



CONNECTING
PEOPLE TO GOD | PEOPLE TO PEOPLE | PEOPLE TO OUTREACH

Discussion Questions: **John 5:1-9**

In John 5:1–9, Jesus encounters a man at the Pool of Bethesda who had been unable to walk for thirty-eight years. Surrounded by people waiting for the water to provide healing, this helpless man is personally sought out by Jesus, who asks him, “Do you want to be made well?” Rather than answering directly, the man explains all the reasons he cannot be healed, revealing how years of disappointment had produced resignation and excuses. But Jesus bypasses the pool entirely and simply commands him, “Rise, take up your bed and walk,” demonstrating that the power to restore him was found not in the water, but in the authoritative Word of Christ. The man is immediately healed and obeys, showing us that Jesus has the power to bring life into our helplessness and that His Word is sufficient and trustworthy. Rather than allowing our past, weaknesses, or excuses to define us, we are called to trust Jesus, leave the old life behind, and walk in obedience to Him.

1. What stands out to you most about the condition of the people gathered at the Pool of Bethesda in John 5:1–5? What picture does their helplessness give us of humanity’s spiritual condition?

2. The people at Bethesda were looking to the pool for healing, while Jesus redirected attention to Himself. What are some modern-day “pools” people look to for hope, fulfillment, or transformation instead of Jesus?

3. Why do you think Jesus singled out this particular man from among the multitude of sick people gathered there?

4. The man had lived with his condition for thirty-eight years. How can living with a problem, struggle, sin, disappointment, or weakness for a long time begin to shape the way we see ourselves?

5. What does it teach us about Jesus that the man did not seek Jesus—Jesus sought him? How have you seen Jesus pursue you in your own life?

6. Jesus asked the man, “Do you want to be made well?” Why do you think Jesus asked a question when He already knew the man's condition?

7. Instead of directly answering Jesus, the man explained all the reasons he could not be healed. Why is it sometimes easier to explain our circumstances than to trust Jesus to change us?

8. Sunday’s study mentioned, “Excuses can become so familiar that they replace expectancy.” What does that mean? How can we recognize when this has happened in our own spiritual lives?

9. Are there areas of life where Christians can become so accustomed to bitterness, fear, shame, sin, or spiritual complacency that they stop believing change is possible? How should the gospel affect that thinking?

10. Jesus simply commanded, “Rise, take up your bed and walk.” What does the immediate healing of the man reveal about the authority and power of Jesus’ Word?

11. The man had no strength to obey Jesus' command on his own, yet Christ's command carried the power necessary for him to obey. How does this help us understand the relationship between God's commands, His grace, and our obedience?

12. Why do we sometimes respond “I can’t” when Scripture clearly tells us what God wants us to do? What is the difference between trusting our own ability and trusting God to enable our obedience?

13. Consider Jesus' three commands: “Rise,” “Take up your bed,” and “Walk.” What spiritual application can we draw from each of these commands in the Christian life?

14. Sunday’s study mentioned, “Don’t leave your bed lying beside the pool.” What are some ways believers can keep a “reservation” with an old habit, identity, relationship, excuse, or lifestyle from which Christ has called them away?

15. The man responded to Jesus immediately—without hesitation, questions, or debate. What is one area of your life where you already know what God's Word says, but you need to stop waiting and begin walking in obedience?
