

FACE TO FACE

DIVINE ENCOUNTERS

The Lame Man's Story

Focus In our area of weakness, Jesus asks us, "Do you want to be made well?"

Open What will you do to celebrate Easter this year?

Read In John 5:1–16, we read the story of the lame man's encounter with Jesus at the pool of Bethesda. Jesus asks the man, "Do you want to be made well?" The lame man does not say "Yes," to Jesus. Jesus asks us the same question about our weaknesses. Like the lame man, we sometimes don't say "yes" to God.

We make excuses for our weakness instead of allowing God to heal us. The lame man said there was no one to help him into the pool, which was the same as saying, "It's not my fault. It is someone else's fault." We use the same excuse, but this is a lie of the Enemy. No one can hinder God's plans for us but us. No weakness that we have is beyond what God's power can redeem and overcome.

We also get comfortable in our weakness and don't want to put any effort into our healing. The lame man had been sick for 38 years. Jesus told him to get up and walk. He also calls us to action when we seek healing. We will have to change our thinking and our actions. We might need to put effort into our healing by attending classes, joining a group or asking people to pray for us.

Sometimes we miss God's healing because it looks different than our previous experience. The lame man was expecting an angel to come stir the water, so he didn't recognize that Jesus was God. Jesus asked him to do

something that was different than his previous religious experience. Jesus also asks us to step out of our comfort zone to receive healing.

Talk

1. What stood out to you from the story of the lame man?
2. In addition to “It’s not my fault. It is someone else’s fault,” what other excuses do we make for our weaknesses? Why do you think we make these excuses?
3. Tell the group about a time when you asked God to help you, and He called you to action. This could be for relational, financial, physical or emotional healing.
4. Before becoming a follower of Jesus Christ, what was your prior religious experience? Did this experience hinder you from believing in Jesus? Did it cause you to put God in a box and expect Him to relate to you in a certain way?
5. Jesus didn’t heal the lame man by placing him in the water. He simply spoke to him. What are some ways that God speaks to us to bring us healing? Brainstorm as a group as many ways as you can think of and have someone in the group write them down. Be sure to include simple, practical ways that He speaks.

Live

Spend some time alone in prayer. Ask God what He wants to heal in your life right now. Confess any excuses you are making for your weaknesses. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what He wants you to do to pursue healing. Obey whatever He asks you to do.

Pray

Thank You, Lord, that You want to heal Your people. We praise You because You can heal anyone from anything—nothing is beyond Your power or love. Holy Spirit, show us any place where we are holding onto sin and don’t want to be made well. Please help us to hear Your voice and to respond when You come to heal our weaknesses.