

## **WE THE CHURCH - WEEK 3**

### *Friendships We Need*

#### **Luke 5:17–26**

#### THE SON OF MAN FORGIVES AND HEALS

On one of those days while he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea, and also from Jerusalem. And the Lord's power to heal was in him. 18 Just then some men came, carrying on a stretcher a man who was paralyzed. They tried to bring him in and set him down before him. 19 Since they could not find a way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on the stretcher through the roof tiles into the middle of the crowd before Jesus. 20 Seeing their faith he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven." 21 Then the scribes and the Pharisees began to think to themselves, "Who is this man who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" 22 But perceiving their thoughts, Jesus replied to them, "Why are you thinking this in your hearts? 23 Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? 24 But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he told the paralyzed man, "I tell you: Get up, take your stretcher, and go home." 25 Immediately he got up before them, picked up what he had been lying on, and went home glorifying God. 26 Then everyone was astounded, and they were giving glory to God. And they were filled with awe and said, "We have seen incredible things today."

"Friendship is unnecessary, like philosophy, like art, like the universe itself (for God did not need to create). It has no survival value; rather it is one of those things which give value to survival." —*CS Lewis, The 4 Loves*

1. We need friends who will fight \_\_\_\_\_.

**Luke 5:18** Just then some men came, carrying on a stretcher a man who was paralyzed. They tried to bring him in and set him down before him.

"I came to a deeper appreciation for the science behind loneliness which tells us that loneliness and weak social connections are associated with a reduction in lifespan similar to that caused by smoking 15 cigarettes a day and even greater than that associated with obesity." —*Vivek Murthy, former Surgeon General of the United States*

#### **Ecclesiastes 4:9–10**

Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their efforts. 10 For if either falls, his companion can lift him up; but pity the one who falls without another to lift him up.

2. We need friends who \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_ for.

**Luke 5:19-20** Since they could not find a way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on the stretcher through the roof tiles into the middle of the crowd before Jesus.

3. We need \_\_\_\_\_, a friend of \_\_\_\_\_.

**Luke 5:20** Seeing their faith he said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.”

**Luke 5:21** Then the scribes and the Pharisees began to think to themselves, “Who is this man who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

**Luke 5:22-24** But perceiving their thoughts, Jesus replied to them, “Why are you thinking this in your hearts? 23 Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? 24 But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he told the paralyzed man, “I tell you: Get up, take your stretcher, and go home.”

Final Thought: Jesus doesn't just \_\_\_\_\_...He \_\_\_\_\_.