

Life Groups

Signposts to Jesus



• JANUARY 2026 • TOPIC 3 • JOHN 5:1-15

Topic

A healing at the pool.

First Thoughts

Since 1858 millions of people have travelled to Lourdes, France. They go to pray, to drink from the spring water believed to have healing properties, and to find spiritual and emotional comfort. It is a place of pilgrimage for those seeking healing, either physical or spiritual, and serves as a sanctuary for those with illnesses and other sufferings.

In the UK, since 70 AD, the Thermae Spa mineral waters at Bath have been said to have healing properties. These baths are visited by 260,000 people each year.



1. What do you think of the reports of the 70+ confirmed miracles at Lourdes?

2. How much does visiting a shrine or a place known for healing have a “placebo effect” on visitors?

Focus

Jesus goes to Jerusalem to celebrate a Jewish festival. Whilst there he visits a pool near the Sheep Gate, the place where the sacrifices were brought into the temple. Archaeologists discovered this pool in the 19th century and it's name means “house of mercy”.

The Scriptures

 Read John 5:1-15

Why were so many infirm people waiting by the poolside? See 2 Kings 5:4

Can you think of any other times where water features in a miraculous event? (John 9:1-11, Ezekiel 36:25-26)

Going Further

1. Why do you think Jesus goes to this man out of all the people who were waiting by the side of the pool?
2. Do you think Jesus' question to the lame man seem like a strange thing to ask him?
3. Do you think the the man initially thinks that Jesus is going to heal him?
4. What do you make of the man's reaction to this miracle?
5. Compare the reaction of the healed man with that of the religious leaders. Why do you think they react so negatively to a miraculous healing?

Going Further continued

6. Why do you think Jesus tells the man to “stop sinning”?
7. What might John telling us about Jesus in this third of the seven signs?

Life Application

1. There are times when we can feel that all hope is lost and that there is no way out for us. What does this account in John 5 tell us about hope and healing?
2. Is there a lesson here in how to treat other people? Was there anything especially deserving about the lame man?
3. One commentator states that the lame man “limits God’s help to his own ideas”. How can we avoid this mistake today?
4. The religious leaders were annoyed that Jesus had healed the man during the Sabbath day and that the man had engaged in “work” by carrying his bed. Can we also in danger of missing the good for fear of meticulously interpreting the rules?

“Assurance after all is no more than a full-grown faith...that grasps Christ's promise with both hands - a faith that argues like the good centurion, if the Lord "speak the word only," I am healed. Wherefore then should I doubt? (Matt. 8:8).”

- J C Ryle

“How sweet the name of Jesus sounds, in a believer's ear! It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds, and drives away his fear.”

- John Newton

Prayer

Dear Father,



We come before you today mindful of the scene at the pool of Bethesda where a multitude of the sick, blind and paralysed waited in hope for healing. We confess that we can often be found waiting by a pool of our own making, relying on circumstances, human effort or special seasons for a breakthrough.

You are God, you see us in our helplessness, just as Jesus saw the lame man. You know our condition and how long we have suffered. Thank you for your mercy and compassion that reaches out to us when we are discouraged and even we don't ask for help. We acknowledge our need for physical and spiritual healing and ask you to make us whole through Christ our Lord.

Amen

To finish

Take a few moments to pray for those in your group that are suffering with ailments and long term illnesses. Ask for comfort and healing.

Ask God to guide us in our prayers, to enable us to be a blessing to others and to give us His grace so that our lives will be a living example of the love and mercy of Jesus.