



## STORY

Jesus Heals the Man at Bethesda - John 5:1-47

## TEACHER PRAYER

Heavenly Father, give me faith to believe that Jesus is able to heal my diseases because He is the Son of God and my Savior. Also give me the faith to accept those infirmities which reveal Your strength in my life. May the Holy Spirit, working through me, make Jesus real to these children. Bless my preparation in Your Word and my presentation of that Word. Amen.

## VOCABULARY

*Sabbath Day* - the 7<sup>th</sup> day (Saturday) on which Old Testament Israel was to do no work

*infirmities* - weaknesses, often used in connection with physical diseases

*Scriptures* - God's written Word

## OUTER AIM

Jesus Heals the Man and Reveals Himself as the Son of God

## INNER AIM

Jesus Heals Me and Reveals Himself to Me Through the Holy Scriptures

## BACKGROUND

John emphasizes the fact that Jesus revealed Himself as the Messiah and the Son of God. He takes us from Galilee back to Jerusalem. Here Jesus set forth His claim to the Jewish leaders that He was the promised Messiah through His miraculous healing of the man who had not walked for the past thirty-eight years.

## STUDENT PRAYER

Dear Jesus, You are able to help us when no one else can. You have revealed Yourself as Lord over sickness and disease. According to your will, help us when we are sick. You have revealed Yourself through the Bible. Help us learn more about You as we search the Scriptures for there we will find You. Amen.

## PRESENTATION

Jesus found Himself at Bethesda. Here was a pool enclosed by five porches near the sheep market and close to the "Sheep Gate." The pool was for healing. An angel moved the waters and the first person to enter the pool at that time would be healed. (Note that verse 4 in the King James is not in all the manuscripts.) Here Jesus found people in great need, i.e. the blind, the lame, the paralyzed.

Our attention is drawn to a man who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. He had no friend to help him get into the waters, and yet he hoped for a cure. Jesus turned the man's attention away from the pool and centered it upon Himself (vs.7). Jesus cured the man, and he walked.

This healing took place on the Sabbath Day, the day of rest. It was not a violation of the Sabbath rest but a bringing of rest to this poor man. The Jews became angry at him because he was carrying his rolled-up mat on the Sabbath Day. This was to them a violation of the letter of the Sabbath law.

At this time, the man had no idea WHO had healed him. Jesus who had given him physical healing also gave him spiritual and inward healing. Jesus reminded him of a worse punishment than his physical sickness, i.e. eternal condemnation.

Jesus revealed Himself to the Jewish leaders as the Messiah and the Son of God (vs. 18). Their opposition to Jesus continued to grow as He revealed Himself to them as their Savior, the Son of God who alone gives life.

Note how Jesus tied Himself to the Old Testament scriptures. (vs. 36ff). If they would believe the Scriptures, they would believe in Jesus. However, the religious leaders believed neither Jesus nor the Scriptures.

## **APPLICATION**

Jesus healed this man by His divine power. Disease is a result of sin. Even those people Jesus healed eventually died. The final healing from disease will not take place until we are with Jesus in heaven.

Jesus heals us. However, He does not heal all diseases nor does He always do so with a miracle. Even sickness has a purpose in strengthening our faith and bringing us closer to Jesus.

The religious leaders rejected Jesus and even wanted to kill Him, not only because He healed on the Sabbath Day, but because He claimed to be the Son of God (John 5:18). People today also react strongly to Jesus' claim to be the Son of God.

Jesus is revealed in the Scriptures. The Old Testament testifies concerning Him. Jesus encourages us to search the Scriptures. We are not to casually read the Bible just on Sundays. We are to dig into the Bible daily and mine its depths. If you do not find Jesus in the Bible, you have missed the main message of the Scriptures. If someone does not believe the words of God in the Bible, he or she will not believe Jesus.

