

Story Time - Read the story to the children
Lesson 188: THE POOL AT BETHESDA
JOHN 5:1-15

Later, Jesus went to Jerusalem for a special Jewish feast. In Jerusalem there is a pool with five covered porches. In Hebrew it is called Bethesda. This pool is near the Sheep Gate. Many sick people were lying on the porches beside the pool. Some of them were blind, some were crippled, and some were paralyzed. For an angel went down at a certain time each day into the pool and stirred the water, making it move. Then whoever stepped in first after the water started moving was healed of whatever disease he had.

One of the men lying there had been sick for 38 years. Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been sick for a very long time. So he asked him, "Do you want to be well?" The sick man answered, "Sir, there is no one to help me get into the water when it starts moving. I try to be the first one into the water. But when I try, someone else always goes in before I can." Then Jesus said, "Stand up! Pick up your mat and walk." Immediately the man was well. He picked up his mat and started walking. The day all this happened was a Sabbath day. So some Jews said to the man who had been healed, "Today is the Sabbath. It is against our law for you to carry your mat on the Sabbath day." But he answered, "The man who made me well told me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'"

They asked him, "Who is the man who told you to pick up your mat and walk?" But the man who had been healed did not know who it was. There were many people there, and Jesus had left. Later, Jesus found the man at the Temple and said to him, "See, you are well now. But stop sinning or something worse may happen to you!" Then the man left and went back to the Jews who questioned him. He told them that Jesus was the one who made him well.

188. THE POOL AT BETHESDA

JOHN 5:1-15



“Jesus said to him, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk.’ And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked...” JOHN 5:8-9

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MEMORY VERSE:

“Jesus said to him, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk.’ And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked...” **JOHN 5:8-9**

Review Questions

True or False

1. Later Herod went to Jerusalem for a special Jewish feast.
2. In Jerusalem there was a pool by the Sheep Gate that had five covered porches. In Hebrew it is called Bethesda.
3. Many people were lying far away in the desert.
4. Many people who were sick, blind and paralyzed were in the covered porches near the pool waiting for the water to move.
5. An angel came down to the water at a certain time each day and moved the water.

Questions

1. Where did Jesus go? What was there?
2. What kind of people were laying in the porches around the Bethesda pool?
3. Why were they waiting there? What happened each day?
4. What did the man who had been sick for 38 years tell Jesus when Jesus asked him if he would like to be healed?
5. What did Jesus say to the man? Did the man do it?
6. What did the other Jews tell the man when he picked up his bed and walked on the Sabbath?
7. Did Jesus see the man again? Where did He see him?
8. What did Jesus say to the man when He saw him in the temple?

Lesson 188 Activity

Ridiculous Rules

Write on the chalkboard a sensible rule like "Do not run in the classroom."

Tell your class that they can now help you come up with some ridiculous rules relating to the sensible rule like, "Tie your shoe laces together on Thursday," or "Walk hunched over on Wednesday," etc. Make a list on the chalkboard.

Explain to the class how the Pharisees added silly rules to God's law and then expected other to follow them.

The Jews were naturally interested in the name of the man who told the cripple to break their rules. The Pharisees were more concerned with their rules than with people being healed & helped. Interestingly, this man did not know who Jesus was. Jesus chose to heal the crippled man as an act of pure grace, to display the glory of God in him.

Jesus came to die on a cross to save us from eternal punishment in hell, by His grace. Jesus wants everyone to believe in Him, because He offers salvation to all. [Jesus brings healing and hope to a dying world.](#)

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer asking for healing and hope from sin. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so. Pray with those children as the others work on their scripture memorization worksheets.