

## Small Group Discussion Guide — March 8, 2020

- Series: “Life in His Name”
  - Sermon: Entering Life
  - Scripture: John 5: 1-10, 21, 24
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### **FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK:**

What were some times during this past week when you lived into your identity as a new creation, a child of God?

### **CONNECT:**

1. What do you remember most from this Sunday’s service?
2. What hobby or creative pursuit makes you feel most alive?

### **ENGAGE:**

1. Read John 5: 1-10.
  - Imagine you are the disabled man. What is your attitude about life? What emotions do you experience daily? What does hope look like to you?
  - What does Jesus ask the man? Isn’t the answer obvious? Why is this a necessary question?
  - What three commands does Jesus give this man as he heals him? Did the invalid man have a choice in the healing?
  - What can we glean about the leaders’ hearts in verse 10? What are they focusing on and what are they missing?
2. Read verses 21 & 24. What is the significance of the verb tenses? What does this mean for us, if we hear the word of truth and believe Jesus?

### **APPLY:**

1. The scriptures teach us that there is a kingdom in operation right now, invisible to our human eyes. This Kingdom of God heals, redeems, dignifies, restores, and glorifies God. What is one hard situation in your life in which this kingdom of heaven can operate to bring life? What are some practical steps you can take to invite God’s authority to rule in these circumstances?
2. How is our response (or others’ response) to the gospel similar to the invalid man’s response to Jesus’ question, “Do you want to get well?” What kinds of excuses do we make, and what false myths of salvation do we believe, if we’re really honest?
3. In areas of brokenness in your life, **do you want to get well?** What is your honest response? Given that “healing is hard work,” what things do you need to do to accept Christ’s healing in your life? What are your “Get up, pick up your mat, and walk” commands from Jesus to obey?
4. Because we are desperately hungry for life, we often look for it in lifeless places, and sometimes “any shiny thing will do.” Where have you looked for life, only to be disappointed or hurt or left empty? What would it look like for you to “exchange kings” and allow Jesus to bring his kingdom into your life? What things (relationships, habits, goals, etc.) would need to change in your life?

**PRAY:**

Father, thank you that you invite us into real life in Christ. Help us to recognize the lifelessness in the kingdom of this world and to invite you into every place in our life, *especially* the hard ones. We want to get well and we acknowledge that you are the great Healer. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**GOING DEEPER:**

Jesus is a perfect blend of grace and truth, yet we tend to contort him to fit our comfortable images or explanations. C.S. Lewis said that we try to take the Lion of Judah and turn him into a domesticated house cat. Do you tend to see Jesus as more stern and severe, or sweet and mild? How is your image of him lacking, based on the scriptures (John 1: 14)? How does your perspective of Christ need to change, and why does that change matter in your life?

**SUPPORTING VERSES:**

*Friendly reminder: Download one of the Bible apps on your phone or tablet to have quick access to the many different versions of scripture available.*

- Isaiah 53:6
- John 1: 14
- John 10: 10
- John 5: 39-40

**QUOTES:**

“There are more biographies of Jesus than of any other human - one hundred thousand biographies in English alone.”  
Leonard Sweet

“The hands of the king are healing hands, and thus shall the rightful king be known - so when you come under the healing of the royal hands, under the kingship of Jesus, everything in your life will begin to heal.”  
JRR Tolkien

“Jesus did three things in his own ministry; proclaim the availability of the kingdom of God to everyone, regardless of their standing in life; teach what it was like; and manifest its presence in events that could not be explained in a natural way.”  
Dallas Willard