



## DISCUSSION GUIDE

### **“DO YOU WANT TO BE HEALED?”**

SPEAKER: RUSSELL JOYCE

DATE: August 17, 2025

TEXT(S): John 5:1-18

**HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:** *This resource is designed to help you, or your group, step through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker’s message. Our goal is to help you better understand and apply B4’s teaching.*

### **MESSAGE SUMMARY + DISCUSSION PROMPTS**

In John’s Gospel, chapter five, the writer tells the story of a healing at the Pool of Bethesda, a special place known for its healing powers. Jesus goes there and encounters a man who was an invalid for almost 40 years. Jesus asks him a simple question, “Do you want to get well?” It seems an odd question, given the context: a sick man spending all his time in a place renowned for healing. However, the man’s response is not an immediate, “Yes!” Instead, he recites a litany of reasons why he hasn’t been healed. Jesus asks the right question because it reveals the man’s heart, his discouragement, twisted identity, and, perhaps, even lack of a genuine desire for healing. In this message, Pastor Russell plumbs the depths of this story to find fresh encouragement for us, those who also need healing. Along with Russell, we discover that Jesus is real and He still heals.

**LEAN IN:** *These are icebreakers and warm-ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. What’s the longest you’ve ever had to wait for something you really wanted, and how did that waiting affect you?
2. Have you ever had someone ask you a question that felt almost offensive at first, but later you realized it was exactly the right question?
3. When you were a kid and got sick or hurt, who did you trust to help you get better?
4. If you could instantly get rid of one small annoyance in your daily life, what would it be, and why?
5. Describe something from a recent B4 service where you sensed God was inviting you to be healed.

**LOOK DOWN:** *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) from the message. Spend about 15-20 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. Why do you think Jesus asked the man, “Do you want to get well?” when it seems obvious that he did?
2. The man gave reasons why he couldn’t be healed. What does that reveal about how he saw himself and his situation?
3. Jesus told the man to “Get up, pick up your mat, and walk.” Why might it have been important that he carries his mat instead of just walking away?

4. The man didn't even know it was Jesus who healed him (v.13). What does that say about Jesus' purpose in healing him?
5. What's significant about Jesus healing the man by his word rather than helping him into the pool?

**LOOK OUT:** *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. If someone asked the average person who is suffering, "Do you want to be well?," how might they respond in different areas of their life?
2. Healing in this passage isn't just physical, it's tied to identity and purpose. Where do you see people today searching for wholeness or a sense of self?
3. Jesus' words, "My Father is always working," suggest a sure hope that change for the better is possible. Where do you see signs of change or renewal happening in the world right now?
4. When life gets hard, what are the "pools" or places people tend to turn to for help, comfort, or escape?
5. The man at The Pool gave excuses about why he couldn't be healed. Where do you see people today getting stuck in "reasons why it can't happen"?

**LOOK IN:** *These questions help you consider how to engage the teaching for yourself. Spend about 15-20 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. If Jesus asked you today, "Do you want to be well?" what part of your life would come to mind first, and why?
2. How has pain, disappointment, or waiting shaped your identity over time?
3. Which of the three things Pastor Russell mentioned that can suppress healing, traditions, validation, or blame, do you most relate to, and why?
4. Where do you most need to hear Jesus say, "I am enough" right now?
5. How might your life look different if you believed your identity was what God says about you, not what's been done to you?

**LIVE IT OUT:** *These practical action steps help you apply this message to day-to-day life. Choose one prompt and talk it over for 5-10 minutes:*

1. This week, what is one practical step you can take — like "picking up your mat" — to move forward in trust and obedience?
2. Try a reflective "Pick Up Your Mat" exercise based on the teaching:  
Step 1 – Quiet yourself and pause (1–2 minutes)  
Close your eyes and picture Jesus asking: "Do you want to be well?"  
Step 2 – Personal Reflection (2–3 minutes) Quietly and thoughtfully consider:
  - What part of my life feels stuck, broken, or in need of healing?
  - What "mat" might Jesus be inviting me to pick up and leave behind?
  - What new step forward is He putting in front of me? Where is He sending me?Step 3 – Journal  
Record a word, phrase, short thought, or Scripture based on each question above — no pressure for long explanations/notes  
Step 4 – Closing Prayer  
Pray something modeled after this example:  
"Jesus, You see me. You know where I need healing, renewal, and freedom. Give me the courage to trust You and to take the next step You lead me into. Help me believe that my truest identity is found in You. Amen."