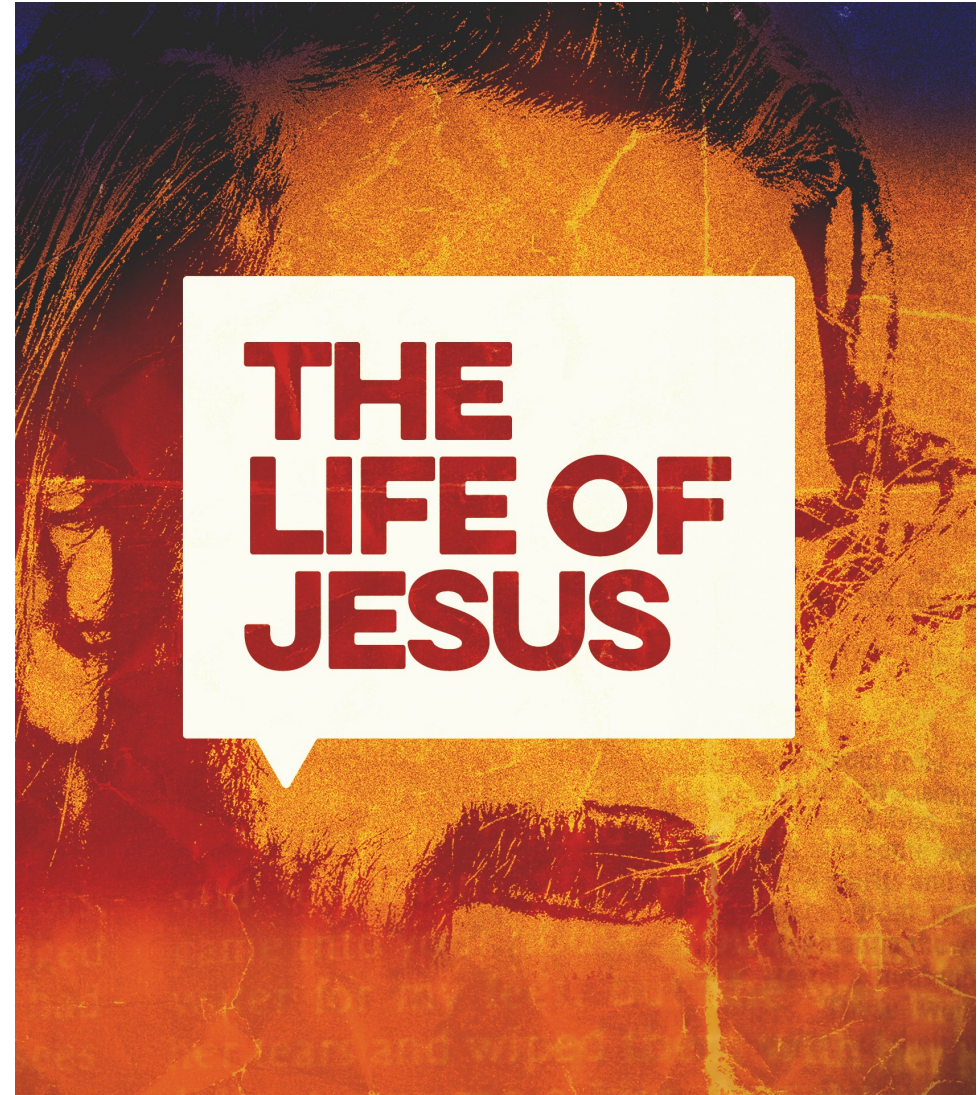


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SERMON SERIES STUDY GUIDE

NORTH: Feb. 7/11 | **SOUTH:** Feb. 18 | **CHAPEL:** Feb. 25



JESUS HEALS A PARALYZED MAN

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This study guide was written by the Pastors at Hope Lutheran Church in Fargo, ND. Find this resource and others at [FARGOHOPE.ORG/RESOURCES](https://fargo.hope.org/resources)

JESUS HEALS A PARALYZED MAN

READ: Matthew 9:1-6; Romans 6:23

Life is hard. We all have things we face in this life that have the power to hurt us, paralyze us and leave scars. Whether our wounds are caused by disease, by forces of nature, by others or by ourselves, these wounds are the result of sin at work in our beautiful and broken world. The power of sin in our lives is strong and sin's ultimate end brings death and destruction to our lives and our souls.

Jesus healing a paralyzed man points to this fact. Jesus asks, "Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk?'" Not only was the paralyzed man affected by sin through his broken body, but even after his body was healed, the sin in his soul kept him from being fully healed, from being made right with God and the world around him. Like the paralyzed man, we too need healing and the only person who can fully heal us from the inside out is Jesus. "For the wages of sin is death, the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23) When we hand our brokenness over to Jesus, like the friends handed over their broken friend, Jesus will not disappoint. He has the power to heal skin deep and soul deep wounds.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. How would you describe sin?
2. Why do you think Jesus would prefer to say, "Your sins are forgiven," rather than, "Get up and walk," to the paralyzed man?

3. Put yourself in the shoes of the paralyzed man, having been brought to Jesus by your friends. How do you think you would have responded to Jesus' words of forgiveness and healing?
4. Have you ever witnessed someone being healed from the wounds of sin because of Jesus and what was that like?
5. What wounds do you have that you need healing from?
6. How can you begin handing your brokenness over to Jesus?
7. What might be some obstacles in your life preventing you from handing your brokenness over to Jesus?

PRAYER

Lord, you know the wounds and brokenness that sin leaves on this world and our lives. In your goodness, you sent your Son, Jesus, to heal this world and our sin sick soul. Please help us to hand over to you the places where sin still has control, those wounded and broken places in our lives. By your grace and mercy, heal us. Restore us in body and soul. Heal our brokenness and help us get up and walk in your will and way for our lives. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.