

## John #4: The sick man at the pool John 5:1-29

**Objectives:** We want students to discover that Jesus alone is able to bring healing and wholeness. We want them to experience the forgiveness and healing that only he can offer.

### **For the leaders:**

*The words of Jesus found in verse 6 are words we need to wrestle with personally: do you want to get well? Jesus shows in this passage that he is interested in more than just physical healing. What sin are you holding on to? What parts of your life are you unwilling to allow Jesus to cleanse? Take some time before the study, to deal with your own sin and allow Jesus to “make you well”.*

### **Getting to Know You (5 minutes)**

**Announce:** Fall Getaway. Have a student share about their experiences. Allow time for questions.

### **Launch**

The past few weeks we have been looking at how diverse individuals interact with Jesus. Our goal is to not only learn about Jesus as we read these passages, but also to consider the state of our own relationship with Jesus. Last week we saw Jesus remove the shame of a woman and replace it with honor. The week before we saw Jesus tell a “good” religious leader that he needed a spiritual rebirth. This week we are going to see Jesus interact with a man who has been physically broken for 38 years.

### **Explore**

Read John 5:1-9a

- What are some words you would use to describe the man?
- How would you describe Jesus in this passage?
- Jesus says a few things that sound odd to us. We are going to look more closely to understand why he says them...
- In v. 6, Jesus asks a strange question. Why would this man not want to get well?  
**Discuss in small group.** *(There may be many reasons... He was used to living this way. Even though he did not seem to have a great life, it was all he knew. If he were healed he would have to learn a job, work, and adjust to a whole new way of life.)*
- Share some of your answers with the whole group.

Read John 5:9b-17

- Jesus indicates that there is something worse than being an invalid (v. 14). What do you think he is referring to? What could be worse than being an invalid for 38 years?  
*(Missing out on eternal life! Jesus makes this clear in 5:24-29. Take a moment to read 24-29)*
- In 5:24 and 5:39-40 Jesus describes how a person can have eternal life. After reading those passages use your own words to describe how a person can have eternal life.  
*(“Believe” can be described as trusting in Jesus for eternal life. “Come to Him” means you are seeking eternal life from Jesus and from no one else. Repentance is also addressed in v. 14 (sin no more = turning from sin to Jesus))*

### **Apply (in small groups)**

*Leaders- there are 2 main applications. One would be to receive forgiveness for your sins for salvation (which the man did not seem to do). Another is for people who are believers to “get well” and deal with their own sins. You can decide how things go!*

The man at the pool was never named. Which means John wants to ask us the same question: “do you want to get well”? As we saw in this passage this question applies to both our physical lives as well as our spiritual lives.

- What are some reasons why someone might not want to “get well” spiritually? In other words, why would a person not want to turn from their sin and follow Jesus?
- Sin can be described as a spiritual sickness. What are some reasons why you don't want to “get well” of the spiritual sickness of sin in your life?

John wrote another book where he describes how we should deal with the sin in our lives.

- Read 1 John 1:8-10
- On a card, write out the sin in your life that you are holding onto. Confess your sins and receive forgiveness/cleansing from God.
- To end either burn their cards or write 1 John 1:8-10 over the sins on their card.