## **PASSAGES**

**These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.**

John 5:39 - "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

2 Tim 3:15-16 - "And that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

## **HYMN CHOICES**

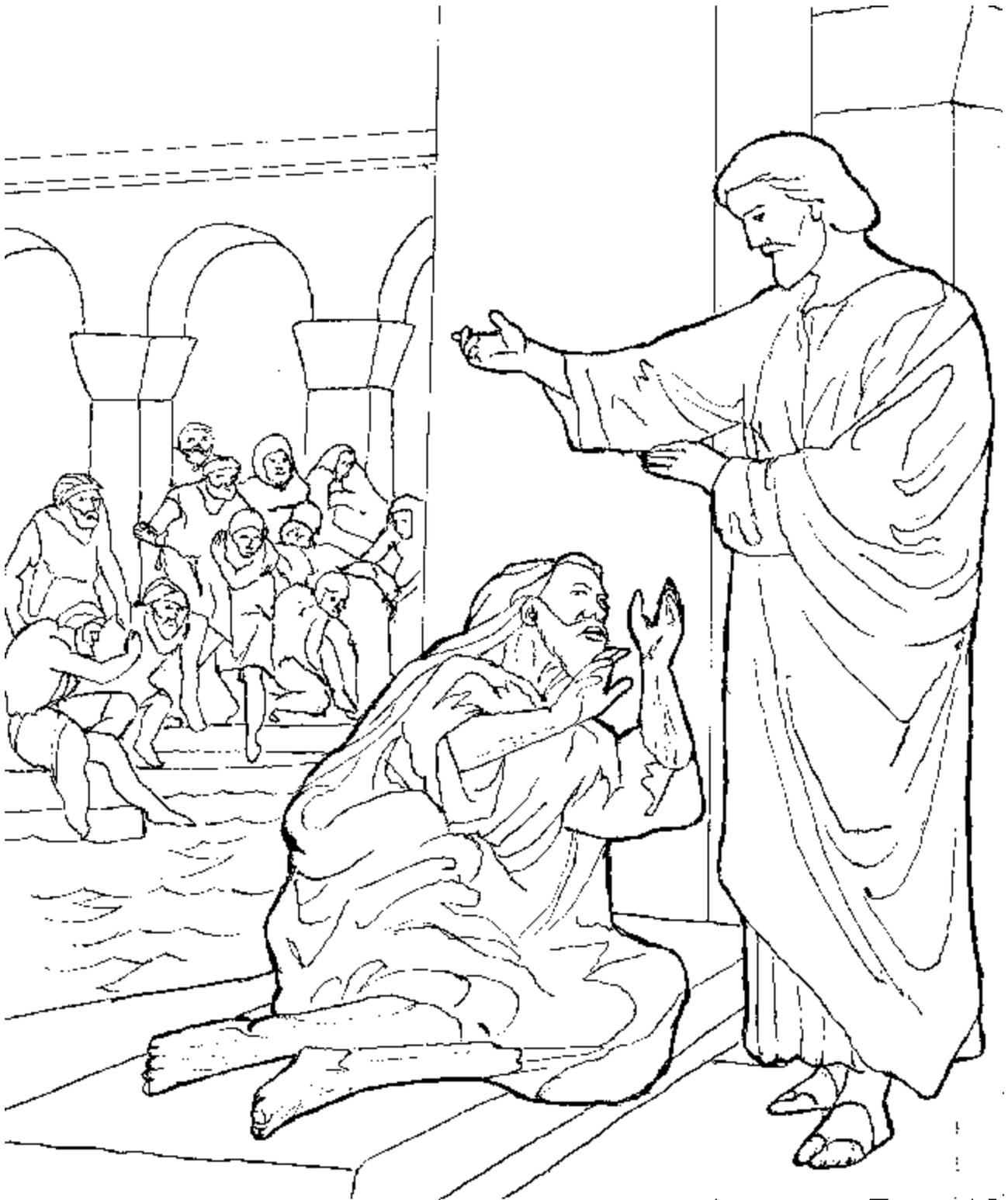
God's Word Is Our Great Heritage - TLH #283

We Have a Sure Prophetic Word - TLH #290

What a Friend We Have in Jesus - TLH #457

# Pool of Bethesda

John 5



## The Story

There was a feast of the Jews and Jesus went up to Jerusalem for it.

In Jerusalem, there was a pool called Bethesda, which means House of Mercy. It had five porches around it. In these porches lay many sick people. They were blind, lame, paralyzed or very sick. These people came to Bethesda because, at a certain time, an angel went down into the pool and stirred up the water. Whoever first stepped into the water after the angel stirred it, was cured of their illness.

