



## WEEKLY STUDY

### WEEK 2

One of the consistent rhythms of scripture is that of sin and forgiveness—our problems and God’s rescue. God responds when the people become aware of their problems and their need for help. May you see the problems and your deep need for Jesus this week, and may you find that he brings healing and restoration.

Peace of Christ,  
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected visit [prov.church/smallgroups](http://prov.church/smallgroups).

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture and follow the daily prayer prompt.

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### DAILY STUDY

#### MONDAY: LUKE 5.12-16 (ESV)

*While he was in one of the cities, there came a man full of leprosy. And when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and begged him, “Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.”<sup>13</sup> And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, “I will; be clean.” And immediately the leprosy left him.<sup>14</sup> And he charged him to tell no one, but “go and show yourself to the priest, and make an offering for your cleansing, as Moses commanded, for a proof to them.”<sup>15</sup> But now even more the report about him went abroad, and great crowds gathered to hear him and to be healed of their infirmities.<sup>16</sup> But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray.*

- The disease that this man was suffering from could have been one of many inflammatory skin conditions. He wasn’t diagnosed as much as he was convicted and sentenced to a life of isolation. He was seen as unclean. But Jesus touched him. He touched the untouchable one. And along with the touch he offered the words of healing that the man was desperate to hear, “be clean!” While Jesus was breaking religious law by touching the man, he also upheld the law by telling him to show himself to the priest. Jesus understood the context in which this healing took place. The man was already fully healed, but steps needed to be taken for others to recognize and believe that he was no longer untouchable. **Have you ever felt like you were the untouchable one? How does it feel to be on the outside?**

- *O God, nothing about my condition is a surprise to you. I offer the diseased places in my body and heart to you. Make me clean through your Son Jesus Christ! Amen.*

## **TUESDAY: 1 TIMOTHY 4.10 (NIV)**

*That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe.*

- The man in our passage from Luke 5 was willing to move towards Jesus. With the condition of his body, it may have felt like labor to bring himself to the Son of God. Surely there was desperation in each step, but there had to also be an ounce of belief that Jesus could heal him. I've heard it said that we seem to be allergic to labor and hard work in today's culture. **It is tempting to walk away from the hard labor of improvement when we could otherwise just get by with the status quo. How does your hope in the living God compel you to keep striving?**
- *Jesus, send your Spirit to bring strength to my laboring. I put my hope in the living God. Amen.*

## **WEDNESDAY: LUKE 17.11-16 (NIV)**

*Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee.<sup>12</sup> As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance<sup>13</sup> and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"*

<sup>14</sup> *When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed.*

<sup>15</sup> *One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice.<sup>16</sup> He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.*

- Here in Luke 17, the pattern established in Luke 5 seems to be repeated, but there are a few differences. Here the diseased ones cried out from a distance (which is entirely understandable due to the fact that no one had come near them for some time). Here we don't read about a touch from Jesus. And here the healing took place as they journeyed towards the priest. The one who returned then knelt at the feet of Jesus. **What do these differences seem to point out about the need and the belief of the untouchable ones? What do they point out about Jesus' ability to heal? Do you sometimes cry out to Jesus from a distance? Up close?**
- *God, I want to encounter Jesus even when I'm hanging out in the borderlands. Give me a voice to cry out to him when he comes near. Amen.*

## **THURSDAY: JOHN 11.28 (NIV)**

*After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you."<sup>29</sup> When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him.<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him.<sup>31</sup> When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.*

<sup>32</sup> *When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."*

- For context, read all of John 11. Mary's brother had died in spite of her belief that Jesus would save his life. Still, when he came near, she ran to Jesus and fell at his feet. Imagine the emotions going

through her mind in that moment. She was sad, perhaps angry, but still had belief in what Jesus could have done to save her brother. Her belief didn't fade, but she was struggling to understand what had happened. She felt like the story was over. Soon after this, Mary's brother walked out his tomb—alive! **Sometimes our time spent at Jesus' feet is driven by a problem that looks terminal, but we still come. What are you laying at the feet of Jesus today?**

- *Jesus, I offer up my problem to you. It looks like I'm surrounded by it, and that there is nothing to be done. But I believe in your ability to bring dead things to life. Amen.*

## FRIDAY: JEREMIAH 29.11-14 (NIV)

*For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."<sup>12</sup> Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.<sup>13</sup> You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.<sup>14</sup> I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile."*

- The prophet Jeremiah hears a beautiful promise from God. When we seek God with all of our heart we will no longer be captive to the problems of this world. We'll experience hard things, but we have hope in the prosperous future God has for us. God's language is that of conversation. We will call with all of our heart/God will listen, God will rescue. The leper in Luke 5 found himself calling out to Jesus and was given a path to return home. **What does "the place from which I carried you into exile" look like for you? What is home?**
- *Holy God, you see the whole picture. Exodus to exile. Hear the cry of my heart today. Show me the way home through your Son Jesus. Amen.*

## SATURDAY: PSALM 63 (NIV)

*You, God, are my God,  
earnestly I seek you;  
I thirst for you,  
my whole being longs for you,  
in a dry and parched land  
where there is no water.*

<sup>2</sup> *I have seen you in the sanctuary  
and beheld your power and your glory.*

<sup>3</sup> *Because your love is better than life,  
my lips will glorify you.*

<sup>4</sup> *I will praise you as long as I live,  
and in your name I will lift up my hands.*

<sup>5</sup> *I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods;  
with singing lips my mouth will praise you.*

<sup>6</sup> *On my bed I remember you;  
I think of you through the watches of the night.*

<sup>7</sup> *Because you are my help,  
I sing in the shadow of your wings.*

<sup>8</sup> *I cling to you;  
your right hand upholds me.*

<sup>9</sup> *Those who want to kill me will be destroyed;  
they will go down to the depths of the earth.*

<sup>10</sup> *They will be given over to the sword  
and become food for jackals.*

<sup>11</sup> *But the king will rejoice in God;  
all who swear by God will glory in him,  
while the mouths of liars will be silenced.*

- Awareness of our need for God is motivation to seek our healing in Him. David, as much as anyone in history, knew the problem of sin and his need for forgiveness. He knew how good God is and how hard this world can be at times. That awareness is what led him to worship, and it's what brings us to worship as well. We need God! **When was the last time you felt desperately in need of God?**
- *Almighty God, I earnestly seek you today. See my need and bring me into your sanctuary. Amen.*

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

In Sunday's message, Pastor Jacob walked through the steps taken by the man suffering with leprosy in Luke 5. First he recognized his **problem** (diseased skin and the reaction of society to someone suffering with diseased skin), that obvious problem led him to awareness that he **needed** outside intervention. And his **belief** that Jesus was someone who could do something about it led him to cry out for help and **fall at Jesus' feet**. Jacob put it like this—**Problem+Need+Belief=Falling at the feet of Jesus**. Consider a problem you are facing today. Walk your problem through these simple steps and begin to look for the ways healing comes. Share your reflections as a group.

**Problem:** (What problem are you aware of today?)

**Need:** (What has living with this problem revealed about your need?)

**Belief:** (What do you believe about Jesus and his ability to bring healing or resolution?)

**Falling at the feet of Jesus:** (What does it look like to seek the help of Jesus Christ in this situation?)