**1. Motivate**

When have you had a situation where you felt helpless or despaired about something?

* a life-threatening diagnosis from a doctor
* a call from the police about a family member being in an accident
* your team is so far behind, there’s no way they could catch up
* your car won’t start and there’s no one around to get a jump
* you are stuck in the snow and no way you could get out
* you hit your brakes and the pedal goes to the floor
* you flunked a test and you need a good grade to keep going on your degree
* you walk out to the parking lot and your car is gone
* grandpa went to the store and it’s been too long, he should be back

**2. Transition**

Bad things can happen in our lives … things go bad, things get broken.

* Jesus restores what is broken in your life.

**3. Bible Study**

A video introduction to the lesson is available. Watch it at <https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1_zffedrh4> If you have no wi-fi where you teach, best to download to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/3r2wwy82>

3.1 No One Else Could Help

Listen for who could help.

John 5:2-7 (NIV) 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. 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."

Note the setting for the encounter described in these verses.

* Near the sheep gate
* Beside a pool
* Surrounded by 5 colonnades or porches

Who were people gathered around the pool, why were they gathered there?

* disabled in some way …
* blind, lame, paralyzed

What was the situation of one particular man lying at the pool?

* invalid for 38 years
* Jesus saw him there, learned his condition

What did Jesus ask him? How did the man respond?

* “Do you want to get well?”
* I have no one to help me into the pool (when the water was agitated)
* common belief was an angel caused ripples in the pool, first person in would be healed

Do you think he still had hope to get better?

* in one way, he seemed to be resigned to the problem of not being able to be the first in
* on the other hand, he still came daily, hoping for something good to happen
* seemed to be the only thing he had going for him

Why did Jesus ask him if he wished to get well? Isn’t that an obvious question? Why is this question important/necessary?

* wanted to open up conversation, engage the man
* showed the man He realized and saw the problem
* showed an interest in the man’s need
* wanted the man to face the reality of his need
* needed the man to admit he had little or no hope of his current situation improving

The man may have felt like life had treated him unfairly. In what way do *you* think life is unfair?

* bad stuff happens to good people
* bad people seem to thrive and flourish
* the government is not helping us, seems to make things worse
* sometimes seems like God doesn’t hear my prayers

When/whyu do we tend to get impatient with God’s timing in our lives?

* involves health problem
* involves a hoped for (prayed for) change of attitude in someone
* involves financial or work problems
* a problem involving legal issues, government

This man was depending on a random water flow and some way to jump into the pool. On what in life, other than God, do we sometimes depend?

* some people are depending hopefully on the lottery
* that someone else will change their attitude
* that a new job opening will become available
* that the doctors will find a cure for your situation
* that a better boss, a better doctor, a better teacher will enter into the situation

3.2 Beyond Anything Imaginable

Listen for what only Jesus could do.

John 5:8-11 (NIV) 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 Jews 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.'"

Note the three-pronged admonition did Jesus give to the man.

* Get up
* Pick up your mat
* Walk

What might have encouraged the man to stand, even though he hadn’t been able to do so for 38 years?

* nothing to lose
* was encouraged, challenged to obey the obvious authority of Jesus
* might have been a reflex action – the man said “get up”

What were the religious leaders more concerned about?

* this is the Sabbath
* you’re carrying that mat
* that’s defined as work
* you are not supposed to do work on the Sabbath
* that issue was more important than the fact that the man had just been healed

Why do you suppose Jesus choose to heal this man on the Sabbath?

* this was the day Jesus encountered the disabled man,
* no good reason to wait a day and say, “Come and see me tomorrow.”
* Jesus could also be raising the issue with the religious leaders
* the definition of “work” by the scribes and pharisees had become ridiculous
* they were missing the point of God’s command to keep the Sabbath holy, special, different, unique from other days

Why do some people care more about keeping certain "religious" rules than they do about developing a meaningful relationship with Jesus?

* they have legalistic mindset
* they hope to please God by doing or not doing certain things
* they think God is going to judge by weighing our good deeds against our sins …
* their religion is a religion of deeds, not a relationship
* Satan has them fooled/confused about God’s love and forgiveness

3.3 Jesus Is Pleased to Give Life

Listen for unity within the Trinity.

John 5:19-21 (NIV) Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. 20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, to your amazement he will show him even greater things than these. 21 For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it.

To whom did Jesus point as the source of His power to act?

* the Son can do nothing by Himself
* Jesus did nothing by Himself (as a human)
* He does what He sees the Father do
* His power comes from the God the Father

What can we learn from the fact that the Son gives life to “whom He wishes” or “to whom He is pleased to give it”?

* Jesus is pleased to give new life, spiritual life, eternal life to all who believe
* Consider 2 Peter 3:9 (NIV) *The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*
* We see agreement among the members of the Trinity – both the Father and the Son desire to give spiritual life to all people

What did Jesus say that suggests what the Father does through the Son is not limited? What was at least one greater work that the Son would do?

* you will be amazed
* even greater things than this healing God will do
* God the Father has/will raise people from the dead
* God the Son gives life to whom He is pleased to do so
* be raised from the dead

How can *we* join God and participate in His work?

* be convinced/convicted of God’s power, authority, and love for us
* listen to, heed God’s direction
* become involved in ongoing outreach of the church
* involvement in various church ministries – music, multi-media, greeting, prayer ministry, outreach, teaching, children’s ministries, office help

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Application

Watch.

* Jesus was watching what His Father was doing.
* Ask God to open your eyes to people and needs around you this week.
* You may be surprised at what you see and hear.

Think.

* Think about some of the “God stories” you have heard in recent weeks.
* Where has God been working? Who has God been using?
* Write down any insights about what these stories and testimonies tell you of how God works. Praise God for the work He is doing around you.

Tell.

* The greatest “God story” of my life is the moment Jesus saved me from my sin.
* If you are a believer, you have a similar testimony.
* While each story is unique, they all have Jesus at the center, saving a sinner at their root.
* Share your testimony this week. 15 second testimony <https://youtu.be/hkprflNySS8>

Cryptogram Puzzle



You need to pass this message along to Spiros the Spy. I received it from one of our operatives here in Jeki Maukutome. I hear that your decoding staff is on Spring Break at Disney World, so we’re depending on you. An example of the code is given for “HELLO WORLD” See how the shapes match the patterns in the table on the right? Do your best, please. When you finish the decoding, pass the message along to the chairman of your prayer committee.
Help and other Family Activities are available at <https://tinyurl.com/3r2wwy82>