **James 5:16**, what do you think of the idea of *confessing your sins to one another*?
 11. What would you fear in making such a confession?
 12. Having conquered your fears to make such a confession, how might it help the power of your prayers?
- III. Read **Luke 5:17-26**, utilizing several group members to each read one verse aloud. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:

1. Read **Luke 5:17**. Why do you think so many Pharisees and teachers of the law from so many different places were all present to see what Jesus was up to on this day?
2. Why do you think Luke felt compelled to tell us, *“And the power of the Lord was with him to heal?”*
3. Read **Luke 5:18-19**. What do the actions of the men who carried the paralyzed man tell you about their faith?
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