



One Hope Community Church

Book of John Small Group Study

Chapter 5

How to effectively use this guide:

Always begin in prayer. Before opening your Bible, ask God to send His Holy Spirit to you and ask Him to reveal whatever wisdom and insights He wants you to learn.

Reflect on what you have read and take notes. The questions below are designed to help you examine the scriptures even more and provide discussion points for your meeting.

Please remember to go over the agreement below as a small group each time a new person joins your group:

- We gather to grow in relationship with each other and God.
- We trust the Holy Spirit is our guide and the one who transforms our hearts.
- Our small group is an inviting place to discuss the Bible, share life, ask questions, and seek truth while we challenge and learn from each other.
- We commit to keep confidential all personal information shared during discussion and prayer time.
- We respect each other's backgrounds, and avoid negative discussions about politics and denomination differences. We will choose love over judgment.
- We commit to completing the personal study to the best of our ability as preparation, questions, and insights are a gift to the group.
- We listen, not fix. Fixing is God's job. We own our stories. It is okay to ask for help, but if not asked for, our job is to listen, support and pray.
- We will be brief with our answers so that all members have time to share.

Your group won't get through all these questions. Select which ones you find to be the most thought provoking for your group.

Meeting Agenda

Gather / Socialize / Catch Up

Worship: Even If - MercyMe

https://youtu.be/B6fA35Ved-Y?si=Eyql_TBSFh70flZ4

Read Scripture / Answer Questions

Closing prayer

Week #5 Reading Plan (October 15- 21)

Day 1: John 5:1-9

Day 2: John 5:10-15

Day 3: John 5:16-23

Day 4: John 5:24-30

Day 5: John 5:31-47

Archaeology comes from the Greek *archae* (ancient) and *logos* (knowledge), the knowledge or study of the ancients. Christian archaeology is important as it validates what the Bible says about the past and helps us understand the customs of the people in the Bible. In 1956, a German archaeologist discovered the site of Bethesda just where John 5:2 says it is. The Aramaic word *Bethesad* means 'house of mercy' or "house of grace."

How does knowing that the ancient places in the Bible are being found today affect your faith? Jesus performed this miracle of healing at the "house of mercy / grace". What parallels do you see to where the miracle was performed and who He is?

John only mentions one person Jesus healed at the Pool of Bethesda. There were many people at the pool seeking healing, yet based on what we know, He only chose to heal one person. Why do you think Jesus chose to heal only one and not all?

Whenever Jesus healed, it was to show His authority as Messiah (focus on Him). For the Father's glory and for testimonies to the Father's glory. In the first 2,500 years of biblical history, the only healing recorded was in Numbers 12, when Moses asked God to heal Mariam.

Knowing Jesus heals for the Father's glory and purposes, how does this affect your faith when He chooses not to heal in the way we have asked? Have you considered He has heard your prayer and is determined to answer in another way for His glory?

The religious leaders overlooked the miracle and focused on the rules - rules people had added to God's command to honor the Sabbath. Ironically, a blessing meant to increase faith was not received by some who were focused on the wrong thing.

In James 1:17 it says everything good is from God. Today we sometimes focus on the wrong thing, just as the religious leaders did. How would your thinking change if you focused on the goodness God has poured into your life? How would changing your focus to His blessings affect your faith?

In John 5:8-9 we see Jesus physically heal a man. Then, in John 5:14 it says "Jesus found him at the temple" which may indicate Jesus was looking for him. At the temple Jesus addressed the spiritual healing that was needed when He said "stop sinning or something worse may happen." There is an unnamed sin that Jesus knows about. Which makes a greater difference in your life, physical healing or spiritual healing? Why? Jesus knew about the man's unnamed sin/s. Are there things you are trying to hide from God?

Reading John 5:19-27, there is a clear connection between God the Father and Jesus, yet each has His own role. What roles are listed as the Fathers' and which are listed as Jesus's?

Verse 25 says "a time is coming and is now here." Far and near prophecy. The time that is "here" is Jesus's life. Verses 28-29 elaborate more on the future, when the dead will hear Jesus's voice and be resurrected. We will either have future life with God or condemnation / separation from God for eternity.

Those who believe Jesus is God and in His death and resurrection for the forgiveness of their sin will have salvation (be saved from the consequences of sin / condemnation). Spiritual death is separation from God both in this life and in the time to come (verses 28-29).

In verse 48, Jesus says Moses is the accuser. Prior, in verse 30, Jesus says He is the Judge. Moses delivered God's law, which the religious leaders were focused on (we all fall short). Jesus delivers the judgment which includes grace and forgiveness as He paid the price for us and we need only believe in Him.

When has the law or rules kept you from living the full life of grace and forgiveness that Jesus calls you to live?