

Life Group #6: Do you want to get well?  
John 5:1-15

**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”. Read and apply 1 John 1:8-10.*

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

**Launch**

What do you wish was true of your life, but you think will never happen?

**Explore**

Read John 5:1-9a

- **What are your observations? Try to picture the scene in your mind and describe it.**
- **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 seems to ask 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.)

Read John 5:9b-17

It seems that Jesus left a huge crowd of sick people in order to find this guy and continue the conversation.

- **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 we can have eternal life. After reading those passages use your own words to describe how one 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 is turning from sin to Jesus))*

Clearly Jesus is talking about more than just physical healing in this interaction. The question “do you want to get well” can be asked of our spiritual lives as well.

- **What are some reasons why someone might not want to “get well” in their spiritual life? In other words, why would a person not want to turn from their sin and follow Jesus?** (Small group)

**Apply**

- **What are some reasons why you don't want to “get well” of the spiritual sickness of sin in your life?** (SG)
- **What specific sin are you holding onto 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**
- **Allow for a time for people to privately confess their sins and receive forgiveness from God.**

If you have tried to get well on your own, you know it is impossible. Next week we are going to look at a gift that Jesus gives us to “get well” spiritually- the Holy Spirit. Our focus will be to learn what it is to be filled, directed, and empowered by the Spirit. We want to learn how to drink and satisfy our thirst the way God intended.

**Vision (3 minutes)- Use your own words...**

We want to be a group that shares Christ with others. We do not just want to just pass on facts, but we want to pass on what we have learned and experienced. Is there someone you know that could use forgiveness and healing from Jesus? Pray for that person.