

*“Breakthrough!” in 2022*

# GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide  
SB 08.07.2022

DON'T MISS YOUR MIRACLE – JOHN 5:1-17

## Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

The man at the center of our story today had been suffering from a physical condition for such a long time that he had given up hope that things could ever change. Then one day Jesus walked up and radically changed his whole life. But what we're about to see is that it almost didn't happen because the guy kept getting in the way of the miracle Jesus wanted to give him. Sometimes we can be our own worst enemy. We can get in our own way. You might be standing in the way of the miracle that God wants to do in your or through you. Let's get into our study...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What impacted you from Pastor Daniels message this last weekend?
2. Share a time when you've prayed earnestly for something to happen and had to keep praying for a long time.
3. Did you give up praying after a while? Why or why not?

It's easy to become complacent in our spiritual life. Although we begin with good intentions, many of us quickly get used to things being the way they are. Our prayers become less frequent. But God doesn't want us to be complacent, and He doesn't want us to be reluctant to share the gospel with others. Because Jesus is the Lord, we should not be complacent. Instead, we should be moved to tell others about Him.

## Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

### HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 5:1-4

1. Try to imagine the area around this pool. What do you think it would have looked, sounded, and smelled like?
2. Why did people come to this pool, day in and day out?
3. Imagine you had a loved one who was ill. What would make you want to take him or her to a pool like this?

**One can only imagine the desperation of the people coming to the pool of Bethesda each day. These were people with, as John told us, a multitude of infirmities. They were sick or blind or lame or paralyzed. They'd nearly given up all hope—but they believed an angel stirred the water of the pool each day at a certain time, and when it did, those who got into the pool first would be healed. Whether this was actually happening or not, we don't know. But it does tell us the state of mind of many people there.**

### HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 5:5-9

1. What does verse five tell us about this man?
2. Imagine you were at this pool and Jesus asked if you wanted to be made well. How would you respond?
3. Reread his response to Jesus' question. What does it tell us about his attitude?

This man had been ill for 38 years. We don't know what exactly was wrong with him or how long he'd been coming to this pool. But he seemed to have all but given up hope that he'd ever be healed. He knew he couldn't get into the pool on his own, and there was no one there willing to help him. He seemed resigned to his chronic illness, even when offered assistance by the Son of God Himself.

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1. Read Ephesians 2:8-9. How is his situation like our own need for a Savior?
2. Why do you think it’s hard for people to accept Christ’s free gift of grace?
3. What do you think was going through the man’s mind as he picked up his mat and walked away?

Just as it’s easy for us to become complacent and assume that our situations are never going to change, it’s also easy for us to be content with a response to the thing we think we wanted. The man at the pool wanted to be healed and Jesus did so. But physical healing wasn’t all Jesus wanted for this man. Jesus wanted to repair his heart.

### **HAVE ANOTHER VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 5:10-17**

1. Why did John specifically mention that this event happened on the Sabbath?
2. What were God’s people to do on this day?
3. Why do you think the man who was healed didn’t know who told him to pick up his mat and go home?

The Sabbath was intended as a day of rest—it was a gift for man, made by God. On this day, God’s people were to do no work, but there were no restrictions in the Law about caring for the sick or helping others. The Pharisees had added their own traditions to God’s Law, declaring even the tiniest violation a flagrant disregard for the Lord.

4. Read verse 17 and Matthew 12:1-8. How was Jesus’ view of the Sabbath different than the Pharisees?

Jesus told the Jews that He was doing what His Father was doing—His Father was working on the Sabbath, and so was He. He was (and is) the Lord of the Sabbath. Whatever He did on the Sabbath was right, even when it violated the traditions of man.

5. Why would Jesus exercising His lordship anger the Jewish leaders?

### **Applying God’s Word**

**What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.**

**This seems like a funny question to ask a crippled guy who has been camped out next to a healing pool for 38 years. It would seem obvious. According to John, the reason many people stay in terrible situations is because they love their sin. As terrible as things are, sometimes we get stuck in our own brokenness. We may hate it, but it’s what we know. The bottom line is, you’ll never change what you are willing to tolerate. As long as you are willing to put up with it, the problem won’t go away. Not everyone who is trapped really wants to be set free. Some people are perfectly content to stay stuck right where they are even though their lives are being ruined.**

1. Are you reluctant to tell people about Jesus?
2. What fears do you have about sharing Christ with others?
3. How can this lesson practically encourage us as we share the gospel with those around us?

Close in prayer, thanking God for the signs Jesus performed during His ministry. Praise Jesus for bringing healing, for rescuing and redeeming us so that we may sin no more. Pray that you and your group members would joyfully, as redeemed people, go and tell the lost the good news about Jesus.

***“This is the verdict; light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.” {John 3:19}***