One of the sick people at the pool was a man who had been sick for 38 years. When Jesus saw him lying there Jesus knew that the man had been sick a long time.

Jesus said to the man, "Do you want to be made well?"

The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up. While I am trying to get there, another steps down ahead of me."

Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk."

Immediately, the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked! That day was the Sabbath.

Some of the Jews said to the man who was cured, "It is the Sabbath. It is against the law for you to carry your bed."

The man answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.'"

Then the Jews asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk'?"

But the man did not know who had

healed him.

Afterward, Jesus found the man in the temple and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you."

The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

The Jews were angry with Jesus and accused Him of breaking the Sabbath law and of calling God His Father. The Jews wanted to kill Jesus.

Jesus answered them and said, "He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him."

Jesus also told them that whoever hears God's Word and believes, receives everlasting life. He told them He was doing His Father's will. Jesus knew that these Jews did not believe anything he said. He was sad because, even though they had the things Moses had written, they didn't believe Moses' words nor the word of the Son of God.

***Jesus took away the man's sickness and revealed Himself as the Son of God.***

***Jesus takes away my sins and reveals Himself through the Holy Scriptures.***

**Activity One** - Review the lesson by discussing the following questions. The answers are in italics below.

1. What was wrong with the man at the pool of Bethesda?
2. Why is there sickness in the world?
3. Who healed the man?
4. Why did the enemies want to kill Jesus?
5. Where do we find out that Jesus is the Son of God?

Answers:

1. *He was sick.*
2. *There is sickness because of sin.*
3. *Jesus healed the man*
4. *The enemies wanted to kill Jesus because He healed on the Sabbath and He called Himself the Son of God.*
5. *We find out about Jesus in God's Word, the Bible.*

**Activity Two** - Trace each child's path to find out where they hear about Jesus.



## Passage

John 5:39 - You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

## Hymn - TLH #290 v. 1

We have a sure prophetic Word  
By inspiration of the Lord;  
And tho' assailed on ev'ry hand,  
Jehovah's Word shall ever stand.

