

DISCUSSION GUIDE

DISCUSSION GOAL



Discuss the significance of Jesus' divine authority to heal and restore and how we can join in the work that he is doing.

ICE BREAKER



What is your favorite way to spend a “snow day” – or an unexpected day off?

TEXT



Have a member of your group read the passage aloud.

John 5:1-18

Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals. ² Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. ³ Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. ⁵ One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “Do you want to get well?”

⁷ “Sir,” the invalid replied, “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.”

⁸ Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” ⁹ At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

(turn to John 5 in an ESV bible to continue reading verses 9b-18)

MESSAGE OUTLINE



This is what our pastoral team observed about the passage.

Big Idea: The scandal of Jesus is his divine authority.

Key Question: How does Jesus demonstrate his divine authority?

1. He has the authority to heal. (vv. 1-9a)
2. He has the authority to command. (vv. 9b-14)
3. He has the authority to work. (vv. 15-18)

DISCUSSION



- In this story Jesus speaks and acts with authority that offends the religious leaders. Share a time when you witnessed a subordinate speak offensively to their superior. How did it make those involved feel?
- The healing of the crippled man in John 5 is a foretaste of Jesus' resurrection power which he will display when he himself later rises from the grave. What sort of encouragement do you draw from Jesus' power to heal?
- God cares for us to be physically well, but in verse 14 Jesus tells the healed man that he needs to repent so that "nothing worse may happen to [him]," indicating that our spiritual health is more important than our physical health. In what ways have you focused more on your physical health than spiritual health? What steps can you take to prioritize your spiritual health?
- Reread verses 15-18. Why were the Jewish leaders upset by Jesus' words and actions? In what ways do people fail to accept (or recognize) Jesus' divine authority today?
- In verse 17 Jesus justifies working on the Sabbath because "his Father is working..." As the son of God, Jesus joins his Father in working to bring renewal to our broken world. How are you currently engaged in God's redemptive work in the world? Read Matthew 9:37-38. Besides what you're currently doing, how else can you engage in "working the harvest" Jesus speaks about in this verse?

LIFE APPLICATION



As the Son of God, Jesus has divine authority to heal, command, and join in the work of the Father. As a group, discuss what it would look like for you to live under Jesus' divine authority.

Join your ideas below and send a picture to your group to remind everyone of your action steps this week.

PRAYER REQUESTS


