



# Reach Texas OFFERING



## Luke 5:17-26 | Are You Helping or Hindering Your Neighbor?

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I want to turn your attention today to a familiar passage of Scripture that sets a foundation to what sacrificial giving should look like in our lives. The story we are going to focus on today is Jesus healing the paralytic who is lowered through the roof. This is a very common story, so it is easy to check out and say that you have already heard it but God may have something new for you to learn about him. Take a couple minutes to pray individually, that God would speak to you through his Word.

Now that you have spent some time praying, read the story aloud as a group. If possible, read from two different translations.

When you read through the passage, who are you in the story? Do you see yourself as one of the four friends who is doing their best to get their friend to Jesus? Are you the crippled man who is lost? Or, are you part of the crowd that was so focused on hearing Jesus for their own benefit that they literally had their back to those who needed to hear from Jesus the most?

If we are being completely honest, I think that we all find ourselves in the group of people more often than one of the four friends. We have the best intentions and try our best to better ourselves as believers, but our actions and intentions do not match up. We want God to do something incredible in the lives of our friends, families and communities, but we feel inadequate to do something about it.

We feel like we must learn more before we act and focus on not having the correct answers to the point where we don't speak at all. In reality, Jesus is just asking that we would say "yes" to giving our lives away.

When you make the decision to give your life away, you find yourself in a position in which you are willing to utilize your time, finances, giftings and everything you have for the sake of lost people hearing the gospel. For the four friends in Luke 5, we see that they gave of their time and were even ready to lay down their reputation to get their friend before Jesus.

In Texas, we have millions of lost students who do not have a relationship with Jesus. It is time for us, as the church, to rally together and commit to do whatever it takes to share the name of Jesus with these students. This means that we have to look outside our four walls and see how God can use his church to reach the lost in Texas.



## Questions

- › What does it mean to give your life away? How can you, individually and as a group, look to give your life away for the sake of the lost around you?
- › Ask God to give you the name of a person that he wants you to contact. Once you have the name, write them a note or send them a text to start a gospel conversation.
- › How can you create a culture of accountability when it comes to sharing the gospel with your lost friends and family?
- › Go to [sbtexas.com/church-planting](http://sbtexas.com/church-planting) to see how you can become involved with a church plant.
- › What resources do you have available that could be used to help a local church plant? Think financially, giftings, etc.