

Disciple making: sermon notes

discussion guide

based on **Luke 5:17-26** (Linked to sermon of 16/01/22)
which can be accessed at www.stjamesbythepark.org/talks



This was part of a series: Disciple making

Intro: This is really a continuation of our series on discipleship but we will be focussing our attention on disciple making, which is very much part of our calling as disciples of Jesus.

We will use three headings for the sermon notes: head (looking at the Scripture and beginning to understand what it means), heart (allowing God's word to go deeper), hands (what are the practical out-workings of these Scriptures?) Feel free to begin each session with a time of worship. For each set of sermon notes I will suggest a psalm, Scripture or song you can use.

Worship: Either listen to William McDowell "I give myself away" or read Psalm 51:10-19. In your opening prayers, you might also like to take some time to renewing your commitment to following Jesus and his call on your life.

Head: *Read Luke 5:17-26 and discuss the following questions:*

- 1. Who are mentioned as arriving to listen to Jesus in v.17? How do we know that they were keen to hear him and why do you think they were there?*
- 2. What was the difficulty for the men in bringing the paralysed man to Jesus? How did they overcome this? How easy/difficult do you think this was to do?*
- 3. According to v.20 whose faith is mentioned and whose is not. Is this a surprise?*
- 4. How does Jesus first respond to the paralysed man in v.20? Is this a surprising response? If so, why?*

5. *What is the Pharisees reaction in v.21 and why?*
6. *How does Jesus challenge the Pharisees in v.22-24?*
7. *What is the outcome for the paralysed man?*
8. *How does the paralysed man respond to his healing in v.25?*
9. *In v.26 how do others respond to the healing?*

Heart:

Now the leader reads the passage again and you imagine yourself as one of the crowd, a Pharisee, one of the friends or the paralysed man. It might help to close your eyes. Try to think about the atmosphere, how you are feeling at the beginning. What changes for you? Imagine Jesus looking at you as he speaks, how does that feel?

Spend a bit of time jotting down your thoughts and feelings and then share together.

Hands:

The paralysed man's friends were so determined to bring him to Jesus that they literally raised the roof. How determined are we to bring our non-believing friends, family and colleagues to Jesus? It is quite a challenge! Chris asked us to think about how seriously we take the salvation of others so this would be a good opportunity to look at that challenge.

On piece of paper write a word or phrase to express what stops you from sharing your faith with others. It could be "fear", "embarrassment" etc. Either share these in the wider group or in small groups. Then pray through these blocks and as you feel able lay them down on the floor and ask Jesus for His strength to overcome them.

"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest" Matthew 9:37-38.