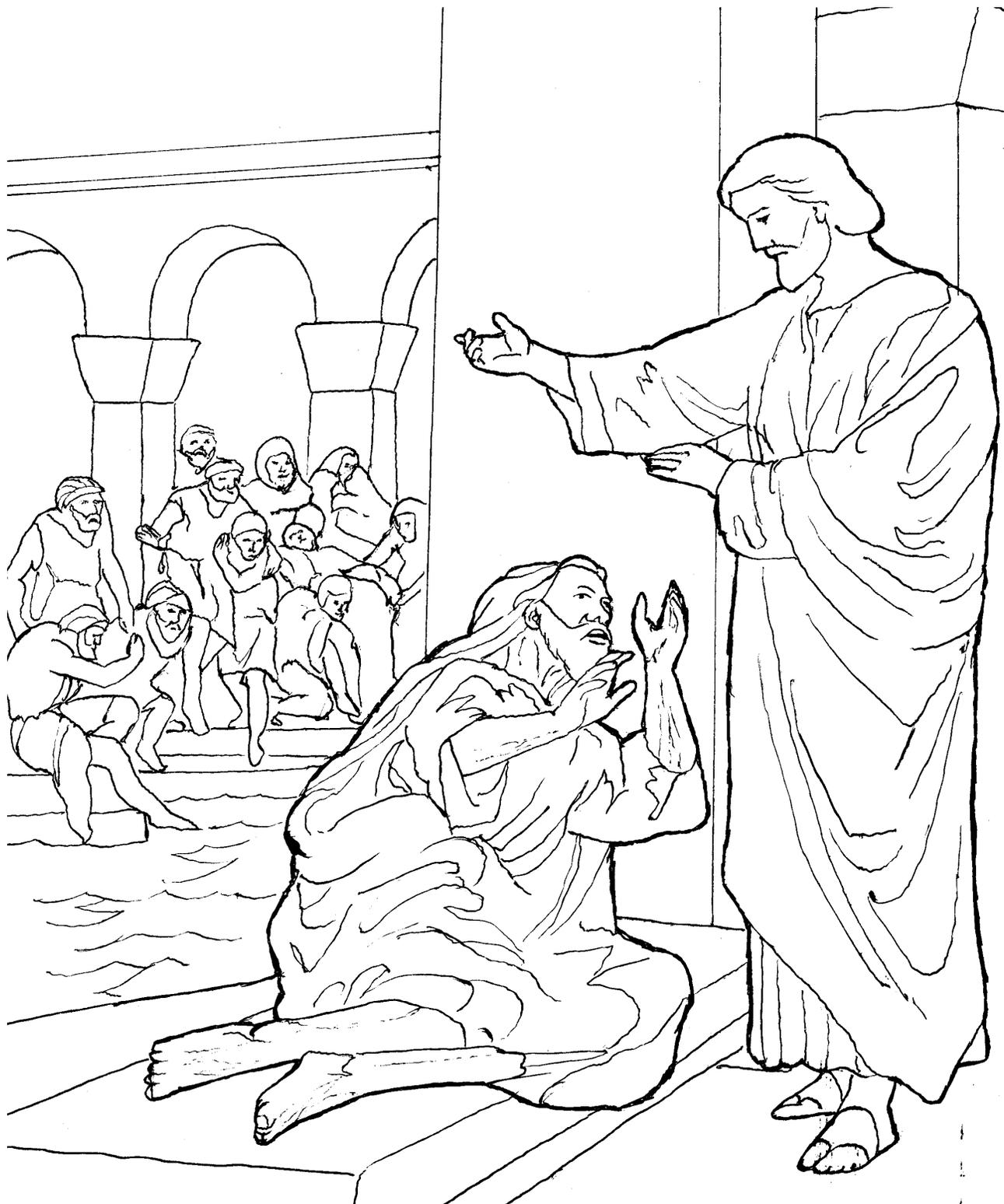
## Prayer

Dear Son of God,

You have saved us from our terrible sickness of sin. Please help us to study the Scriptures and be strengthened in the knowledge of Your work of salvation. Lead us to praise You in thanksgiving, now and in eternity. In Your Name. Amen.

# Jesus Heals the Man at Bethesda

John 5



## The Story

There was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

In Jerusalem there was a pool called Bethesda. It had five porches around it. In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water. Then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had.

Now a certain man was there who had a sickness for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there Jesus knew that the man had been sick a long time.

He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?"

The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up. While I am coming, another steps down before me."

Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk."

Immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. That day was the Sabbath.

Some of the Jews said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath. It is against the law for you to carry your bed."

He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.'"

Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk'?"

But the man did not know who had healed him.

Afterward Jesus found the man in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you."

The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

The Jews were angry with Jesus and accused Him of breaking the Sabbath law and calling God His Father. They wanted to kill Jesus.

Jesus answered the Jews and said, "He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him."

Jesus also told them that whoever hears God's Word and believes will receive everlasting life. Jesus told the Jews He was doing His Father's will. He knew that these Jews did not believe any of this and though they had the writings of Moses, they would not believe Moses' words or Jesus' words.

*Jesus took away the man's sickness and revealed Himself as the Son of God.*

*Jesus takes away my sins and reveals Himself through the Holy Scriptures.*

## Activity One - Review the lesson by matching the questions with the answers.

1. \_\_\_\_ What was wrong with the man at the pool of Bethesda?
  2. \_\_\_\_ Why is there sickness?
  3. \_\_\_\_ Who healed the man?
  4. \_\_\_\_ Why did the enemies want to kill Jesus?
  5. \_\_\_\_ Where do we find out that Jesus is the Son of God?
- A. The enemies wanted to kill Jesus because he healed on the Sabbath and He called Himself the Son of God.
  - B. We find about Jesus in God's Word, the Bible.
  - C. Jesus healed the man
  - D. He was sick.
  - E. There is sickness because of sin.

## Activity Two - Trace each child's path to find out where they hear about Jesus.



## Passages

John 5:39 - You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

2 Timothy 3:15-16 - And that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

## Hymn - TLH #290 v. 1, 4

We have a sure prophetic Word  
By inspiration of the Lord;  
And tho' assailed on ev'ry hand,  
Jehovah's Word shall ever stand.

