

Through the Roof – Luke 5:17-26

Starter – sharing our stories.

Ask one person in your group to share in detail (for 5-10 mins) about their frontline.

What challenges do they face there?

What might 'bearing fruit' on their frontline look like?

Where do they see God at work? Are there any stories of that to share?

How can you pray for them?

Briefly pray for them as you begin the session

Read Luke 5:17-26 through together and then have a couple of minutes silence, asking the Holy Spirit to speak to you through this passage.

- Which character do you relate to most in the story? Why?

The friends brought the paralysed man to Jesus with the expectation that He would heal him and meet his need. Although we may not be physically paralysed, many people are 'paralysed' in very different ways (mentally and emotionally etc.) in our communities.

- What might be some of these ways?
- In what ways have you felt 'paralysed' at times in your life?

Pause and reflect... what different needs do you currently have that you want to bring to Jesus? You might like to share them and pray for each other now.

- The friends were able to bring the man to Jesus.
 - Do we feel as confident as these men to introduce someone to Jesus?
 - What fears are holding us back? What are the barriers that we might face in doing this?
- When the man is lowered through the roof the first thing that Jesus says to him is not 'Get up and walk' but 'Friend, your sins are forgiven.'
 - What does this show and what does this tell us about what Jesus thought was the man's greatest need?
 - What do we think about this? Do we focus on people's physical needs more than their spiritual needs in our actions and our prayers?
 - Why is 'being forgiven' really important?

Prayer and response

In a time of quiet, be open to God and ask him to show you one person who you are in contact with who is really in need and who He wants you to support and point to Jesus.

- a) What is he asking you to do? How could you 'carry him/her to Jesus'?
- b) Pray for them... not just for their 'physical/emotional' needs, but for their spiritual needs too.

Write their names here and anything you sense God saying to you...

Pray for the setting up of a CAP centre in Malvern which we pray will meet people's physical emotional and spiritual needs.