



# Believe

JOHN

MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

## Community Group Material:

*Bible Reading: John 5:1-16*

### Don't Settle for Less than the Best

#### Bible Reading: John 5:1-16

<sup>1</sup>After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup>Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. <sup>3</sup>In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. <sup>5</sup>One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. <sup>6</sup>When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be healed?” <sup>7</sup>The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me.” <sup>8</sup>Jesus said to him, “Get up, take up your bed, and walk.” <sup>9</sup>And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath. <sup>10</sup>So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed.” <sup>11</sup>But he answered them, “The man who healed me, that man said to me, ‘Take up your bed, and walk.’” <sup>12</sup>They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Take up your bed and walk?’” <sup>13</sup>Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. <sup>14</sup>Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.” <sup>15</sup>The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him. <sup>16</sup>And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath.

#### Sermon Summary:

The healing of the sick man at the pool is a demonstration of the generosity and grace that God has towards suffering humanity. Without the man requesting anything, Jesus asked him if he wanted to get well. The man is stuck in his preconceived idea of how he can be made well. Jesus directs the man to stand and take up his bed and walk without any inclination that the man has faith, which he proceeds to do. The troubling part of this story is the man's apparent lack of a positive response to the Lord's healing. There is no indication that he has a positive response of faith, nor even any hint of appreciation or thanks. God is so generous even to those who do not have an appropriate response. This man's response is in contrast to the Samaritans as well as the royal official in chapter 4. The healing here has not resulted in a faith response that Jesus is the Christ, the Savior of the world. This indicates that miracles do not always result in people coming to faith. We need a faith response to whatever the Lord does for us.

**Discussion:**

1. Notice where the pool is. What does this indicate about the sick who are around the pool in regards to their place in the religious life of Israel?
2. What do you think are the reasons for the man's response to Jesus when asked if he wants to be made well?
3. How can you see God's generosity in this story?
4. Why do you think the man went to the temple?
5. Read verse 14. What do you think Jesus is really telling the man? What is his sin?
6. What you think are the purpose of miracles?
7. What do you think we should take away from this narrative?

**End with Prayer:**

- Pray that we would have a proper response to the generous grace of God towards us.