

Flashback

I've Been Here Too Long

TALK IT OVER

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step.

Key Scriptures

² Now there is in Jerusalem by the sheep gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew Bethesda, having five porticoes. ³ In these lay a multitude of those who were sick, blind, lame, and withered, waiting for the moving of the waters; ⁴ for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool and stirred up the water; whoever then first, after the stirring up of the water, stepped in was made well from whatever disease with which he was afflicted. **John 5:1-4**

⁵ A man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he had already been a long time in that condition, He said to him, "Do you wish to get well?" ⁷ The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I am coming, another steps down before me." ⁸ Jesus said to him, "Get up, pick up your pallet and walk." ⁹ Immediately the man became well, and picked up his pallet and began to walk. **John 5:5-9**

Big idea: Nothing Great In The World Has Ever Been Accomplished Without Passion.

Start Talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Did anything from the message change the way you think about God? How?
- Do you know people who do not want to be healed or make difficult changes in their life? What would you tell them about the benefit of being healed and making changes?
- What did Jesus ask the man? Was this a silly question? What was Jesus' purpose in asking this specific question?

Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- How did the man answer Jesus' question? Do you think the man really wanted to be healed?
- If the man did want to be healed, how would his healing affect his life? What kind of changes would he have to make as a result of being healed?
- What three commands does Jesus give this man as he heals him? Did the invalid man have a choice in the healing?

Start Sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Where do people around you put their hope? What might cause their hope to fade away?
- Think about religious leaders, executives, or those having various roles in politics or media. Pick out two or three for the following exercise.

List the varying degrees of hope people might put in these individuals (historic or current) at different points in their lives. Use the line below to measure people's changing hope through time.

Strong hope — Weakening hope — Slight hope — No hope (despair)

Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- I will demonstrate a spirit of gratitude and thankfulness for what God has done for me through Jesus Christ.
- Rather than playing with religion (legalistic law-keeping), I will demonstrate Christ-like compassion.
- I fully realize that I cannot do "life" on my own, I need Jesus.

Challenge. This week look for opportunities to celebrate the work of God as it shows up in your life (family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc.). Don't miss out on what God is doing.

Action. Pray that God would lead you to invite someone who needs to know the love of Jesus to be a part of our "Church Movement". Pray that you would be used by God to help someone answer the question, "Do you want to get well?"

Don't Let The Conversation Stop Here. Keep Talking It Over Online.

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