

<b>SERIES</b>	All Hands-on Deck
<b>BIBLE</b>	Luke 5:17-26
<b>TITLE/TOPIC</b>	Joining Hands (Groups)
<b>OVERVIEW</b>	Often, it takes extraordinary measures from a group of people, creatively working together, to bring people to Jesus to experience an encounter with Him that ultimately leads to a changed life and eternal destiny. This determination and faith are still important today to see people’s lives impacted and set free. What would it look like if everyone at New Life put their faith and energy into finding ways to bring people to Jesus creatively? It is time for the church to Join Hands together as His Holy Spirit calls us out to have an “All Hands on Deck” <i>and do it together as Life Groups!</i>
<b>SCRIPTURE BREAKDOWN</b>	<p><b>INTRO:</b> The church today is made up of Jesus' disciples who exist for one purpose: to be a part of “making disciples.” The challenge is that few people who consider themselves to be true disciples often don’t engage in the process of making disciples. What would it look like if everyone at New Life, who considers this our church, would join our faith and our hands in action to see people brought to Jesus in 2024? What if together we came up with creative ways to bring people to know Jesus as we cooperate with God and His work here on Earth.</p> <p>This was the case in the story we are looking at today where a group of people, filled with faith, got together to bring their friend who was stuck (literally) in his life to encounter Jesus. As we will find out they would use creative ways to do this and did not give up in the face of many obstacles. This man’s encounter with Jesus would ultimately save his life, not only spiritually, but would give him a second chance to life.</p> <p><b>HOW TO BRING PEOPLE TO JESUS:</b></p> <p><b>1. LEARN TO DISCERN THE TIMES AND SEASONS WHEN GOD IS WORKING AND TAKE ACTION AS YOU ENGAGE WITH PEOPLE. (v. 17-18)</b></p> <p><i><sup>17</sup> One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick. <sup>18</sup> Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus.</i></p>

WHEN IT COMES TO GOD WORKING IN OUR CITY IT TAKES HIS PRESENCE AND ALSO HIS PEOPLE TO WORK IN TANDEM AS WE COOPERATE WITH HIM.

Notice that the Luke narrates that *"the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick,"* and that *"Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus"*

**2. LEARN HOW TO BE PERSISTANT AND CREATE IN BRINGING OTHERS INTO THE PRESENCE OF JESUS (v. 19)**

*<sup>19</sup>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.*

**3. BE WILLING TO BELIEVE AS A GROUP FOR THOSE THAT CAN BARELY BELIEVE FOR THEMSELVES. (v. 20)**

*<sup>20</sup>When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."*

**4. LEARN TO CELEBRATE WITH OTHERS WHAT GOD IS DOING IN YOUR LIFE. (v. 21-26)**

*<sup>21</sup>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?"*

*<sup>22</sup>Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? <sup>23</sup>Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? <sup>24</sup>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." <sup>25</sup>Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. <sup>26</sup>Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today."*

**GOSPEL**

**How does this sermon bring people to the Gospel?**

There are many people today that are stuck and in need of people to come alongside them and be able to lead them to Jesus. Many of us were at some point just like the paralyzed man stuck and it took someone to pray and believe for us to bring us to Jesus. Are you willing to be part of a group to roll up your sleeves and take action?

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**NEXTSTEPS**

Begin | Connect | Engage | Grow | Disciple

Helping people take their next step involves every part of our GPS. We need to introduce people to Jesus (Begin), help them (Connect), Engage with a group of people that are on mission cooperating with God and see them (Grow) and eventually (Disciple) someone.