

## Weekly Sermon Discussion Guide

January 13, 2019

### *You Need to Try This*

#### **LUKE**

Luke 5:17-26

#### **EXPLORING THE SERMON**

- What did you hear?
- What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

#### **KEY VERSES**

*They were trying to bring him in and lay him before Jesus; <sup>19</sup> but finding no way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the middle of the crowd in front of Jesus. <sup>20</sup> When he saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven you." **Luke 5:18-20***

#### **DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION**

This passage is one of the more bizarre, unique, and humorous found in scripture. Friends of a paralyzed man literally rip the roof off a house to lower their friend to Jesus, with the hope of Jesus' healing power.

*Thomas asks us to name the things we are passionate about, that we would like others to experience. We don't become passionate about something merely by hearing or reading about it, but by experiencing it ourselves.*

***How would you answer this question?***

***How do you think the men in this story had the faith it took to lower their friend through the roof?***

*This passage is a beautiful description of faith and friendship at its core. Today's measurement of friendship can be dangerously askew, and we often put our faith in invalid barometers of friendship, like social media.*

***Discuss the kind of faith that it takes to trust enough in the healing capacity of Jesus, that you are willing to carry others to Him.*** *Having a few friends you know would carry you to Jesus is more important than 300 casual acquaintances. **Who are the people in your life you know would do this for you?***

*To live out our mission statement and be the kind of place at Covenant that carries each other to Jesus requires work. **How can we gather this kind of faith as a community, specifically in the patterns of our life together, in 2019?***

- ***Solitude*** – *placing ourselves in the presence of Jesus. How do you encounter the living God and hold out to Him the places of pain and brokenness in your life?*
- ***Community*** – *trusting that we meant to go through life together, not alone. Do you trust that true transformation can take place in our lives when we trust others to carry us to Jesus?*
- ***Service*** – *developing a servant's heart and reaching out to others in need. Is God calling you to serve in specific ways in your family, workplace, or community?*

*We can witness the healing power of God at work in so many ways if we become the kind of church that carries each other to Jesus. Our best leaders are those who can admit when they are the ones who need to be carried to Jesus, instead of always doing the carrying. **Think about how willing you might be this year to tell others how they can carry you to Jesus.***

***Dear Lord,*** *thank you for the community You have built at Covenant. Help us to be the kind of place where we carry and are carried to You, trusting that only through Your power can come true transformation. Help us to evaluate the patterns of our lives this year so that we draw closer to You and to each other. **Amen***