



# John

## Jesus Healed a Man Who was Lame

**Lesson Objective:** Jesus responds to our faith when we believe He can heal us.

**Arrival;** *Do you want to?*

Supplies: index cards, pencils

Distribute index cards and pencils. Instruct everyone to write something they would like to do one day. Collect the cards. Ask a question beginning with, “Do you want to ... ?” Then finish the question with one of the prompts listed on a card. (Example: “Do you want to climb a mountain?”)

Anyone who would answer the question with “yes,” should stand. You may also guess who wrote the activity on the card. Continue asking questions through all of the prompts.

**Connect To activity to the lesson:** Why might Jesus ask someone, “Do you want to get well?” That seems like a no brainer. Jesus asked a man who couldn’t walk this exact question. But do you think Jesus asked this question for a reason? Let’s study the lesson and see if we can find out why He asked.

**WORSHIP** - Choose 2-3 songs to worship together as a family.

### **Introduction:**

Located in the city of Jerusalem, the pool of Bethesda was a place many believed to possess healing powers. People who were sick or disabled went to the pool in hope of being made whole. They believed an angel would stir up the waters, and the first person to get in would be healed. Jesus sought out a man at the pool of Bethesda who had been disabled for 38 years. Jesus asked the man, “Do you want to get well?” Let’s see what happens.

### **VIDEO: “Jesus Healed a Man Who was Lame” – (Video Transcript)**

Jesus went to Jerusalem and stood by the pool of Bethesda (buh THEZ duh). Many people were at the pool who were blind, lame, or paralyzed. Jesus noticed a man who could not walk. He had been lying there for a long time. Jesus asked him, “Do you want to get well?” The man answered, “Sir, I have no one to put me in the pool when the water is stirred up. Someone else always gets in before me.” The man thought if he could get into the water, he would be healed. Jesus told him, “Get up, pick up your mat, and walk.” Right away, the man was miraculously healed. He picked up his mat and started to walk.

This happened on the Sabbath, so the Jews told the man who was healed, “It is against the law to pick up your mat on the Sabbath.” The man replied, “The man who healed me told me to pick up my mat and walk.” “Who was the man?” the Jews asked. But the man who was healed did not know who had healed him. By this time, Jesus had slipped away into the crowd.

Later, Jesus found the healed man in the temple. Jesus said to him, “See, you are healed. Do not sin anymore, so that something worse doesn’t happen to you.” Then the man went to the Jews and told them that Jesus had healed him. So the Jews began persecuting Jesus because He was healing people on the Sabbath. Jesus told the Jews, “My Father is still working, and I am working too.” Now the Jews wanted even more to kill Jesus because He wasn’t just breaking their rules about the Sabbath, He was saying that God is His Father—making Himself equal to God. Jesus is God’s Son, and He always did what God said was right.

*Christ Connection: The man at the pool was unable to help himself. Jesus healed him and he obeyed Jesus' commands. In a similar way, we are unable to free ourselves from sin. Jesus calls us to trust in Him. When we trust in Jesus, He frees us from the power of sin and death so we can follow Him and obey Him.*

**Read - John 5**

**Debrief:**

**Why did the man spend every day by the pool?** *(People who were sick or disabled went to the pool of Bethesda in hopes of being made whole. The man explained to Jesus that he was never able to get to the pool before other people got in.)*

**Why did Jesus heal the man who was lame?** *(The man did not ask for healing. He had been disabled a long time and seemed hopeless. The man did not even recognize Jesus, but Jesus showed compassion to the man and healed him— instantaneously and completely. The man experienced Jesus' power. Help kids realize that Jesus does not always heal people; sometimes His plan for someone involves sickness. But we can trust that Jesus is always working for His glory and our good.)*

**What do Jesus' healing miracles teach us about God's kingdom?** *(Isaiah the prophet said the Messiah would make the blind see, the deaf hear, the lame walk, and the mute sing. God's kingdom is one of restoration and healing. He shows His grace through healing today. We look forward to the day when Jesus returns and makes all things new.)*

**Apply the Story:**

Filled with compassion, Jesus commanded the lame man: "Get up, pick up your mat, and walk." After decades of helplessness, the man was instantly healed. He picked up his mat and walked. At this time, Jesus slipped away through the crowd. So when the Jewish leaders approached the man, asking questions about the healing and accusing the man of breaking the law by picking up his mat on the Sabbath, the man could not even identify who healed him. Yet Jesus sought out the man a second time. Jesus found the man in the temple and warned him, "Do not sin anymore, so that something worse doesn't happen to you."

Jesus cared about the man's body; He had healed it. But Jesus cared more about the man's soul. The man at the pool was unable to help himself. Jesus healed him, and he obeyed Jesus' commands. In a similar way, we are unable to free ourselves from sin. Jesus calls us to trust in Him. When we trust in Jesus, He frees us from the power of sin and death so we can follow Him and obey Him.

**Momentum Moment:** *Paper Chatterbox*

Supplies: paper, markers, scissors

Find instructions online for folding a paper chatterbox. Decorate the outside flaps with colors, the inner flaps with numbers, and the base sections with actions (such as "hum a popular song"). Choose partners to play with the chatterboxes. The partner will choose one of the colors. The creator will open the chatterbox in each direction, one time for each letter in the name of the color. Then the partner will choose one of the visible numbers, and the creator will open the chatterbox in each direction based on the chosen number. Then the partner will choose a flap to open. The partner should complete the action written beneath the flap. Continue.

*Ask: What action did Jesus command of the man who could not walk? What action might Jesus be asking you to take today in order to follow Him? Pray over the kids that they will hear God's voice and obey Him.*

**Close with a prayer:** Let each person take a moment to say a one sentence prayer.