Abiding, steadfast, firm, and sure  
The teachings of the Word endure.  
Blest he who trusts this steadfast Word;  
His anchor holds in Christ, the Lord.

## Prayer

Dear Son of God,

You have saved us from our terrible sickness of sin. Please help us to study the Scriptures and be strengthened in the knowledge of Your work of salvation. Lead us to praise You in thanksgiving, now and in eternity. In Your Name. Amen.

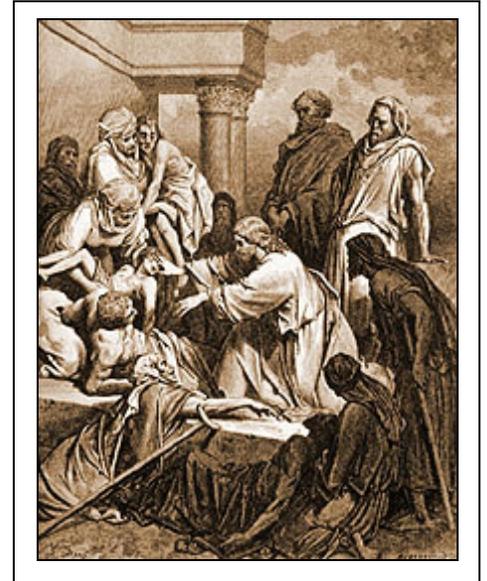
# Jesus Heals the Man at Bethesda

John 5

What is Jesus doing in this picture?  
Why do you think that He is doing this?

## Prayer

Dear Jesus, You are able to help us when no one else can. You have revealed Yourself as Lord over sickness and disease. According to Your will, help us when we are sick. You have revealed Yourself through the Bible. Help us learn more about You as we search the Scriptures for there we will find You. Amen.



## The Story - John 5:1-15 text, 16-47 summarized

After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. {2} Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. {3} In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. {4} For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had.

{5} Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. {6} When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?"

{7} The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me."

{8} Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." {9} And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath.

{10} The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed."

{11} He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.'"

{12} Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk'?" {13} But the one who was



healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place.

{14} Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you." {15} The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

When they heard this they began to persecute Jesus and planned to kill Him because they thought that by healing the man on the Sabbath He had intentionally broken the Sabbath laws.

Jesus responded by saying, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working." This only made the Jews even more angry because now they thought that He was speaking blasphemy; He was making Himself equal to God.

Jesus continued by saying that the way to achieve eternal life is by going through God's Son. If someone rejects God's Son as the way to

achieve salvation, then they are turning their back on the only chance they have to be free of sin.

Jesus then pointed out some of the ways that people should be able to recognize that He is the Messiah. First of all, John the Baptist went before Him preaching about Jesus' coming.

Secondly, Jesus said that there are many prophecies in the Old Testament that point to Him. The miracles that Jesus performed pointed to the fact that He is the Son of God. Finally, Jesus said to the Jews that if they really believed what Moses had said, they would believe in Him because even Moses wrote about Him

Jesus is able to take care of not only man's physical weaknesses, but also his spiritual disease. Because of man's faith in Jesus, his sins are forgiven. Jesus explained this very thing to the Jews when they came to Him they rejected Jesus as their only way of salvation from sin.

### What God's Word Tells Us - Fill in the blank using the words in the box.

believe	disease	heaven	miracle	sickness
casually	eventually	Jesus	react	sin
claimed	faith	kill	Scripture	testifies
dig	healed	leaders	search	

Jesus h\_\_\_\_\_ the sick man by His divine power. Disease is a result of s\_\_\_\_\_. Even those people Jesus healed e\_\_\_\_\_ died. The final healing from d\_\_\_\_\_ will not take place until we are with Jesus in h\_\_\_\_\_.

J\_\_\_\_\_ heals us too. However He does not heal all diseases nor does He always do so with a m\_\_\_\_\_ like He did at the pool. Even a s\_\_\_\_\_ has a purpose in strengthening our f\_\_\_\_\_ and bringing us

closer to Jesus.

The Jewish I\_\_\_\_\_ rejected Jesus and even wanted to k\_\_\_\_\_  
 Him, not because He healed on the Sabbath Day, but because Jesus c\_\_\_\_\_  
 to be the Son of God. (John 5:18) People today also r\_\_\_\_\_ strongly to Jesus'  
 claim to be the Son of God.

