# Home Group Study 5: Luke 5:17-26: Forgiveness is only through Jesus

**Intro:** Is forgiveness really free? DISCUSS

**Recap:** In what ways has Jesus demonstrated his authority? Why is this important as we head into this passage?

**Listen**

Read Luke 5:17-26

1. Why is the faith of the friends commendable? What does this show about who they think Jesus is?
2. Why does Jesus say what he does in v20? Why that first? What does that show about our needs and his priority?
3. How do the Pharisees react? What does that tell us about who Jesus is claiming to be?
4. How would you answer Jesus in v23? Which is easier to say?
5. How does Jesus back up such a bold claim?
6. What does Jesus have authority over, according to this passage?
7. Why is that good news for us?

**Make it real**

1. How does this passage increase our certainty of what we believe about Jesus?
2. If a Jehovah’s Witness knocked on the door (who do not believe Jesus is God, just a special man) and you invited them in to chat, how could you use this passage to demonstrate that Jesus is divine as well as human?
3. What would our situation be if Jesus could not forgive our sins?
4. How does Jesus forgive our sins?
5. Go back to the intro question: is forgiveness really free? Why/why not?

**Prayer ideas**

* Give thanks that your sins are freely forgiven through Jesus
* Give thanks that “we believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all worlds, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father”
* Pray for opportunities to talk to people about Jesus

Share personal prayer requests as appropriate.

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