



Northland Christian Church Group Discussion Guide For the Week of February 6, 2022

Use the questions below as a springboard for discussion. You do not have to answer every question. Pick the ones you think will be helpful. Remember, Ultimately we want God's answers, not man's opinions. Always land where God lands. (ex: Where do we see that in the Bible?) Give grace. Give time for growth. Don't force it. Growth takes time, love, good questions, & support.

Connect

- What superstitions were you taught as a child? Do they still affect what you do?
- Why might someone prefer rules and regulations to freedom?

The Context

After Jesus' stay at Cana, He returned to Jerusalem where He performed more healings; here Jesus takes the time to heal a lame man. This was during one of the Jewish holiday feasts. Jesus passed by the Sheep Gate to the Pool of Bethesda where people went for physical ailments because of the minerals and a belief that an Angel might heal them. Many people lay on mats waiting their turn to get into the mineral bath. One man, because of his inability to walk and no one willing to help him, had waited thirty-eight years. Jesus had compassion for him and asked him a stunning question; Do you want to get well? A profound and powerful question for those with physical ailments - but even more so for all of us spiritually and emotionally. The physical healing is a shadow to Jesus' ultimate redemptive work and how we incorporate Him in our lives. True healing is all about the transforming work Christ does in us. Thankfully, this is something He offers to all of us: do you want to be healed? Do you want to be well? Do you want to be free?

Engage the Bible

Read the passage and share Surprises, Takeaways, and Observations from:

John 5:1-15 NIV

"Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals. 2 Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. 3 Here a great number of disabled people used to lie--the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. 4 5 One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?" 7 "Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me." 8 Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." 9 At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. The day on which this took place was a Sabbath, 10 and so the Jewish leaders said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat." 11 But he replied, "The man who made me well said to me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'" 12 So they asked him, "Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?" 13 The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there. 14 Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you." 15 The man went away and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had made him well."

Discuss

1. Imagine yourself at the pool described in verses 2-5. Describe what you see. The atmosphere? The smell? The sounds? How would you feel going into a place like this?
2. Upon arriving at Jerusalem, where does Jesus immediately go? (John 5:1-6). What does this tell us about our Lord?
3. It was obvious that the man was desperate for healing. Why do you think Jesus asked him, “Do you want to be healed?”
4. Why, and in what ways, do we sometimes choose to stay in our own misery?
5. What causes some people to not want to receive help, either divine or human, with their problems and move toward healing?
6. Put yourself in the shoes of the man who was healed. How would you feel? What would you be thinking?
7. How has Jesus brought healing and restoration into your life—physical, emotional and spiritual?
8. Describe any experiences where you felt God intervened in your life in some miraculous or special way?
9. Look again at verses 10-13. Has your joy in God ever been squashed by someone’s focus on religious legalism or tradition? What did that do to you?
10. How can we avoid getting caught up in legalism or tradition and missing or squashing what Jesus is doing?
11. What is something you need to trust God with today?

Challenge

Spend time with a friend and practice sharing your testimonies with each other. The more you share your story of your experience with Jesus, the more comfortable and ready you will be to share with others.

End Your Group Time in Prayer