

## **Becoming Whole Small Group Guide**

**Warm-up Question:** (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. Have you ever broken a bone? If so, what happened?
2. Do you like to process your experiences by taking some time to yourself, or by talking it through with someone else?

**Read the following passage:** Luke 5:12-16.

In first-century Jewish culture, contracting leprosy was arguably worse than receiving a death sentence. The leprous man or woman lost nearly everything: his name, his occupation, his social habits, his family, and his worshiping community. A leper likely felt that he was cursed by God. It is not surprising, then, that the leprous man who approached Jesus was unsure of Jesus' willingness to do anything to help him. When Jesus touched the leprous man, Jesus was doing something most people around him would never consider doing. And he demonstrated that God is willing to make us whole no matter how deep our brokenness.

**Questions for Discussion** (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. We may not have leprosy, but we all fight insecurities that drive us away from people, that steal our mission, that convince us that we're failures, and that make us feel rejected by God. Do you ever wrestle with the question, "Do I have what it takes?" How about the question, "Am I worthy of being loved?" Explain. Regarding the first of these two questions, read Psalm 18:28-35. How does this help us answer the question, "Do I have what it takes?" What biblical truths can help us answer the second question?
2. Read Luke 5:17-20. What does Jesus' statement in verse 20 suggest about the cause of the paralyzed man's condition? How do we recognize when we're the cause of our problems? Are there any difficult circumstances you have faced or are currently facing that you think are likely a result of your own actions or decisions?
3. Read Proverbs 28:1. What are some ways moral compromise affects our souls? Are there any areas of moral compromise that you're aware of in your life?
4. The paralyzed man was rescued by his friends' determination and faith, and Jesus' willingness to forgive him. How are these two factors critical in rescuing us from the knots we tie ourselves up in?
5. Read Luke 5:27-32. Why is mission a critical component of being whole? What happens when we live for the wrong mission or purpose?

6. What is one way you think you could live in greater wholeness?

**Pray**