



Week Three: Paralyzed – Study Guide

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Imagine for a moment you know someone who is gravely sick (many of us don't need to use our imaginations here), or has some sort of paralysis. Now imagine that you have experienced, or at least know of, an extraordinary doctor you have complete faith in to administer healing. It is fair to say that each one of us would find a way to get our friend or loved one to this doctor. Jesus came to earth to administer eternal healing. He is the expert surgeon who, if we just get in front of Him, can forgive us of our sins and give us eternal life. In this study, we will see how one man had friends that stopped at nothing to introduce him to Jesus.

Where Am I Today?

- 1) Doubt, fear, and even complacency are words that can describe what keeps us from experiencing the power of God. It can affect our ability to tell others about Him. What is it that makes you hesitate to bring your friends to Jesus?

Into the Bible

- 2) Religious leaders were gathered around Jesus when something extraordinary happened. Read **Luke 5:17-26**. In what ways did the faith of the paralyzed man's friends affect the outcome of this situation? After reading these passages, how can we see that belonging to a group or community helped to create change in someone's life?

JESUS BEGINS

WEEK THREE: PARALYZED – STUDY GUIDE

- 3) God is more concerned about calling out to those who don't know Him, than He is in not crossing legalistic boundary lines drawn by the religious. Read **Luke 5:27-32**. After someone meets Jesus, a natural next step is to bring Him back into their community or circle of friends who may not know Him. What was Jesus really saying to the religious leaders when He said it was the sick who need a physician?

- 4) As we see in Luke, it takes faith and action if we are to stand firm, side by side with others, through opposition. Read **Philippians 1:27-28** and **3:17**. How does Paul tell us to live, and how can we overcome opposition together when we live a life worth following?

How Does This Apply

- 5) Finding a way through the crowds and past the roadblocks can be difficult on our own. Salvation, restoration and healing happen when we get into Jesus' presence, and sometimes it takes the help of friends. Who in your life builds you up and gives you strength, and who are you building into so that others are introduced to Jesus? How can your Life Group help you overcome the obstacles that may be keeping you from experiencing God's power?

- 6) The man who was paralyzed was carried to Jesus through adverse conditions, and ultimately healed by God's power as a result of his friends' faith. The first piece of The Cove's mission statement is to "Introduce our friends to Jesus." Who do you know that needs to experience Jesus' eternal healing power (salvation)? What kind of faith and action may be required to introduce that person to Jesus?

JESUS BEGINS

WEEK THREE: PARALYZED – STUDY GUIDE

- 7) The religious leaders complained to Jesus' disciples because He was spending quality time with sinners. Reflect on a time when you noticed a friend, Life Group member, or relative who is a Jesus follower taking time to talk to you about God. How are you engaging in your relationships with others to know who in your life doesn't know Christ? What are you doing to cross the religious boundaries that may be keeping you from sharing your faith in Jesus with those around you?
- 8) In Philippians, Paul tells us how to live a life worth following. How are you being intentional in your relationship with Jesus that makes you worth following, and what could be the payoff?

Continue Learning on Your Own

- 9) It is hard to trust God for healing in your situation if you don't have faith that He is who He says He is. It is a place where even Jesus followers can find themselves from time to time. Read **Ephesians 2:8**; **Hebrews 11:6, 12:12**; and **Romans 10:17**. Throughout the Bible, we have clear descriptions that salvation through Jesus is a gift from God, that faith comes from reading and hearing the word of God, and that without faith it is impossible to understand our relationship with Him. What are some steps you can take to begin to have confidence that Jesus is who He says He is?