



LIFEGROUPS

Series: Who is Jesus?

Scripture: Luke 5:1-26

Date: Jan 7 & 8, 2017

—[LET'S START]—

- Welcome to "Who is Jesus?" Our prayer is that this series will help you grow deeper in your understanding of Jesus and lead you to experience His presence in your life and relationships.
- Let's begin by asking the group to share one area they hope to grow in during 2017. After everyone has shared, ask the group members to pray sentence prayers for each other. For example: "Lord, please help 'Tom' to grow in his prayer life this this year." If you know that some group members are uncomfortable praying out loud then simply ask one or two members to pray for the whole group.

—[LET'S TALK]—

Luke 5:1-11

1. Read the story. How would you retell the story from memory as though sharing it with a friend?
2. What obstacle might the first followers have faced in leaving everything and following Jesus? What are some obstacles people might face today?
3. Why does Peter want Jesus to get away from Him (verse 8)? And why does Jesus invite Peter to follow Him only after Peter has admitted how unworthy he is??
4. Up until this moment in Peter's life, what had defined him as a person, i.e. as Peter, the fisherman? Talk about how people may define you as an individual. What does it mean to let Jesus define your life (instead of someone or something else)?
5. How did Jesus change both Peter's role and his relationship to himself? How does Jesus do that for the members of your life group?

—[LETS ACT]—

- What is ADOPT 7? Take time to explain the hand out and challenge each group member to fill their ADOPT 7 list out and begin sharing progress with the group.
- What has Jesus taught you about your relationship to:
 - Yourself?
 - Others?
 - God?

—[SERMON REVIEW]—

- Bible Passages:
 - Luke 5:1-11 Jesus teaches us about our relationship to ourselves.
 - Luke 5:12-16 Jesus teaches us about our relationship to others.
 - Luke 5:17-26 Jesus teaches us about our relationship to God.

—[NOTES]—

Article on Leprosy – to gain a better understanding as to why it was such an important issue in biblical times.

In the Bible, the word *leprosy* is mentioned upwards of 40 times, depending on the Bible version being used. Leprosy was common in Bible times, and the many references to it were well understood by those who lived in unsanitary conditions. The main reason why leprosy is talked about so much in the Bible is

that it is a graphic illustration of sin's destructive power. In ancient Israel leprosy was a powerful object lesson of the debilitating influence of sin in a person's life.

God had given the Israelites very specific instructions on how to deal with leprosy and other skin infections (Leviticus 13). Anyone suspected of having this disease had to go to a priest for examination (Leviticus 13:2-3). If found to be infected, "the leprous person who has the disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head hang loose, and he shall cover his upper lip and cry out, 'Unclean, unclean.' He shall remain unclean as long as he has the disease. He is unclean. He shall live alone. His dwelling shall be outside the camp" (Leviticus 13:45-46). The leper then was considered utterly unclean—physically and spiritually.

Incurable by man, many believed God inflicted the curse of leprosy upon people for the sins they committed. In fact, those with leprosy were so despised and loathed that they were not allowed to live in any community with their own people (Numbers 5:2). Among the sixty-one defilements of ancient Jewish laws, leprosy was second only to a dead body in seriousness. A leper wasn't allowed to come within six feet of any other human, including his own family. The disease was considered so revolting that the leper wasn't permitted to come within 150 feet of anyone when the wind was blowing. Lepers lived in a community with other lepers until they either got better or died. This was the only way the people knew to contain the spread of the contagious forms of leprosy.

The Bible records the story of a leper who was the first to be healed by Jesus (Matthew 8:2-4). The key lesson to be learned from this incident is that sin defiles us in the sight of God, but through Christ, we can be healed of the plague of sin that separates us from God. God loathes sin; it is repulsive to Him. Sin bans us from the presence of God because God will not allow sinful man in His sight and presence (Psalms 5:5; Habakkuk 1:13; Revelation 21:27). This is not only true of sins with a sexual connotation that are normally regarded as filthy and repulsive, but it includes all forms of disobedience and rebellion (1 Samuel 15:23; Proverbs 15:9). All sin is abhorrent to God. But those who have been redeemed from sin by grace through faith in Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9) can stand in God's presence in full confidence that we are accepted "in the Beloved," and we praise Him for the grace He extends to us for that purpose (Ephesians 1:5-7).

When we've captured a glimpse of the holiness and purity of God, we have to exclaim as did the prophet Isaiah, "Woe to me ... I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty" (Isaiah 6:5). Our attitude toward sin in the light of our Savior should echo the words of Peter: "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" (Luke 5:1-8). Another key lesson we learn from the leper in Matthew's Gospel is that just as the leper did, we can confidently approach Jesus in all our need, with all our sin and defilement. When we plead for cleansing and forgiveness, He will not turn us away (Hebrews 4:16; Psalm 103:12).

*Source: Gotquestions.org search leprosy