



COMMUNITY Groups

June 4th, 2017: MAKING CHANGES

OPENING

- Last week we talked about receiving forgiveness, but we moved forward this week. Why do you think being forgiven isn't the final step in the recovery process?

DISCUSS & APPLY

Read John 5:1-6

- These verses remind us that the Bible is about real events taking place in real places at real times. How does that make the Bible more credible and believable?
- There were "a multitude of people," but Jesus talked to just one of them. What do you think the author is trying to emphasize there? What does it say about Jesus?
- Sometimes the answer to the question "Do you want to get well" isn't an immediate yes. Sometimes getting well requires sacrifice and change. What are some examples of this? How have you experienced this in your life? Why do we resist making the tough decisions required to get well?
- How do sins, problems, or sicknesses become so much part of our identity that we have trouble letting them go?
- Are there any parts of your life that you don't think can change? Do you ever worry that God has given up hope on those parts of your life?

Read John 5:7-9

- Where was the man looking for help? How did that lead him to give up hope?
- What are some ways that we trust in people or things more than God to get us through the challenges that we face? How can this lead to disappointment when our lives don't change?
- This man focused on what he didn't have, and it almost made him miss what he *could* have. Are there any places in your life where you tend to focus on what you don't have, rather than what you do have? How does that affect your relationship with God? Read Philippians 4:8. How would it impact your life by focusing more on good and godly things?

Read Philippians 1:6

- What is the "good work" that God started in our lives? Who's responsible for completing it?
- Does this verse imply that God expects perfection today? In what ways does he expect progress over perfection?
- Where are you seeing growth and progress in your life now? Share a victory that you experienced this week?
- Reread the verse. How can this verse give you hope to face the failures of the past and the challenges to come?



COMMUNITY Groups

FINAL APPLICATION

Voluntarily submit to every change God wants to make in my life and humbly ask him to remove my character defects.

- How do you tend to react when God wants to make a change in your life?
- What happens when we don't voluntarily submit to the changes God wants to make in our lives? What happens when we do?
- 1 Corinthians 7:23 says "You were bought with a price." That means when God heals us, he owns us. Why do you think healing and submission go hand-in-hand? Are there any areas in your life that aren't healed because you haven't given up control? What is one thing you can do to voluntarily submit to a change God wants to make in your life?