

The Gospel Of John

ICEBREAKER

Have you ever experienced a broken bone? How did it happen? How long did it take to heal?

CONTEXT

Jesus arrives in Jerusalem for one of the Jewish feasts and heals a man on the Sabbath. Here, we begin to see a shift in how people perceive Jesus. In chapters 2-4, they are curious and interested in Jesus and what He is doing. In chapter 5, we see that interest shifts to opposition and, in later chapters, persecution.

PASSAGE

John 5:1-18

DISCUSS

When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, where did He immediately go? What does this passage tell us about this place called Bethesda? What do you imagine it was like to be there?

Jesus asks the man, "Do you want to be healed?" Does this seem like a strange question to you? Why or why not? What possible reasons could someone have for not wanting to be healed?

DISCUSS CONTINUED

In what ways is this healing different from the official's son in John 4:43-54? What does this tell us about Jesus? Why does this matter?

Jesus had to walk past many other sick people to get to this man. Some would argue that it was unloving for Jesus only to heal one and not the others. How would you answer this charge against Jesus?

What issues did the religious leaders have with Jesus? In what ways does this interaction demonstrate the differences between religion and biblical Christianity? How have you experienced these differences in your life?

NEXT STEPS

"Jesus is Lord over sickness and Lord over the Sabbath. What that means is that Jesus can heal and give rest. Jesus can heal your broken bone or your broken heart, or your broken relationship... The Lord of healing and the Lord of rest invites you to come and be refreshed and restored as you follow him." - Matt Carter

How has God brought healing and restoration to your life? What areas of your life do you still need healing and restoration?