



Read the Gospel

Read the Scripture and overview below before your Life Group meets.

Scripture passage: John 5:1-18

Whether by age or injury, disability is a great reality for many in our world. Even today, some who suffer with imparities are overlooked, neglected, rejected, or even discarded. But just as Jesus made His way to Jerusalem and intentionally made a stop at the pool of Bethesda to offer healing to one man in desperate need, so He lovingly steps into our lives today, providing help and hope for those who call on His name and choose to believe and live. Yet this third sign, which led to Jesus' claim to be equal with God when questioned by members of the Sanhedrin, stirred up controversy and was the catalyst that prompted their desire to find fault with Him and ultimately bring Him to His death.

Pray for the Work of the Gospel

Use the first few minutes of your lesson to lead your group in a focused prayer time.

- **Praise** God for the grace He has given us through His Son, Jesus.
- **Repent** from any doubt or disbelief you have in Jesus.
- **Ask** God to bring salvation to those you know who do not recognize Him as Savior and Lord.
- **Yield** to the Holy Spirit's work as you boldly share the Gospel to those He places in your path this week.

Engage in the Gospel

Use these questions to engage in an informative and impactful discussion with your Life Group.

- Discuss the hopelessness, neglect, and rejection that often accompany a disability.
- **Read John 5:1-9.** When Jesus came into Jerusalem, He saw the many invalids lying under the colonnades at the pool of Bethesda, yet rather than rejection and neglect, He chose to intentionally engage in one man's life and change it forever. What does this tell you about Jesus and His desire to provide hope to the hopeless? (See Hebrews 4:15-16, 1 Peter 1:3-6, Romans 5:2-7)
- When have you intentionally sought to bring hope to the hopeless, and what does the Bible command about helping those in need? (See Isaiah 61:1, Matthew 25:35-40)
- What does Jesus ask the invalid? What is the man's response?
- When Jesus said, "Get up, take up your bed and walk," what was He asking the man to do? (See Proverbs 3:5-6, James 1:6) Has Jesus, through the prompting of the Holy Spirit, ever asked you to trust Him like this? How were you able to do this? What were the results? Did you use any Scriptures to help you in your walk of faith?



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- Pastor McKinley said in his message, “When we take God at His Word we soon discover that God can do more in a moment that we can do in a lifetime of effort.” Can you give an example of this in your life?
- **Read John 5:10-18.** What controversy developed after Jesus healed the man? (See John 5:10) Why was this unlawful? (Leviticus 23:3) When Jesus responded to their accusations, what further claim regarding His power and authority prompted them to persecute Him? (See John 5:17-19)
- Read John 5:19-29. What additional claims does Jesus make about Himself in this passage?
- The claim that Jesus was equal with God was what led the Jews to kill Jesus. Pretend you are a lawyer proving Jesus’ deity. Use these verses that give description to Jesus’ attributes to prove your case. (Isaiah 41:4, 10, Isaiah 43:11, Exodus 3:14 with John 8:58, Mark 6:56, Mark 4:37-41 with Psalm 107:24-31, John 1:1, Acts 4:10-12, Colossians 1:15-17)
- Read John 5:24, which is the crux of this section. What authority does this verse prove Jesus has? What does that mean to you? How does understanding the ultimate authority of Jesus help you in your daily life?
- Who or what do you call on for strength in times of trouble? Jesus? Friends? Self? Control? Money? Food, Drugs, or alcohol?
- In what areas of your life do you claim to believe in Jesus yet live as though He doesn’t exist? Do you consult with Him about all the decisions in your life? If not, why not? Do you pray daily to connect with Him? If not, could this be a sign of pride in your life (perhaps you think you don’t need His help)?
- Do you become crippled with fear when the circumstances of life overtake you, forgetting that Jesus, the Lord of the Sabbath, is able to help you “get up and walk” through your hard time?
- What evidence is there in your life that Jesus is Lord? Would a jury find you guilty or not guilty based on the way you live?

Live the Gospel

These questions are meant to encourage you to apply spiritual truth and live on mission for Jesus. It is your Life Group leader’s responsibility to challenge you and hold you accountable to taking steps of growth and faith. Take these questions to heart. Allow the Holy Spirit to prompt you to grow in your role as a disciple and ultimately a disciple-maker.

- Identify someone who is hopeless and in need of help from the Lord.
- How have or will you invest in that person this week?
- Will you invite them to church with you this week or share your story of redemption with them? If not, what is holding you back?

Joshua Code memory verse:

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. – Psalm 23:4



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