Jesus is revealed in the S\_\_\_\_\_. The Old Testament t\_\_\_\_\_  
 concerning Him. Jesus encourages us to s\_\_\_\_\_ the Scriptures. We are not  
 to c\_\_\_\_\_ read the Bible just on Sundays. We are to d\_\_\_\_\_ into the Bible  
 daily. If someone does not b\_\_\_\_\_ the words of God in the Bible, he will not  
 believe Jesus.

**What the Story Tells Us** - Fill in the  
 Crossword Puzzle using the words in the  
 box.

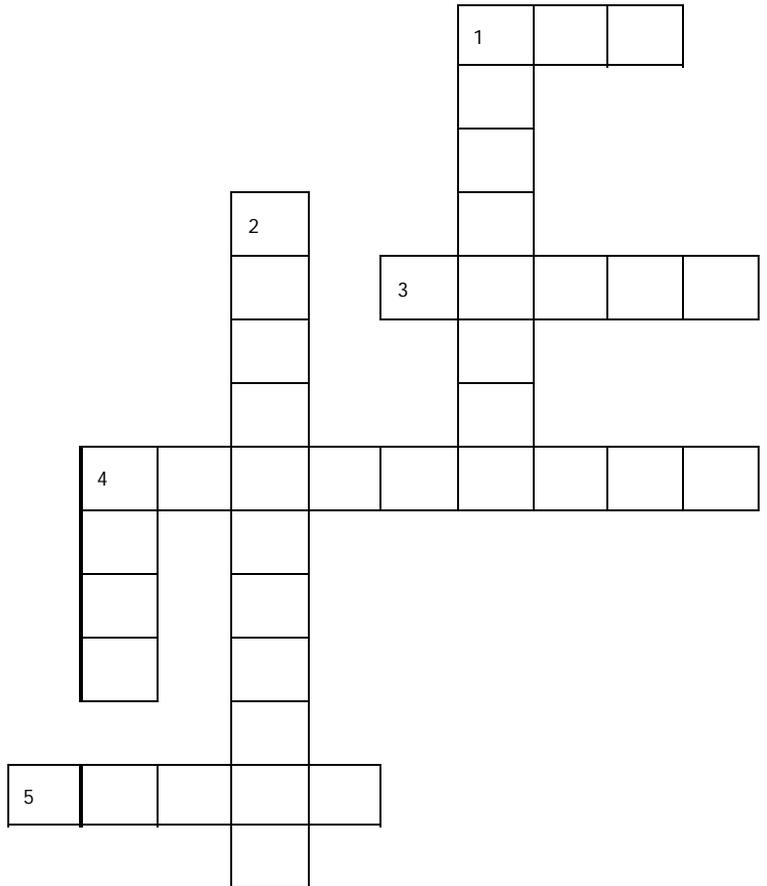
Jesus	Jerusalem
Sabbath	angel
Bethesda	Jews
infirmities	bed

**Across**

1. Jesus told the man to pick up his \_\_\_\_.
3. \_\_\_\_ healed the man.
4. This took place in \_\_\_\_\_.
5. An \_\_\_\_ stirred up the water.

**Down**

1. The name of the pool.
2. The man was healed of his \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The \_\_\_\_ scolded the man for carrying his bed.



**Outer Aim - Jesus took away the man's sickness and revealed Himself as the Son of God.**

## Passages

2 Timothy 3:15-16 - And that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

John 5:39 - You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

**Inner Aim - Jesus takes away my sins and reveals Himself through the Holy Scriptures.**

**Hymn** - TLH #290 v. 1, 3, 4

We have a sure prophetic Word  
By inspiration of the Lord;  
And tho' assailed on ev'ry hand,  
Jehovah's Word shall ever stand.

Lo, what the Word in times of old  
Of future days and deeds foretold  
Is all fulfilled while ages roll,  
As traced on the prophetic scroll.

Abiding, steadfast, firm, and sure  
The teachings of the Word endure.  
Blest he who trusts this steadfast Word;  
His anchor holds in Christ, the Lord.

