

# LIFE GROUP LESSON

Just Like Jesus • Week of March 22

## Introduction

Have you ever felt like you're not good enough? Maybe as a child, you were picked last for the team. Maybe as a teen, you were rejected by someone you really liked. Maybe you had your heart set on attending a certain college, even a Christian university, and once you were accepted and showed up, the school was nothing like you thought it would be. People were fake and phony, and you felt like an outcast. Some of us experience the pain and shock of being told by the person we thought we would spend our lives with: "I've met someone else". Or maybe for you, it was a promising job opportunity. Just when you thought you were as-good-as-hired, you receive the call: "We've decided to go in a different direction."

## Opening Discussion:

- Has there been a time, either through someone's words or actions, you felt like: "You're just not good enough"?
- Has there ever been a time you allowed someone to make you feel less than, dirty or unclean?
- Why is it we begin to believe such lies?

Throughout life, there are times we ask ourselves: "Do I measure up?", or "will I fit in?" and it doesn't take long before we begin to doubt ourselves. We may feel worthless at times, or even dirty. Incompetent. Unworthy. Not-loved. Like a failure. Perhaps you feel that way now. Today's Scripture brings us hope because it's just like Jesus to show up and touch the unclean, forgive sins, and change the trajectory of our life's call. Luke, chapter five, speaks of Jesus reaching out, touching a leper and healing him; healing a paralytic spiritually and physically; and calling a tax collector to leave everything and follow.

**Read Luke 5:12-16, 17-26, 27-32**

Read together the Plain Truth—

"It's just like Jesus to touch the untouchables, forgive sinners of sin, and invite the broken to break bread."

## Story of Leper:

Here we may relate to the leper from a spiritual point of view as he had to shout: "unclean" when he came into public view. Subconsciously, we may feel spiritually untouchable or unclean. We don't feel worthy in the presence of a Holy God. Yet, notice how Jesus acts towards the leper. The Lord Jesus not only stops and gives him attention, but he touches him physically demonstrating how the man is valuable in the eyes of God, and says: "*I am willing*" to heal you! Briefly share a time when the Lord has leaned into you with a "touch" of love and grace.

## Story of Paralytic:

He couldn't get there by himself. There are persons around us who are spiritually paralyzed, stuck in unhealthy lifestyles, regret, and distant from God. How will they get to Jesus unless you bring them? Name at least two or three unchurched persons you know and write down their names. They may be co-workers, fellow students, neighbors, friends, or family members. Allow everyone to share the names of two or three unchurched persons. Now, pause for a moment, and as a Life Group, pray aloud for each one by name now.

## Story of Levi (Matthew):

Jesus sees Levi, goes right up into his workplace – sitting at his tax collector's booth – and says: "Follow me and be my disciple." Levi, also considered unclean because of his line of work and his constant contact with Gentiles, gets up, leaves everything behind – his job, the money, his client list, even his name ... and becomes a disciple. The first thing Levi (now *Matthew*) does is invite fellow tax collectors and friends to meet Jesus. Have you ever hosted a "Matthew Party"? This is when you open your home and invite neighbors to come and meet each other. It may be something like a backyard cookout: you provide the grilled burgers/hotdogs or chicken, and people can bring sides. Just a simple meal and fellowship can mean *SO much* to people who live around you. Pray about it and see if this is not something the Lord wants you to do.

### Life Application:

**Leper:** Perhaps you need to claim today that you are valuable because God loves you and that you are not “untouchable” in the eyes of Jesus. Claim that today. He is willing to heal, restore, and bring new purpose into your life.

**Paralytic:** They may not meet Jesus unless you bring them. Who are you going to invite for Easter Sunday? Pray for them *first*, then invite them!

**Matthew:** Seriously consider hosting a “Matthew Party” at your house, maybe with your Life Group. You may select a local park as warm weather is upon us. Cookouts are a great way to meet neighbors and invite them to worship.

Pray for one another and for these ideas of Life Application opportunities. Be willing to partner with the Lord Jesus (alongside others) to share the love of Christ with people around you. We need Jesus to be Jesus. And we need to be *like* Jesus.

### One Year Bible Reading

Mar. 22: Numbers 33:40-35:34, Luke 5:12-28, Psalm 65:1-13, Proverbs 11:23  
Mar. 23: Numbers 36:1-Deut. 1:46, Luke 5:29-6:11, Psalm 66:1-20, Prov.11:24-26  
Mar. 24: Deuteronomy 2:1-3:29, Luke 6:12-38, Psalm 67:1-7, Proverbs 11:27  
Mar. 25: Deuteronomy 4:1-49, Luke 6:39-7:10, Psalm 68:1-18, Proverbs 11:28  
Mar. 26: Deuteronomy 5:1-6:25, Luke 7:11-35, Psalm 68:19-35, Proverbs 11:29-31  
Mar. 27: Deuteronomy 7:1-8:20, Luke 7:36-8:3, Psalm 69:1-18, Proverbs 12:1  
Mar. 28: Deuteronomy 9:1-10:22, Luke 8:4-21, Psalm 69:19-36, Proverbs 12:2-3



**Text: Luke 5:12-26, 27-32, Isaiah 53:7-12**

### PLAIN TRUTH:

**It's just like Jesus to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_,  
forgive \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ the  
\_\_\_\_\_ to break bread.**

1. Don't let anyone tell you Jesus doesn't want to \_\_\_\_\_ with you, forgive your \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ you into full \_\_\_\_\_!
2. \_\_\_\_\_ pursue Jesus believing there is no \_\_\_\_\_ which cannot be \_\_\_\_\_ and no sin which cannot be \_\_\_\_\_.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ to experience Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ arms.

**Power point:** God reaches out from the cross, rips our sin away like the parasite it is, and justifies us as if we had never sinned.

**March 22, 2026**