

## Small Group Discussion Guide

### "Do You Want to Get Well?" - John 5:1-15

#### Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: Share about a time when you felt stuck waiting for something to change in your life. What was that experience like?

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#### Scripture Reading

Have someone read John 5:1-15 aloud for the group.

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#### Discussion Questions

##### Understanding the Text

1. The Setting Matters: The sermon highlighted that Jesus performed this miracle near the sheep gate, where sacrificial lambs entered the temple. How does knowing Jesus is "the Lamb of God" and "the gate" (John 10:7) change how you understand this healing story?
2. The Pool Called Bethesda meant "place of grace" and was surrounded by five colonnades (five representing grace). What does it mean that people were trying to \*find\* a place of grace, but Jesus—the person of grace—came \*looking for them\*?

##### Personal Application

3. "Do you want to get well?" seems like an obvious question, but Jesus was inviting the man to participate in his own transformation. Why do you think Jesus asks this question? Are there areas in your life where God might be asking you the same thing?
4. "I have no one" was the invalid's response. The sermon pointed out that loneliness, fear, and isolation run deep in our culture. Have you ever felt like you needed to "know someone" to get ahead or receive help? How does knowing Jesus change that perspective?

5. The man had been in this condition for 38 years—the same amount of time Israel wandered in the wilderness due to unbelief. What "wilderness wandering" might God be inviting you to leave behind through faith in Jesus?

### Going Deeper

6. "Get up, pick up your mat and walk." Why do you think Jesus told him to pick up his mat—the very thing that represented his former condition? What might your "mat" be—something God wants you to carry as a reminder of what He's done?

7. Jesus later found the man and said, "Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you" (v. 14). The sermon emphasized that physical miracles don't change everything—we need soul transformation. Why is inner transformation more important than external circumstances changing?

8. The religious leaders were angry that this healing happened on the Sabbath. They focused on rule-breaking rather than celebrating the miracle. How can we avoid becoming more concerned with religious rules than with what God is actually doing in people's lives?

### Living It Out

9. "My Father is always at his work...and I too am working" (v. 17). Even in seemingly random moments, God is always working. Where have you seen God working in unexpected or "random" ways in your life recently?

10. The sermon ended with an invitation: Some need to "get up" (receive Jesus), while others need to "learn to walk" (grow in following Him). Which season are you in right now? What's one step you can take this week?

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### Prayer Time

#### Guided Prayer Focus:

- Pray for anyone who feels like they "have no one"—that they would know Jesus is with them
- Pray for courage to participate in the transformation God wants to do
- Pray for patience as we "learn to walk" in following Jesus
- Pray for eyes to see where God is working in the everyday, random moments of life

\*\*Share specific prayer requests and pray for one another.\*\*