## Prayer

Dear Lord,  
Thank You for allowing us to gather together in order to study Your Word. Thank You for this reminder that You will always take away our infirmities, whether by healing us or by taking us to be with You in heaven where there will be no more sickness or death. Let not our will but Yours be done. Amen.

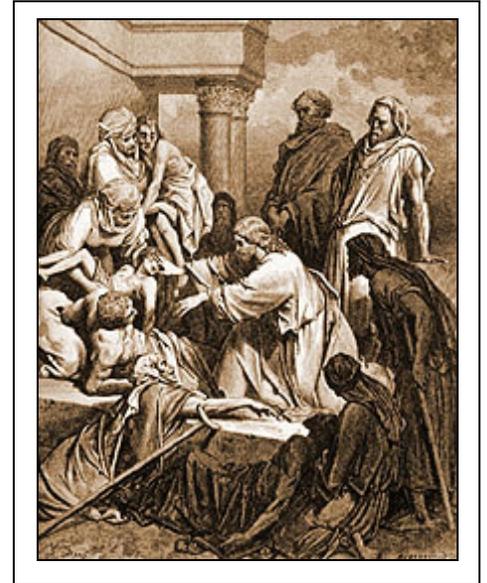
# Jesus Heals the Man at Bethesda

John 5

What is Jesus doing in this picture?  
Why do you think that He is doing this?

## Prayer

Dear Jesus, You are able to help us when no one else can. You have revealed Yourself as Lord over sickness and disease. According to Your will, help us when we are sick. You have revealed Yourself through the Bible. Help us learn more about You as we search the Scriptures for there we will find You. Amen.



## The Story - John 5:1-15 text, 16-47 summarized

After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. {2} Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. {3} In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. {4} For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had.

{5} Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. {6} When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?"

{7} The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I

have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me."

{8} Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." {9} And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath.

{10} The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed."

{11} He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.'"

{12} Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk'?" {13} But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place.



{14} Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you." {15} The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

When they heard this they began to persecute Jesus and planned to kill Him because they thought that by healing the man on the Sabbath He had intentionally broken the Sabbath laws.

Jesus responded by saying, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working." This only made the Jews even more angry because now they thought that He was speaking blasphemy; He was making Himself equal to God.

Jesus continued by saying that the way to achieve eternal life is by going through God's Son. If someone rejects God's Son as the way to achieve salvation then they are turning their back

on the only chance they have to be free of sin.

Jesus then pointed out some of the ways that people should be able to recognize that He is the Messiah. First of all John the Baptist went before Him preaching about Jesus' coming.

Secondly Jesus said that there are many prophecies in the Old Testament that point to Him. The miracles that Jesus performed pointed to the fact that He is the Son of God, and finally Jesus said to the Jews that if they really believed what Moses had said, they would believe in Him because even Moses wrote about Him

Jesus is able to take care of not only man's physical weaknesses but also his spiritual disease. Because of man's faith in Jesus his sins are forgiven. Jesus explained this very thing to the Jews when they came to Him. However, they rejected Jesus as their only way of salvation from sin.

**What God's Word Tells Us** - Fill in the blank using the words in the box.

believe	disease	heaven	miracle	sickness
casually	eventually	Jesus	react	sin
claimed	faith	kill	Scripture	testifies
dig	healed	leaders	search	

Jesus h\_\_\_\_\_ the sick man by His divine power. Disease is a result of s\_\_\_\_\_. Even those people Jesus healed e\_\_\_\_\_ died. The final healing from d\_\_\_\_\_ will not take place until we are with Jesus in h\_\_\_\_\_.

J\_\_\_\_\_ heals us too. However He does not heal all diseases nor does He always do so with a m\_\_\_\_\_ like He did at the pool. Even a s\_\_\_\_\_ has a purpose in strengthening our f\_\_\_\_\_ and bringing us closer to Jesus.

The Jewish l\_\_\_\_\_ rejected Jesus and even wanted to k\_\_\_\_\_ Him, not because He healed on the Sabbath Day, but because Jesus c\_\_\_\_\_ to be the Son of God. (John 5:18) People today also r\_\_\_\_\_ strongly to Jesus' claim to be the Son of God.

