

# GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide  
SB 04.16.2023

THE HEALER IS IN THE HOUSE – LUKE 5:17-26

## Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week’s message? Discuss with your group.

We were excited to have the Executive Director of Teen Challenge Ron Brown the weekend. Ron Brown oversees the ministry of Teen Challenge Southern California and its ten ministry locations, including centers headquartered in Kern County, Ventura/Tri-County, Los Angeles County, Orange County, Inland Empire, San Diego County and Central Valley. In addition to the year-long structured Christian discipleship ministry for those addicted to drugs and alcohol, Teen Challenge Southern California provides comprehensive outreach and prevention programs for inner-city youth at risk of gang affiliation and drug abuse. In addition to his duties as Executive Director, Ron is passionate about leadership development and encourages pastors and Christian leaders through conferences and seminars locally, nationally, and internationally. More than anything, Ron believes that the love of Jesus is stronger than the bondage of sin and addiction. Through God’s grace, no one is beyond Christ’s redemption. He and his wife, Demetra, have two daughters, two wonderful sons-in-law, and eight amazing grandchildren. Let’s get into our lesson...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you most from Ron Browns sermon?
2. During what event in your life have you felt the most helpless? In what ways were you dependent on other people? How did you handle being dependent?

## Digging Deeper in God’s Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ LUKE 5:17-20

1. What evidence do you see in this passage that the friends of the paralytic man were concerned for him?
2. What might Jesus have thought about the friends’ efforts to get the paralytic to Him? What can we learn about faith from these men?
3. How would you feel if you were the paralytic when your friends decided to help you “drop in on Jesus”?
4. How do the obstacles confronting the friends compare and contrast with obstacles that hinder believers today from bringing others to Jesus?

The paralytic’s friends offer us a simple but profound insight about faith that we do well to take seriously. They underscore for us the vital necessity of putting our faith to work in concrete ways. The intersection of our faith in the power of Christ and our concern for people must prompt us to do something tangible that helps them. We should express our faith by taking action that will bring people in our lives to Him. In that way, our faith can be expressed in real-time action. Most importantly is our intercession on behalf of people who cannot help themselves.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ LUKE 5:21-26

1. Why were the scribes upset when Jesus offered the paralytic man forgiveness?

## ***“PROMISES” in 2023***

2. **What part of the scribes’ musings was correct? What part was wrong?**
3. **In this story, do you identify more with the paralytic, his friends, or the teachers? Why?**
4. **How might we, like the Pharisees, paralyze ourselves by determining what Jesus can and cannot do? What’s the cure for that paralysis?**

The scribes and Pharisees understood that Jesus was acting as if He were God when He claimed to forgive the sins of the paralyzed man. Not only did they not believe He was God, they viewed His claims as blasphemies. Jesus was perceiving their thoughts because He knew what is in man (John 2:25). In verse 23, Jesus expressed the heart of their doubt. It was much easier to just say “your sins are forgiven” than to heal a paralytic since there could be no visible proof of whether sins had been forgiven.

5. **Why did Jesus heal the man’s paralysis, even though He had already treated the more important problem of his spiritual health?**
6. **What do we learn about Jesus from this miracle?**

To demonstrate that He had power to do the invisible miracle of forgiving sins, Jesus performed the visible miracle of healing the paralytic. The man got up immediately and went home glorifying God. Without his friends’ help, the paralyzed man wouldn’t have experienced Jesus’ physical healing, but even more tragically, he would’ve missed out on Jesus’ forgiveness of sins and eternity with Him.

### **HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MATTHEW 25:35-40**

Later on in His ministry, when talking about His second coming and the time when we’re all held accountable for our actions while on earth, Jesus described what faithfulness to Him looks like.

1. **Why is meeting the physical needs of the hurting and helpless so important for the Christ-follower?**
2. **What are the six ministry actions Jesus’ followers performed in this passage? What do all of these actions have in common?**
3. **What did Jesus mean when He said, “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me”?**
4. **How is it that by serving people, we love them and show them Jesus?**
5. **Who are “the least of these” in our community? What message do you think these groups of people are getting from Christians and area churches? What message should they be getting from us?**

### **Applying God’s Word**

**What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.**

## ***“PROMISES” in 2023***

With the healing of the paralytic, two certainties emerge for us to embrace. First, we can be certain that Jesus alone can forgive sins. Only Christ has the power and authority to remove our sin from us. Second, we can be certain about our responsibility to help people in Jesus’ name. We have been called to meet the needs of others. Jesus was never satisfied with just the “know” part of faith. He pushed His followers toward the “go” stage.

- 1. Why is it such a struggle for us to look beyond ourselves to the hurting and helpless? How does a better understanding of Jesus’ forgiveness in your life move you to action on behalf of the hurting and helpless?**
- 2. The four carried their friend and placed him before Jesus. How can people today bring their spiritually needy friends to Jesus?**
- 3. How can we as a small group help hurting people see Jesus in their everyday lives?**

**PRAYER** – Close your group gathering in a time of prayer. Take time to hear prayer requests, specifically those related to today’s topic and convictions group members are feeling as a result of the Scripture. Are there people in your group or extended family that need prayer for healing, physically, emotionally or mentally? Pray for them specifically trusting our great healer to answer our prayers. Then close in prayer, asking God to open your eyes to the people around you who need to know Him and feel His love.

***“how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.” (Acts 10:38)***