

# SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

## WEEK 6

### Jesus forgives sin

Luke 5:17-26



## DAY 1

Religious leaders came to see Jesus • Luke 5:17

### READ

Luke 5:17-26

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Luke 5:17

What was this they were hearing? News of Jesus had spread quickly from Capernaum (Mark 1:28), even to the religious leaders in Jerusalem. They heard talk of the way Jesus spoke and acted with great authority (1:16-28; Matt 8:5-13). Suspicious, a group of Pharisees and teachers of the law made the four to five day journey to Capernaum to see Jesus first hand. The Pharisees were a small but influential group of lay people (usually not priests) who were determined to keep the nation faithful to the Law of Moses. The teachers of the law, also called scribes, were usually Pharisees. They were religious lawyers who taught how to follow the Law of Moses in the details of life. All this sounds good, but they had a big problem: as they applied the Law, they created their own oral tradition, which they believed had the same authority as Scripture itself. So as they headed north to see Jesus, there was sure to be trouble: would Jesus submit to human tradition and follow their version of the Law? Or would they abandon their man-made commandments and submit to the authority of Jesus?

### ASK

1. Who came from Jerusalem to see Jesus?  
*Pharisees and teachers of the law.*
2. Why did they come?  
*To see for themselves what they were hearing about Jesus.*
3. What did the Pharisees and teachers of the law put their trust in?  
*Their own man-made version of God's Law.*

### DISCUSS

1. What is an "oral tradition"?
2. Can you think of some ways people today trust in human ideas instead of God's Word? Why do you think they do this?

## DAY 2

A paralytic came to see Jesus • Luke 5:18–20a

### READ

Luke 5:17–26

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Luke 5:18–20a

The way you come to Jesus makes all the difference. The Pharisees came to Jesus to judge him, but the paralyzed man came for help. When the men carrying him couldn't get into the house, they hauled their paralyzed friend up to the roof, took off the roof tiles, and began digging through the clay and branches. Imagine how distracting that would be! As people tried to hear Jesus, pieces of the ceiling began falling on them! What do you think the owner of the house thought when he saw a hole in his roof? But it was all worth it: the men lowered the paralytic right in front of Jesus Himself—the best place for anyone to be. Jesus saw their **faith**. By their creative and persistent effort, they showed their belief that Jesus was able to heal. More than that, they show us that faith includes belief that overcomes any obstacle. It is unshakable confidence in the power of Christ to meet our needs. It is clinging tightly to God (Deut 30:20), looking to Jesus (Num 21:9; John 3:14–15), and calling out to Him (Joel 2:32).

### ASK

1. Who came to Jesus for healing?  
*A paralytic, carried on a cot by his friends.*
2. What is a paralytic?  
*Someone who cannot use his legs.*
3. Why could he not get to Jesus?  
*The house was too crowded.*
4. How did his friends get him to Jesus?  
*They went to the roof, cut a hole, and lowered him down.*

### DISCUSS

1. What are some ways you can come to Jesus? Is it ever hard to keep coming to Jesus? How can you be creative and persistent to keep coming to Him?
2. What do the following descriptions teach us about faith: clinging tightly to God, looking to Jesus, and calling out to God?

## DAY 3

Jesus forgave sin • Luke 5:20b–21

### READ

Luke 5:17–21

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Luke 5:20b–21

What is your biggest problem? Jesus knew what the paralytic's biggest problem was, and it wasn't his paralyzed legs. It was his sin. So when Jesus said, "Your sins are forgiven," He was giving the paralytic the best gift possible. This is because when God **forgives**, He chooses not to hold your sin against you. He throws your sins behind His back (Isa 38:17), refuses to remember

them (43:25), stomps them into the ground and casts them into the depths of the sea (Mic 7:19). But wait! Is He allowed to do that? The Pharisees were right to be shocked: "Who can forgive sins but God alone?" They knew that sin is a crime against God (Ps 51:4), so only God has the right to forgive sin (Mic 7:18). They considered Jesus' words to be **blasphemy**, because Jesus was acting as if He were God! What the Pharisees did not understand was that Jesus really was God! In fact, He had become a man for the very purpose of forgiving sin (Matt 1:21), and He is the only way anyone can be forgiven (Acts 4:12; 10:43).

