



## Following the Leader - Study Guide for the Teaching Series

Week 3 – Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020: Luke 5.17-26

### **Point 1: Follow the leader requires determination to get into the presence of Jesus**

*The determination of the paralysed man to get into the presence of Jesus (and the determination of the men carrying the paralysed man into the presence of Jesus) is immense. He and they faced obstacles they had to overcome before they could get into the presence of Jesus.*

1. What are the obstacles that we face/have created which stop us doing a 'deep dive' into the presence of Jesus? What are we going to do about these?

In addition to the 'deep dive' of a quiet time, we need to be intentional/determined about being in the presence of Jesus in the everyday challenges we face.

2. What does it look like for us to be intentional/determined about being in the presence of Jesus in the difficult conversations/meetings/interactions? What could practically help us with this?

### **Point 2: Follow the leader is a team effort not an individual pursuit**

*The paralysed man would not have been able to get into the presence of Jesus without the help of his friends.*

3. Can you think of a time where you were at your limit and the encouragement of a friend/loved one helped you to feel you were once again standing on firm ground?

The paralysed man and his friends had to be resourceful when plan A for getting him to Jesus through the house was not possible. Clearly over the last 6 months we have had to make adaptations because of COVID-19 in how we sustain our team effort.

4. How can we build on what we have to make sure that the next 6 months is not 'damage limitation' but rather a case of deepening our encouragement of each other?

### **Point 3: Follow the leader requires us to see need, to act to alleviate the need and to challenge the unjust systems**

*The friends of the paralysed man saw his need and were moved to help him. Jesus saw the multiple needs of the paralysed man and healed the whole person*

5. What particular need in our country/world is on your heart today? What practical step can we take to be a blessing in that situation?

*We don't just see Jesus demonstrating compassion in individual situations but challenging unjust systems/structures which perpetuate need eg the cruel belief that the paralysed man could only be in this situation because of God's disfavour, that sins could only be forgiven at the Temple and the system that prevented anyone who was blind and lame from entering the Temple.*

6. What unjust system/structure is on your heart today? Who are we going to reach out to, to discuss how we can be part of the solution in challenging it?