Discussion Guide

Jesus Heals to Make a Point

GETTING STARTED

Why might we prefer to live under rules, traditions and our preferences, rather than from God's purposes?

In what way are relationships more important than rules? When has someone tried to minimize your freedom in Christ with non-essential religious rules that have nothing to do with pursuing Jesus?

QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

In what way did you connect with the story of the "dry canal" that know longer served the purposes of the people who lived along it? How can that happen in our own lives? How does this parallel what Jesus does in John 5?

In what way were the religious leaders more concerned with preserving and protecting the law and their traditions than with God's purpose of the Sabbath? How can we be guilty of that?

What in this passage gives you a compelling and beautiful vision of who Jesus is and why He came? How ought this inform us about what we are to give our lives, energy too? To properly order our love of family, church, relationships, time, talent and treasure?

What did the religious leaders get so wrong in this passage?

What reason does Jesus give for His authority to break the law of the Sabbath?

How can we begin to see God's commands as gifts for us and not rules to merely comply with?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [John 5:1-22]

(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.) Work through this quickly, the answers are fairly obvious.

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

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

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

How did he respond to Jesus' question? (5:7)

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

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

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

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 Religious leaders harass Jesus? (5:16)

Whose work did Jesus do? (5:17)

Why did certain The Religious leaders want to kill Jesus? (5:18)

What did Jesus say that the Son could do? (5:19)

What did Jesus tell the Religious leaders that He would show them? (5:20)

What did Jesus say He was able to do? (5:21)

To whom did God entrust all judgment? (5:22)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

In what way do you think life is unfair?

When have you felt as if life has dealt you a bad hand?

When do we tend to get impatient with God's timing in our lives?

On what in life, other than God, do we sometimes depend? How can this be linked to "idolatry"?

Why do we attempt to take matters into our own hands, rather than trust God to work them out?

Why do some people care more about keeping certain "religious" rules than they do about developing a meaningful relationship with Jesus?

What rules tend to interfere with your enjoyment of your relationship with Christ?

In what way has Jesus made you well?

How can we honor the Son and the Father with our lives?

How can we know for sure that we have eternal life?

Why should we feel secure in our relationship with God?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

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

What do you need to stop, start or do differently as a result of reading this passage?

How can we pray for each other?