

Connection Group Questions

For the week of January 19, 2025

This Week's Message: "Do You Want To Get Well?"

Passages: John 5:1-16

The following questions for discussion are designed to help move the Sunday morning teaching to a deeper place in the lives of those who hear it.

Getting-To-Know-Me Question

1. According to various studies, the average American spends roughly "five years" of their life waiting. The exact amount of time varies depending on the person's lifestyle and location. What situation or place do you despise the most when you're in a position where you have to wait?

Into-The-Bible Questions

2. **As a group, read John 5:1-16. Jesus displays His eternal deity with His third miracle.**
 - Are there any aspects from Sunday's message or these verses that stand out to you?
3. **In verses 1-3, John describes the setting at the pool, highlighting the collective suffering and desperation of those seeking physical healing.**
 - As a follower of Jesus, if you were standing at the pool witnessing this large crowd of ignored and rejected people lying with debilitating conditions, hopelessly believing in a mystical myth ... what would you be feeling or what would be going through your mind?
 - What might your attitude or coping strategy be if you were in this man's position for 38 years?
 - Where do you see the brokenness in this story, both physically and spiritually?
4. **In verse 7, the man hoped to be immediately healed by entering the waters after an angel stirred them. Nowhere in Scripture does it indicate nor teach that God set up pools in Jerusalem so that people could be healed this manner. Even John doesn't endorse such a belief.**
 - What then, are we to understand about the character of this man that when Jesus prods him, he is so immersed in vain hopes that all he thinks of is how he needs help in getting into the water?
 - Why do we sometimes find excuses to accept God's grace when it is offered, or we resist the truth that all gifts are entirely given by Him?
5. **In verses 5-9. Jesus interacts with the paralyzed man and makes him well.**
 - How is Jesus' words, "*Do you want to get well?*" both an inquiry and an invitation?
 - What are some aspects of this healing that clearly demonstrate Jesus is Lord?
 - In what ways are Jesus' words "*Get up, pick up your mat and walk*" a call to action for us?
6. **In verse 14, Jesus commands the man, "*Do not sin anymore so that something worse doesn't happen to you.*"**
 - What does Jesus mean since it is impossible for man not to sin?
 - What is the meaning of "*worse*" that He is referring to here?
 - How might the command of "*Deny yourself and take up the cross daily and follow Me,*" be a key element in sinning no more? Read Luke 9:23 and Romans 8:13.

7. **Physical healing was neither the central point nor the purpose of Jesus coming to this earth, but rather to provide redemption and eternal life for sinners.**
 - What would be some reasons then, that Jesus chose to heal? 1 John 4:14.
 - In what ways does the gospel give us something far greater than physical healing? Read Mark 1:41; Matthew 14:14; John 17:4.
8. **Sickness, misery, and burdens are the result of man's fall into sin, but God is always good and is very much in control. Read Psalm 25:8; Romans 8:28; Ephesians 1:11-12.**
 - As believers, how should we apply this knowledge in our lives until one day, we stand in His presence in eternity?
 - How would you respond to someone who comments that they believe a person has a disease or sickness because they've sinned or didn't abide by the Christian "rules"?

Application For This Week

How do Jesus' words, *"Do you want to get well?"* resonate in your heart? Do you recognize that humanity's fall brought every kind of misery and destruction to us and our world, and apart from Christ giving us a new heart and a new life in Him, we are still bent towards sin? This week, take a moment to examine your heart and ask yourself, *"Do I derive the confidence and rest that comes from the character of God and who He says He is, or only from an expectation of what He can do for me?"* We cannot have confidence in God till we renounce all confidence in ourselves and others. Remember, as sinners, we have a merciful Savior who sympathizes with our weaknesses and has provided a way for us to go boldly to the throne of grace. Because of the sacrificial work of Christ, we have this promise to enter His holy rest that remains for all eternity.

How Your Group Can Pray This Week

It is only Jesus who can make us well, and wellness goes far beyond any physical healing. He offers a holy rest that comes from knowing Him and His ways. This week, pray the promise found in Hebrews 4:9-11, *"Let us, then, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall into the same pattern of disobedience."* Pray we come to a place of complete and holy rest, knowing God is the finisher of all work, therefore ceasing our own efforts, our own will, trusting Him in faith.