IT COMES WITH IT!

Study Guide | Hook → Re-hook → Release

A. Lesson Summary

In Christ, we receive more than forgiveness: God brings us into the kingdom of His Son and gives us life through Jesus. In Matthew 9:2–8, Jesus forgives a paralyzed man and heals him, demonstrating His authority and compassion. This account does not mean sickness is always caused by personal sin or that every healing happens on our timetable. It points us to Jesus, who forgives, restores, and gives life.

The lesson calls believers to live from the truth of their identity in Christ: step into His way, speak in agreement with Scripture, remain steadfast through pressure, and secure the heart in God's unbreakable love. We do not deny difficult realities or use words as magic; we trust God, receive His Word carefully, and respond in faithful obedience.

B. Objective and Purpose

Objective: Participants will identify what believers receive in Christ and explain four responses to that gift: step into it, speak into it, be steadfast in it, and secure it.

Purpose: To help believers move beyond seeing salvation only as forgiveness and to live with confidence in Christ's life, kingdom, righteousness, guidance, and love—without treating faith as a formula or claiming control over God.

C. Lesson Points & Small-Group Questions

Opening: The Bread Was Included!

Forgiveness is not the whole picture. Jesus' encounter with the paralyzed man shows His authority to forgive and heal. What comes with belonging to Christ is received through Him, not earned by human performance.

Exposition: What do Jesus' words and actions in Matthew 9:2–8 reveal about His authority?

Personal application: Where might you be focusing only on what you have been forgiven of, rather than on how you can live in relationship with Jesus today?

1. Step Into It

Choose Jesus' way and live from the kingdom into which God has brought you. God provides what pertains to life and godliness through knowing Him; like branches connected to a vine, we receive life from Christ. Attend carefully to Scripture—its intention, context, and the motives prompting your response. Faith faces problems honestly while letting God's truth guide the next step.

Exposition: How do Matthew 7:13–14, 2 Peter 1:3, John 15:5, and Colossians 1:13 describe the life and kingdom God gives?

Personal application: What situation do you need to bring honestly before God, and what Scripture-guided step can you take?

C. Lesson Points & Small-Group Questions (continued)

2. Speak Into It

Confess sin honestly, trusting God to forgive and cleanse; receive righteousness through faith in Jesus rather than trying to earn acceptance. Let Jesus' words shape what you say and believe. Faith-filled speech is not magic or a demand that God deliver a preferred outcome; it expresses trust in God and agreement with His truth.

Exposition: According to 1 John 1:9 and Romans 3:21–22, how do forgiveness, cleansing, and righteousness come to believers?

Personal application: What fear-driven statement could you replace with a truthful, Scripture-shaped response while still acknowledging your circumstances?

3. Be Steadfast in It

Remain faithful to Jesus and keep taking obedient steps when the outcome is not yet visible. Steadfastness does not mean refusing correction, wisdom, medical care, or practical help. It means continuing in God's truth and the work He has given you.

Exposition: What do Proverbs 4:26 and 1 Corinthians 15:58 teach about the path we choose and the way we continue?

Personal application: Where are you tempted to give up or drift from faithful obedience, and what next step will help you remain steady?

4. Secure It

Hold tightly to the truth that nothing in all creation can separate believers from God's love in Christ. Our security rests not on perfect circumstances or constant strong feelings, but on God's love revealed through Jesus.

Exposition: What circumstances does Romans 8:37–39 name, and what does Paul say about their power to separate us from God's love?

Personal application: What truth about God's love do you need to hold onto in a difficult season, and how will you remind yourself of it?

Release: The Word Prevails

Opposition and appearances do not have the final word over our faith. We do not deny what is happening or trust signs; we look to Jesus, receive Scripture in context, and follow Him. God's Word exposes lies, strengthens faith, and guides faithful action.

Exposition: How does the lesson distinguish trusting God's Word from using Scripture to control God?

Personal application: What is one way you can put God's Word into practice this week?

D. Scripture Reading

Key text: Matthew 9:2–8. Read the passage together in the Bible version used by your group. The complete supporting references are listed on page 3.

Memory phrase: "The forgiveness was paid for. You have been brought into the kingdom. The life of God is received through Christ. It comes with it!"

E. Scripture Section — Full Text (KJV)

The King James Version (KJV) is used below. To keep this guide within three pages, the passages are arranged compactly.

Matthew 9:2–8 — 2 And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee. 3 And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth. 4 And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? 5 For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk? 6 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house. 7 And he arose, and departed to his house. 8 But when the multitudes saw it, they marvelled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men.

Matthew 7:13–14 — 13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

2 Peter 1:3 — According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

John 1:4 — In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

John 15:5 — I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

Mark 5:25–29 — 25 And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years, 26 And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse, 27 When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment. 28 For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole. 29 And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague.

Psalm 51:5 — Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Colossians 1:13 — Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Mark 4:24–27 — 24 And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given. 25 For he that hath, to him shall be given: and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath. 26 And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; 27 And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how.

1 John 1:9 — If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Romans 3:21–22 — 21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; 22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

Mark 11:23 — For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

Philippians 2:5–6 — 5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

Proverbs 4:26 — Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.

1 Corinthians 15:58 — Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Romans 8:37–39 — 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.