



STUDY 6

PARALYZED NO MORE

Nurses are trained to assess physical needs, but how do you learn to identify non-physical needs in patients? Think about a time you noticed an emotional or spiritual need in a patient. If you are doing this study in a group, share about your assessment and interventions in this situation. Then see how Jesus addressed both physical and non-physical needs of a quadriplegic in this story from Luke's Gospel.

READ LUKE 5:18-26 (NIV)

BACKGROUND

Luke 5 tells the story of Jesus healing a paralyzed man who was brought to him in a dramatic way when friends lowered the man through the roof of a house just to get to Jesus. This event occurs early in Jesus' public ministry, as his teachings and miracles are drawing increasing attention and crowds. The religious leaders, Pharisees, and teachers of the law, however, have begun to scrutinize Jesus' actions. Significantly, before healing the man physically, Jesus forgives his sins, sparking controversy among the religious leaders who see this as blasphemy since only God can forgive sins. Jesus then heals the man to demonstrate his authority both to heal and to forgive, revealing his divine nature.

¹⁸ Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. ¹⁹ 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.

²⁰ When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."

²¹ 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?"

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

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ASSESSMENT

- If this man was your patient, what might be your assessment of his condition and a plan for treatment **based off this passage? What are his potential physical, social, emotional, spiritual needs?**
- How did various people in this story respond to Jesus' intervention? What stands out to you about the friends of the paralyzed man?
- What do you learn about nursing from the example of the friends in the story?

PUTTING FAITH INTO PRACTICE

- What connections do you see between physical health and spiritual health **in your own life and in the life of your classmates?**
- How can you be like the friends in the story and bring your **friends or patients** to Jesus? What are ways you can do this in the next week?



MY RESPONSES

TYPE YOUR RESPONSES INTO THIS BOX!

CALL TO FAITH

A call to faith is an intentional invitation at your NCF meeting for students and nurses to respond to Jesus in several ways, including an invitation to follow him for the first time. At some point during the 8-week Bible study series, make space for a clear call to faith—inviting participants to respond to the gospel. Trust God’s leading on when and how, and feel free to extend the invitation more than once as the Spirit prompts.

BEFORE

PRAY: Ask God to move in powerful ways and pray that God will prepare hearts to respond to him.

PREPARE: Calls to faith are not something we do every meeting; practicing what you want to say can be helpful, including how you’ll transition to the response and connect it to the passage and your personal story during your meeting.

DURING

SET UP: Say something like: “As we close our discussion today, I want to create a space for us to respond to God and the hope he offers us through Jesus. We are all on a journey with Him; some of us have been with Him for a long time; we have said yes to Jesus and accepted His death on the cross as our punishment for our wrongdoing. Some of us are still curious about Jesus, and we fall everywhere in between. Tonight, we will make space for you to identify where you are in your journey with Jesus and take the next step.”

PRAY: Open in prayer, making room for silence. Ask your participants to prayerfully consider the responses on their card and choose one. End in prayer.

RESPONSE: Print the response card at the end of this bible study. Have one card printed for each person attending.

SHARE: Have people share their responses. Share yours first to break the ice.

CELEBRATE those who’ve decided to follow Jesus!

AFTER

Connect with each person about what they shared on their response card that they turned into you and invite them to take the next step.

Spend a few minutes in silence as you determine how Jesus is leading you to respond. Check one:

- ☐ **Commit my life**
I have decided to become a follower of Jesus.
- ☐ **Renew my faith**
I am already a follower of Jesus but have given Him a new area of my life. (vocation, relationships, etc.)
- ☐ **Lead with Jesus**
Jesus is calling me to take a risk for him. I am committing to: _____.
- ☐ **Seek the truth**
I am not ready to commit my life to Jesus but would like to talk with someone to learn more about Him.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



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