



SDG Discussion Guide

Luke 5:12-26

January 27, 2019

For Starters:

What illness are you most afraid of catching? Why?

Who were your four closest friends in school? What was one memorable "prank" you pulled off together?

Guideline: The following is meant to provide an approach for further interaction with the respective sermon text and surrounding passage. Feel free to forward to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find this write up in print on that Sunday.

First, as you can, read aloud the selected passage in your group. Before you begin your discussion, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read the text together and prayed, what points and questions arose? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these points and questions. Explore and see how God may steer the discussion. The following are further questions you may use to guide your interaction with the text.

1. By touching the leper before he heals him, what is Jesus demonstrating?
2. Why does Jesus try to silence him?
3. How might the Pharisees and teachers have felt in verses 17-19? Verse 20? Verses 21-23? Verses 24-26?
4. The man came for *healing*, so why did Jesus raise the issue of forgiveness? How would the friends react to Jesus' words (v 20)? To his actions (v 24)?
5. What new realm of Jesus' authority is demonstrated here?
6. What motivates the Pharisees to respond as they do to the situation?
7. When have you felt shunned like a leper? How did Jesus "touch" you then?
8. Who are the lepers in your life? What would it mean for you to touch them for Christ?
9. Who are you most like in this story? Why?
10. Are you a little paralyzed now - emotionally, spiritually, relationally? What needs to happen for you to "take your mat and go home"?

Spend some time in prayer. Thank God, and ask him to continue to speak to you from his word in this passage. Lift up where you desire healing - physical, mental, emotional, spiritual or relational. Where in your heart do you know you need forgiveness in relation to another - either to receive it or to give it? Where do you know you need forgiveness before God? Where do you need to forgive yourself? Stay praying along this line of healing and forgiveness. Let God show you what you need to see and what you need to *do*. Once revealed, *do not delay*. Obedience will lead to blessing. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and for His sake, amen.

*These questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).