

Week 1

Audacious Faith

Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralyzed Man

CONNECT

- Do you know someone who has overcome disability? What happened?
- Have you ever experienced being helped by a group of friends? Tell us about it.
- Do you like to think outside the box? Why or why not?

WORD

19 When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. 20 When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."

Luke 5:19-20

The word audacious means extremely bold or daring; recklessly brave; fearless. When it comes to faith, God wants us to have boldness and confidence. Active faith shows our genuine trust in God. What can we glean from the healing of the paralyzed man and the faith of his friends? Following are three things that we can learn about faith.

- Faith pursues God's presence
17 One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick. 18 Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus.

Luke 5:17-18

When Jesus lived on earth, healing the sick was one of the many miracles He performed. Part of the reason that people were drawn to Him is because of His divine power. Crowds would flock and gather in places where Jesus was in order for them to see Him and be healed by Him. Even those who had difficult cases such as the paralyzed man hoped for a chance to be physically restored. Instead of doubting Jesus, they opted to come and tried to approach Him. This required faith on their part. What do you think God expect of us when facing circumstances in our lives? Why is faith so important?

- Faith enhances through partnership
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Luke 5:19-20

While he was preaching God's word to them, four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. They couldn't bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above his head. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus.

They were restricted from coming to Jesus so they tried to find a way to get closer to Him. With the help of the four friends, they successfully brought the friend near and because of this, Jesus saw their faith. Although our faith must be personal, the faith of others can impact ours. How did the faith of the four friends affect the situation? Are there people whom you would go out of your way to help in their faith?

- Faith sees the possibilities

24 But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." 25 Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. 26 Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today."

Luke 5:24-26

The friends took the risk to present their request and ask Jesus' help with the situation and the results were amazing and remarkable. By the words of Jesus, the paralyzed man managed to stand up and go home. Not only had he been received physical healing, but also a greater need, which is forgiveness. As Jesus mentioned, He also holds the authority to forgive sins. How do you think the miracle of that day changed the man who have experienced it?

APPLICATION

- What situations are you going through right now that is challenging you the most? What promises in the Bible can you claim?
- What obstacle could be hindering you from responding to Jesus' invitation of trusting Him? What can you do to overcome this obstacle, beginning today?
- Do you know of a family member or friend who is going through a trial and who needs a miracle? How can you encourage him or her to go to Jesus this week?

PRAYER

- Lift each other up in prayer, that each person will be strengthened in Christ to persevere and overcome in the situations you are facing.
- Pray for the strength and grace to overcome personal challenges. Intercede for those you know who are going through hardships as well.