



JOHN CHAPTER 5 (FACILITATOR)

Discussion Starter

- What is one thing that you are looking forward to in the next few days? Next few months? Next few years?
- **Opening Prayer**
 - Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

Tell the Story

- **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ONE PERSON WHO STORIES (SUMMARIZES THE CHAPTER) BEFORE THE GROUP READS THE CHAPTER TOGETHER.**

Read the Story (John 5:1-47)

Read out loud as a group, 3-5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

Breaking it Down

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you must get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of, and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.

John 5:1-6

- If you were an invalid for 38 years and your condition had not changed or improved, what would some of your thoughts and feelings be?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
- Jesus asks this man a seemingly ridiculous and crazy question in verse 6. What is behind this question?
 - While this question on the surface seems crazy or illogical, Jesus is very sincere in the question. It is quite possible that the man would have been

content and/or satisfied in his condition. It is quite possible that the man had lost all hope of being healed. It is quite possible that the man was just waiting to die with very little to no purpose. So, in this question, Jesus isn't just asking him about a desire to be healed but inviting him to wellness, to a life of restoration.

- In what ways have you become comfortable and/or satisfied with things or situations in which God desires more for you?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

John 5:7-15

- Notice that Jesus calls the man to do something that he simply had not been able to do for 38 years and something that he couldn't do on his own. In light of this, consider the following questions.
 - What is God currently calling you to do that you believe you cannot do because you are relying on your own strength and power?
 - How are you responding to what God is currently calling you to do?
 - In what ways do you need to rise up and claim the power and promises that God has made to you?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.
- Why are the religious leaders so upset and what application does this have for you and me today?
 - The religious leaders are upset because they considered the man carrying his mat on the Sabbath as work and they were being extremely legalistic in their thinking and their actions. They totally and completely missed Jesus and the heart of Jesus' message because of their "do it yourself" attempts to live for God. As disciples of Jesus, we have to guard against this same type of legalism that elevates "right actions" above the power, ability, and love of God.

John 5:16-30

- How would you characterize Jesus' reliance and dependence on the Father in this section of Scripture? How would you characterize your own reliance and dependence on the Father? What is scary/encouraging/inspiring about relying and depending on the Father in every way?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

John 5:31-47

- Why does Jesus point to the testimonies of John the Baptist, His Father, and the Scriptures in supporting His claims of who He is?
 - Jesus wants the religious leaders to know that He is not just making empty claims about who He is, but He also is pointing out that the very things the claim to value and pay attention to are the very things that have pointed to Him. Jesus is pointing out very large disconnects between what the religious leaders are saying versus how they are living while also pointing out that they simply do not want to accept Him or what He is saying because they are focused on their own mission and agenda.
 - Reread John 5:39-40. How do you think these verses apply to you personally?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
- Reread John 5:41-44. What is Jesus saying about Himself regarding where and who He sought affirmation and praise? What is God saying to you in these verses regarding where and who you seek affirmation and praise?
 - These are opinion and perspective questions so please listen as the facilitator.

□ Closing & Prayer Requests

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
 - Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time

- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (John Chapter 6)



JOHN CHAPTER 5 (STUDENT)

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- Why are the religious leaders so upset and what application does this have for you and me today?

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