Jesus is revealed in the S\_\_\_\_\_. The Old Testament t\_\_\_\_\_ concerning Him. Jesus encourages us to s\_\_\_\_\_ the Scriptures. We are not to c\_\_\_\_\_ read the Bible just on Sundays. We are to d\_\_\_\_\_ into the Bible daily. If someone does not b\_\_\_\_\_ the words of God in the Bible, he will not believe Jesus.

**What the Story Tells Us** - Fill in the Crossword Puzzle using the words in the box.

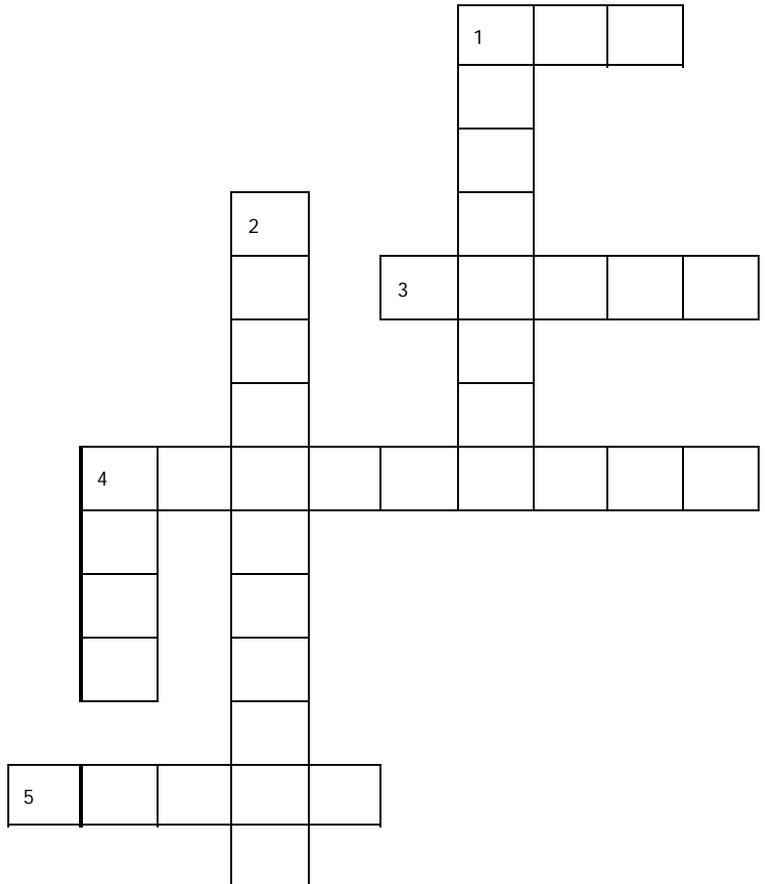
Jesus	Jerusalem
Sabbath	angel
Bethesda	Jews
infirmities	bed

**Across**

- Jesus told the man to pick up his \_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_ healed the man.
- This took place in \_\_\_\_\_.
- An \_\_\_\_ stirred up the water.

**Down**

- The name of the pool.
- The man was healed of his \_\_\_\_\_.
- The \_\_\_\_ scolded the man for carrying his bed.



## **Outer Aim - Jesus took away the man's sickness and revealed Himself as the Son of God.**

### **Passages**

2 Timothy 3:15-16 - And that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

John 5:39 - You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

## **Inner Aim - Jesus takes away my sins and reveals Himself through the Holy Scriptures.**

### **Hymn - TLH #290 v. 1, 3, 4**

We have a sure prophetic Word  
By inspiration of the Lord;  
And tho' assailed on ev'ry hand,  
Jehovah's Word shall ever stand.

Lo, what the Word in times of old  
Of future days and deeds foretold  
Is all fulfilled while ages roll,  
As traced on the prophetic scroll.

Abiding, steadfast, firm, and sure  
The teachings of the Word endure.  
Blest he who trusts this steadfast Word;  
His anchor holds in Christ, the Lord.

### **Prayer**

Dear Lord,

Thank You for allowing us to gather together in order to study Your Word. Thank You for this reminder that You will always take away our infirmities, whether by healing us or by taking us to be with You in heaven where there will be no more sickness or death. Let not our will but Your's be done. Amen.