

WEEK 3 | TRANSFORMED BY THE WORD

Date: July 6, 2026

Verses: Luke 5:17-26

TEACHING INSIGHT

Transformed by the Word (week 3) reminded us that following Jesus was never meant to be a solo journey. In Luke 5, Jesus uses four friends, one desperate man, and one surprising miracle to reveal that authentic community isn't just about helping others—it begins by allowing ourselves to be known. As we encounter Jesus together, we discover that healing often begins where hiding ends.

ICEBREAKER

- Tell us about a time someone unexpectedly showed up for you when you needed them most.
- What's the most memorable favor someone has ever done for you?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Review the Message.** Looking back at your notes and upon reflecting on this weekend's message, what was your one takeaway from Sunday? Was it a Scripture, an illustration, a quote, a story, or a question?
2. At the beginning of the story, most of us naturally identify with the four friends. By the end of the message, many of us realized we're actually more like the paralyzed man. Why do you think it's easier to see ourselves as the helper rather than the one who needs help?
 - a. **Life Application:** What is one area of your life where God may be inviting you to stop pretending and admit that you need help?
3. Jesus forgave the man's sins before healing his body. What do you think Jesus was teaching the crowd—and us—by addressing forgiveness before physical healing?
 - a. **Life Application:** Is there an area of your life where you've been asking Jesus to fix something on the outside while He may be inviting you to trust Him with something deeper?
4. **Read James 5:16 together.** *"Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed."* How does this verse connect with the story in Luke 5? Why do you think confession, prayer, and healing are connected?
 - a. **Life Application:** Who is one trusted person you could invite into your story this week, rather than carrying your burden alone?
5. Jason shared that the prayer team is a modern picture of the four friends—people willing to help carry someone else's mat. What would it look like for our Small Group to become that kind of community for one another?
 - a. **Life Application:** What is one practical way you can either carry someone else's mat this week—or allow someone to help carry yours?

PRAYER

Share prayer requests and celebrate praise reports. Before praying, spend one minute in silence asking God:

"Jesus, where am I in this story?"

Then pray specifically that your group would become a community where people are free to stop pretending, to be known courageously, and to faithfully help carry one another's mats.



GRACE
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Connect Card: graceaz.com/connect | Grace App: graceaz.com/app
Events: graceaz.com/events | Church Center App: churchcenter.com/app