

H O P E f o r H E A L I N G -- L U K E 5

This is Community Group—Week 4. Today we will talk about the hope we have in our lives through Jesus Christ even when things aren't right in our physical bodies. Share about the time when you felt the most sick in your life. What were things that helped get you through?

LUKE 5:15-26. Use the Bible Storytelling technique to tell the story, retell the story as a group, and then read the story from the Bible.

HEAD QUESTIONS:

- * For what purpose were there so many people crowded at the house in which Jesus was preaching?
- * What was the agenda of the many Jewish religious leaders in attendance?
- * How did the paralyzed man respond in his healing? What was the response of the crowd?

HEART QUESTIONS:

- * Why did the 4 men bring their paralytic friend to Jesus?
- * So what if he was healed? What would be the implications of his new found restoration?
- * How did the persistent faith of the four men factor into the healing of this paralyzed man?
- * Jesus forgave this man's sins. That was not the requested need presented to Christ? Why?
- * Why was this so offensive to the gathered Jewish religious leaders? Were they missing something?
- * What conclusions do you think the Jewish religious leaders came to?

HANDS QUESTIONS:

- * Talk about the authority of Jesus in the forgiveness of sins & in healing.
- * What lessons did you see in this story that you can apply or put into practice in your life this week?



COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDELINES

Confidentiality

Keeping things that are shared in the group confidential builds trust and shows value to the person. Confidentiality can prevent gossip that only values the story; Jesus always valued the person above their story or their sin.

Don't Rescue & Don't Fix

When someone is sharing something deeply personal and/or painful there can be a tendency to try and make them feel better about themselves or the situation. Often this will cause people to stop sharing and results in them not going as deep as they might have gone. Resist the temptation to rescue people. Try to hear what people are sharing without trying to fix them. If they want your advice, they will ask for it. You may want to take time later to ask if you can offer some advice.

No Crosstalk

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. Don't have side conversations. Trust is built in the moments when everyone feels like they are being listened to and heard by the entire group. Treat others in the group as you would want to be treated.

Use Humor Responsibly

Fun is an essential part of Small Groups; however, when meeting in the Biblical Storytelling time keep sarcastic comments, jokes and laughter to a minimum to allow for an atmosphere of authenticity and vulnerability.

Give Everyone a Chance to Share

Be sensitive to the amount of time you share. Encourage everyone to participate in group discussions.

Use "I" Statements

During small group, we want to hear your personal thoughts and perspectives. Using "I" statements to answer discussion questions allows you to speak for yourself rather than generalizing by using terms such as "them", "the church", "us" or "we".

Fight for Relationship

Relationships reach a whole new level when conflict is resolved in a healthy manner. When conflict or sin issues arise between group members, commit to fight for the relationship and discuss the struggle with the person you are in conflict with or seek wise advice.