



That You May
HAVE LIFE

A STUDY ON THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

women's
BIBLE STUDY



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LESSON *Five*

Do You Want to be Healed?

When the chapter opens, Jesus is in Jerusalem celebrating a feast of the Jews. He encountered a man who could not walk and healed him on the Sabbath. Because it was a day of rest, the miracle angered the Jewish leaders. Jesus responded by explaining exactly who He is in relation to God the Father. Jesus is Judge, the giver of life, and equal in all ways to the Father. Though they might not see it yet, He Himself is God.

Pause for a moment and reflect: What is hard right now? In what ways are you seeking life outside of your relationship with God? In what ways is God satisfying you in this season? What are you praying for? Where have you seen God answer prayer? Write your reflections below.

Read John 5 before answering the following questions.

1. This section of John is one of the most descriptive of Jesus' role and authority. Using the entire chapter, choose three things you learn about God the Father and God the Son and list them in the chart below.

| GOD THE FATHER | GOD THE SON (JESUS) |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. |

Did this bring up any questions in your mind about God? If so, write them below.

Read John 5:1-17.

2. Verses 1-9 paint a vivid picture. Set the scene using the following prompts:

Location:

Time:

Situation:

3. When Jesus first encounters the paralyzed man, what does He ask? Why?
4. The paralyzed man looked to the waters to find healing but instead found healing in Jesus. In verses 8-9, what does Jesus ask the man to do as evidence of his faith, and how did the man respond? In what ways is this similar to your relationship with Jesus? (See Galatians 2:20)

SHEEP GATE

Sheep Gate was an opening in the northern city wall.²³

BETHESDA

There was a widely held belief at this time that whoever first entered the pools of Bethesda after the waters were disturbed would experience healing.²⁴

SABBATH

Sabbath was a day of rest ordained by God (Exodus 20:8-11). However, the Jews added to God's instruction, making new requirements which God never asked. During this time, even picking up a mat (John 5:10) would be considered by the Pharisees to be breaking God's law.

HEALING

For other stories in the Gospels where Jesus heals on the Sabbath, read Matthew 12:1-14, Mark 2:23-3:6, and Luke 13:10-17.

JESUS IS GOD

"Nowhere else in the Gospels do we find our Lord making such a formal, systematic, orderly, regular statement of his own unity with the Father, his divine commission and authority, and the proofs of his Messiahship, as we find in this discourse."²⁶

5. The healing of the paralyzed man is the third sign, or miracle, in John. In the space below, list what this sign reveals about Jesus. (For help, jump ahead to verse 18.)

6. Immediately after being healed, the man runs into opposition from the Jews. The Jews were upset partially because they believed Jesus was breaking the Sabbath. Read Matthew 22:36-40. What were the Pharisees missing? What was the heart behind the law?

"Jesus left hundreds unhealed at the pool of Bethesda. And he told the one man he did heal, who had not even believed in him, to wake up. I am pursuing your holiness. The main issue in this age till Jesus comes back is that we meet him — meet him — in our brokenness, and receive the power of his forgiveness to pursue holiness."

— *John Piper*²⁵

Read John 5:18-29.

7. As already mentioned, the Jews were upset at Jesus for breaking the Sabbath. However, they were also seeking to kill Him because He was claiming to be equal with God. From verses 18-29, where do you see Jesus' claim of equality and authority? List specific verses.

8. In this passage, Jesus explains His authority as God, challenging the way the Israelites had thought about God for centuries. Given Deuteronomy 6:4, why might His words be so difficult for them to understand? Now imagine yourself with them. Would you have believed Him?

9. Underline the word “life” in these verses. According to verse 21 and 24, where does real life come from? Have you received it and how do you know?

10. Compare verse 24 to verses 28-29. Are these verses contradicting one another? How do the following verses help you understand what Jesus is communicating?

John 1:12

Ephesians 2:8-10

James 1:22-25

Now, explain the relationship between faith and good works.

TRINITY

God exists as one God in three Persons. Three words to rightly understand this relationship are unity, equality, and distinction. God is one (unity). The Father, Son, and Spirit are each God (equality). And the Father, Son, and Spirit are each a distinct person with a distinct role (distinction).

JUDGE

For more verses on Jesus as Judge, read: Acts 10:42, 17:31; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 2 Timothy 4:1, 8.

OLD TESTAMENT

All the Old Testament points toward Jesus. Though Moses was faithful, neither he, nor the law God gave him, was intended to save the hearts of the people.

LOVE OF GOD

“Had there been any love for God in their hearts, it would have manifested itself by their acceptance of the one who came to them in the name of God.”²⁷

VERSE 34

Don't ever forget the purpose behind Jesus' testimony. Verse 34 makes it clear: "...so that you may be saved." His teaching is not just for knowledge gain, but for heart change.

RELIGIOUS PRACTICES

“The Jews had worked out their pattern of religion and tried to fit God into it. They did not seek first the way of God and then try to model their religious practices on it.” See Matthew 23:27-28 for Jesus' comments on this.²⁸

Read John 5:30-47.

11. In what ways is Jesus greater than John the Baptist?
12. Several times in chapter 5 Jesus speaks to His dependence on God the Father. For example, in verse 30 Jesus says, “I can do nothing on my own.” Does this surprise you? Why or why not?

13. Read verses 39-40 and fill in the blanks below:

“You _____ the _____ because you think that in them you have _____; and it is they that bear _____ about me, yet you _____ to come to _____ that you may have _____.” (ESV)

What is the purpose of the Scriptures? From what you have learned so far in John, how had these religious leaders of the day perverted this idea? (See Appendix: Legalism)

14. When was the last time you tried to find life in religious activity rather than letting these things point you to the person of Jesus? What was the result?

What measures can you put into place to make sure that the spiritual disciplines, such as reading your Bible and praying, help grow your relationship with God instead of becoming empty religious rituals? (See Appendix: Spiritual Disciplines)



BIG IDEA

What is your biggest takeaway from this week's lesson?

Notes