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

**ASK** 

1. What did Jesus say to the paralytic first?  
*Jesus said, "Your sins are forgiven."*
2. Why is forgiveness so good?  
*God takes away sin forever. He gets rid of it completely. The forgiven person can live with God forever.*
3. Why were the Pharisees upset?  
*Jesus said, "Your sins are forgiven," but only God can forgive sins.*
4. What is blasphemy?  
*Acting as if you are God.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. Why were Jesus' words not blasphemy?
2. Why is spiritual healing greater than physical healing? What makes you happier: getting good things in this world (like a healthy body), or having all your sins forgiven?

**DAY 4***Jesus healed the paralytic • Luke 5:22–26***READ** 

Luke 5:17–26

**EXPLAIN** **The truth of Luke 5:22–26**

How can you be sure Jesus can actually forgive sin? Anyone can say, "Your sins are forgiven," because there's no way to tell whether the sins are actually forgiven. But if someone says, "Get up and walk," you can look and see if there is power in those words. So that's what Jesus did. He healed the paralytic to prove that "the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." When the paralytic did exactly what Jesus said, no one in the crowd could deny the miracle. Every person—which must have included even the Pharisees—was astonished and glorified God. But as the rest of Luke shows, the Pharisees refused to follow Jesus because He didn't follow their man-made laws (Luke 6:11). Even the crowds wanted only what Jesus could do for them, not Jesus Himself (John 6:34–35, 66). It is the same today: many people stand in awe of Jesus' great power, but they still refuse to submit to His authority. They do not admit that Jesus has the same authority as God Himself, or if they do, they don't live like it.

**ASK** 

1. Did Jesus deny the ability to forgive sins?  
*No.*
2. How did Jesus prove that He has authority to forgive sins?  
*He healed the paralytic completely and immediately.*
3. How did the paralytic respond?  
*He immediately stood up, picked up his cot, and went home glorifying God.*
4. How did the crowd respond?  
*With amazement. They glorified God, too.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. It may be easy to claim the power to forgive sins, but Jesus knew how hard it is to actually forgive sin. What did it cost Jesus to forgive sin?
2. If someone looked at your attitudes, words, and actions, would they think you are letting Jesus be in charge or not? Why is it often hard for you to submit to Jesus' authority?

# DAY 5

Jesus cares about our physical needs, too • Revelation 21:4

## READ

Revelation 21:1–4

## EXPLAIN

### The truth of Revelation 21:4

Why was the paralyzed man paralyzed? Maybe he was paralyzed because of his own sin (Ps 32:3–4). Maybe he wasn't (John 9:3). Either way, we know that broken bodies are the result of Adam's first sin (Gen 3:17–19; Rom 5:12). From the moment we are born, we begin to decay and die, all because our sin separates us from our source of life—from God Himself (Isa 59:2). So the man's paralysis was only a preview of something much worse: eternal death in hell, away from God forever (Rom 6:23). But even though sin is the main problem, Jesus still cares about our physical needs, too. In fact, our physical needs and spiritual needs cannot be separated. Both come from the sin that brought the curse, and both will end one day when God welcomes us into our final home, when we will live on a perfect earth, with perfect bodies and perfect souls. There will be no curse, no sadness, no tears, no pain, and no death (Rev 22:3). Because Jesus has authority even over sin, He truly is the answer to all our needs.

## ASK

1. Broken bodies are the result of what?  
*Adam's first sin.*
2. When will our physical suffering end?  
*When Jesus welcomes us into our final home, the new heaven and new earth.*
3. What will there be no more of in the new heaven and new earth?  
*There will be no curse, no sadness, no tears, no pain, and no death.*

## DISCUSS

1. Do you know anyone who is sick or suffering? Is God able to heal this person now (Luke 5:24–25)? If this person is a Christian, will they still be sick in heaven?
2. Why do Christians usually look forward to life in heaven more and more as grow old?

## NEXT WEEK

### Jesus promises rest

Matthew 11:20–30

