



COMMUNITY Groups

May 14th/21st, 2017: DECIDING TO HEAL (Ryan Levis)

OPENING

- What did you think of this week's message? What stood out to you? What challenged you?
- In what areas of your life would you like to have greater peace? Why?

DISCUSS & APPLY

Read John 5:1-14

- Why does Jesus ask the man if he wants to be healed? Doesn't it seem obvious?
- How does the man's response reveal his heart? In what ways do we keep ourselves stuck in harmful habits or situations?
- Have you ever gotten to the point of losing hope? What caused you to get to that point?
- What do you think Jesus saw in the sick man that he himself didn't see? Do you think Jesus sees you differently than you see yourself? In what ways?
 - Do you think Jesus sees the people around you differently than you see them? How might your perspective towards others need to change to be more like Jesus'?
- Why were the Jews so concerned about this man carrying his mat? What are some ways we let "religion" keep us from experiencing love and healing today? What are some ways that trying to be "holy" keeps Christians from loving others?
- What do you think it must have been like for the invalid to walk for the first time? What do you think it must have been like to be able to carry his own mat for the first time?
 - In light of this, why do you think Jesus needed to warn him not to sin?

Read Isaiah 53:1-5

- What does this passage teach about Jesus? How was he different than the people around him?
- According to this passage, why did Jesus suffer and die? How can that give us confidence and build our faith?
- What is the greatest sacrifice that someone has ever given for you? How did that affect your relationship with them?

FINAL APPLICATION

God wants to heal your hurts and forgive your sin, no matter how deep the hurt or how great the sin. What long-term sin or hurt in your life does God want to free you of? In that place, how is he telling you "pick up your mat and walk"? What could be holding you back?



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PRAY

Let's take Ryan's advice. On an index card, everyone should write down a place in their life where they need God forgiveness and healing. On the other side, write down the name of someone you know who also needs God's forgiveness and healing. Once everyone is done, ask God to change heal the people on both sides of each index card. Ask God for the strength to stand and walk where we haven't before. And ask God to give each person the compassion and faith needed to reach out to the person they wrote down and offer them the love and forgiveness of Christ.