

DISCOVERING LIFE TOGETHER SERIES: THE GOSPEL OF JOHN
REAL FAITH PRACTICED – JOHN 5:1-15

NOTES:

Questions for Community Groups and Individual Bible Study:

For Starters: Who are the hardest people for you to love on, reach out to, care for and why?

The Basics: Read John 5:1-15. The Pool of Bethesda was also called the House of Mercy. Describe the scene. Who was present and what does this represent then and now? Why did Jesus *choose* to go to Bethesda, specifically on a Sabbath? What else stands out to you?

Quick Fire Round John 5:1-15

- Why did Jesus care for the man's practical need before His spiritual need? Read Matthew 25:40-45, James 1:26-27, Zechariah 7:8-14 and Psalm 146:5-10. How should we (the church) and you (personally) respond? How could you be involved in caring for the least of these? Discuss.
- Read John 5:6. Why did Jesus ask the man if he wanted to be healed? How would the healing change the man's life? Do you turn down God's offer for something better? Settle for the known rather than unknown? If so, why?
- Read John 5:9b-13. What was the issue about healing on the Sabbath? How did the Pharisees respond to seeing a miracle? How and why can we miss God working today?
- Read John 5:14-15 and John 9:1-7. Is Jesus saying all human disabilities are the result of personal, family, or generational sin? What was the man's *real* need? Discuss.

The challenge: Practice real faith! How can you (individually or as a community group) – show compassion toward and practically serve the sick? Recognize and refuse to allow preferences, personal agendas, traditions get in the way of seeing God work? Stop making excuses for sinful patterns and actually make life changes?

Memorize James 1:27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Prayer: Father, help me show someone the practical love of Jesus this week. Forgive me for allowing my stuff to get in the way of seeing you work. Help me walk in the freedom of your grace and mercy. Amen.