



Both our morning and evening series in March 2025 focus on Jesus and the life of a disciple. These 3 studies follow the morning 'Adventurous faith' series thinking about the moments where we have to dare to trust him and take a risk. This final session follows Nick's sermon on the 16th March asking when do we dare to take a risk and talk about our faith?

STARTER:

- 1) Where have you seen God's fingerprints in your life this week?
- 2) Can you think of a time when you've seen or experienced something that you have to share with others?

Read Luke 5:17-26

- 1) If you had been part of the crowd or one of the disciples watching this scene unfold. What might your conversation have been in the pub afterwards?
- 2) The friends want to get the paralysed man to Jesus.
What is it about Jesus that gives them this enthusiasm? What is it about Jesus that you would love friends of yours who don't yet know him to discover?
- 3) In arriving at the house, the friends find their way blocked by the crowd.
What kind of things put you off sharing your excitement about Jesus? If you were to have a top 3 blockers, what would they be.
- 4) When the friends lower the paralysed man to Jesus, Jesus doesn't respond in the way they were expecting. How do you think they felt about this?
- 5) Do we ever fear that Jesus might not deal with our friends in the way we want him to? Would it have been better if Jesus healed the man first, and then forgave him?
- 6) The outward need of the paralysed man was more immediately obvious than the internal need for being right with God. Do we tend to see people's outward or inward needs? What's the balance and how does this shape our prayers?
- 7) The religious leaders are disgusted at Jesus' proclamation to forgive sins. Why do you think that is?
- 8) Jesus doesn't shy away from this moment of conflict but proceeds with the healing of the man.
Why do you think he does this?
- 9) What are some of the things that Jesus says and encourages that people find hard to hear today? Or that you find hard to hear? How do you deal with that?
- 10) How do you approach these difficulties or conversations that have the potential for conflict? DO you have any examples of when this has gone well or badly?
- 11) How do you think the friends felt at the end of the day? What do you think they felt about Jesus?

And finally.

Spend some time praying for people who are not yet Christians. If your group have not yet explored 'praying for 5' then share that idea.

Ask if there is one particular moment this week that each person might like to be prayed for – that it would become an opportunity to share something that excites them about Jesus.