

## CHRIST'S ULTIMATE AUTHORITY

### MATTHEW 9:1-8

To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable, because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you.

-C.S. Lewis

#### I. The Proclamation

## II. The Accusation

## III. The Demonstration

## Small Group Application Questions

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### *Getting to Know You*

1. What is the longest friendship you have been a part of?

### *Into the Bible*

2. Each of the miracles listed in this series by Matthew seem to be aimed at proving Christ's authority over different things and to different audiences—calming the storm, over nature to his disciples; the casting out of demons, over the spiritual realm, to the Gadarenes; and now healing the paralytic. What is he demonstrating his power over in this miracle and to whom? Read also Luke:5:16. How is this miracle tailored specifically for this audience?

3. In each of the previous miracles the witnesses ended up terrified. Even in this case the crowds “were filled with fear” according to Luke 5. The results of the fear however were different. Compare the reaction of the Gadarene villagers (8:34) with the reaction of the crowds that witnessed this healing (9:8). What term does Matthew use to describe their fear?

### *Application*

4. Does God honor our faith on behalf of others? It seems so. Read Matthew 9:2 and Matthew 8:10. If this miracle provides us with an example of faith, how should we approach God on behalf of others? Read I Thessalonians 5:16-18, James 1:6, and James 5:16.

### *For Families*

5. Talk with your children about what true friendship looks like.