



DISUSSION GUIDE

THIS WEEK: *The healing of a man by the pool [John 5:1-17]*

GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

Remind each other of our simple expectations for meeting together

How have you seen how rules and regulations undermine relationships? (parenting, friendships, etc...)

QUICK REACTIONS

- How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?
- What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?
- Did you disagree with something said, or what do you think should have been added or expanded on?

QUESTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

1. In what way can you relate to the man laying at the pool in your relationship with God?
2. In what way can you relate to the Pharisees in the story?
3. How do people struggle with the “fairness” of God? That Jesus heals this man, but not everyone at the pool?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [John 4:1-42]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.)

What event did Jesus go to Jerusalem for? (5:1)

Who came to the pool near the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem? (5:2-3)

How long had the one invalid man been at the pool? (5:5)

What did Jesus ask the invalid man? (5:6)

How did the invalid man respond to Jesus' question? (5:7)

What did Jesus command the invalid man to do? (5:8)

What happened to the invalid man after Jesus spoke to him? (5:9)

On what day of the week did this miracle take place? (5:9)

What did the Jews say to the healed man? Why? (5:10)

How did the healed man respond to the Jews' question? (5:11)

What did the Jews ask the healed man? (5:12)

Why didn't the man know who healed him? (5:13)

What did Jesus tell the man he had healed on their second encounter? (5:14)

What did the healed man do after he spoke with Jesus a second time? (5:15)

Why did the Jews persecute Jesus? (5:16)

Whose work did Jesus do? (5:17)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

What did breaking the Sabbath mean to the man that was healed?

What did it mean to the Pharisees?

In what way do you think life is unfair? When have you felt as if life has dealt you a bad hand?

How can we lose sight of God, his purposes in rule keeping or breaking?

Read Romans 3:20. What does Paul say the role of "the law/rules" are? What can it do? What can't it do?

Discuss why Jesus asks this man if he wants to get well? In what way may Jesus ask us the same question?

What role does God play, and what role do we play when it comes to spiritual, physical, emotional healing in our life? In what way does this story speak to that issue?

What things do we typically look towards that promise to give us rest, joy and peace? How do they fall short?

Read Psalm 3:1-6 together. What does true rest look like regardless of our circumstances?

Dave said that later when Jesus tells the man to 'go and sin no more' that He was helping the man understand that his greatest need was ongoing spiritual healing/freedom not physical healing. What do you think?

In what way do you see this is true in your own life?

How may God be calling you in your circumstances to "stand up, pick up your mat and walk"?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What may God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, pray about, as a result of engaging with this passage?

How can we pray for each other?