



GRACE

Series: Grace

Message: "Do You Want to Get Well?" (John 5:1-9)

Icebreaker: Share one place you'd love to visit and one place you'd never want to go. What makes those places appealing or unappealing to you?

Big Idea

Grace doesn't just impact our destiny (getting into heaven); it changes our identity (who we are today). Following Jesus is about experiencing transformation now, not just securing eternal life later.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message

1. The Pool of Bethesda Scene

- Imagine being at the pool for 38 years, hearing celebration nearby but experiencing no change. How would that feel?
- Where in your life have you felt close to breakthrough but stuck in your circumstances?

2. Blind, Lame, or Paralyzed?

The sermon described three spiritual conditions:

- **Blind:** Can't see what God is doing
- **Lame:** Can't move forward despite wanting to
- **Paralyzed:** Frozen by fear or indecision

Which of these resonates most with where you are right now? Why?

3. Jesus Saw One

- Out of a "great number" of people, Jesus focused on one person. What does this tell you about how God sees you personally?
- Have you ever felt overlooked or invisible? How does this story speak to that?



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Going Deeper

4. "Do You Want to Get Well?"

- Why would Jesus ask what seems like an obvious question?
- Is it possible to get comfortable in our dysfunction? Can you think of examples where people (or yourself) might not truly want change?

5. Common Excuses

The sermon mentioned three common excuses:

- "That's just the way I am"
- "I was born this way"
- "I can't change"
- Which excuse have you used (or been tempted to use)?
- How does the truth that we can be "born again" challenge these excuses?

6. Obedience as Response

- The man was healed before he moved, but Jesus still told him to "pick up your mat and walk." What's the difference between earning grace and responding to grace?
- How does understanding this difference change the way we approach obedience?

Personal Application

7. Your Mat

- What's your "mat"—the sin, struggle, doubt, or burden you've been carrying for too long?
- What would "picking it up and walking" look like practically for you this week?

8. Grace for Today

- How have you viewed grace primarily as "fire insurance" (avoiding hell) rather than as power for transformation today?
 - What area of your life needs the transforming power of grace right now?
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Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Name Your Mat

Write down the specific burden, sin, or struggle you've been carrying. Confess it to God and to one trusted person. Ask them to pray with you and check in on your progress.

Option 2: Celebrate Daily

Each morning this week, start your day by thanking God for one specific way His grace has changed your life. Write these down and share them with your group next time.

Option 3: Help Someone Get Well

Who in your life is stuck by the "pool"—close to hope but not experiencing breakthrough? Reach out to them this week with encouragement, prayer, or practical help.

Option 4: Break the Excuse Cycle

Identify one area where you've been making excuses ("That's just how I am," etc.). Commit to one specific action that demonstrates you're choosing change over comfort.

Prayer Focus

Pray for each other in these areas:

- For eyes to see what God is doing, even when circumstances are difficult
- For strength to move forward when we feel stuck or lame
- For courage to overcome fear and paralysis
- For faith to believe that change is possible through Christ
- For grace to pick up our mats and walk in newness of life

Looking Ahead

Next week concludes the Grace series. Come prepared to share how God has been working in your life through this study.