



Luke 5:17-26

17 One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there.. 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. 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.”

21 The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, “Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

22 Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, “Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? 23 Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? 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.”

Icebreaker

If you could be a fly on the wall in any creative space throughout time, where would it be?

Conversation Starters

1. In our polarized and opinionated culture, how easily and quickly are you drawn into taking a side?
2. Dave’s definition of **The Third Way**- An unexpected, generous and kind response that is helpful to people.
3. The following steps will help you live Jesus’ Third Way. Talk with your group about these steps. What comes easy? Which are a little trickier? Who does this well in your life?
 - **Push the pause button and take a deep breath**
 - **Leave judgment behind in humility**
 - **Seek God’s guidance in the moment**
 - **Move forward with kindness,**
4. Which relationships would benefit most from the steps above? Does the answer surprise you?

Why?

5. When is it difficult for you to push pause and take time to reflect?
6. What impact does seeing instances of the third way lived out have on you?
7. Can you give an example from your growing up years, when someone's third way response helped you?
8. What is one question or confusion you have about the third way--the way of Jesus.
9. When you feel defeated, full of blame and shame, how do you make the turn to feeling inspired and motivated to do better? Is this an easy shift for you? How did you learn to identify feelings of defeat and shame?
10. **Read the story from Luke 5:17-26 together.** What stands out the most for you on the surface? Are you able to identify the deeper meaning and how would that meaning influence the way you live?