

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

For week of November 15, 2020

MY STORY

What comes to mind when you hear the word “cult”? Why do you think people join them?

QUICK REVIEW: Looking back at this week’s teaching, was there a particular point, verse or comment that caught your attention, challenged you, or raised a question?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. People believed the waters of the Pool of Bethesda had healing powers. Was this *faith* or *superstition* on their part? What’s the difference between those?
2. With so many sick people at the pool, why didn’t Jesus heal them all? Why just the one man in particular?
3. What was the purpose of Jesus’ question, “Do you want to be healed?”
4. What does the man’s response to Jesus reveal about him and his circumstances? How can we relate to him?

5. What did Jesus require of the man in order to heal him and what does it say about how He acts in our lives?

6. Why did the Jews react to the miracle like they did? What does their reaction say about them?

7. The Jews were blind to what Jesus did and even tried to suppress it—why?

TAKING IT HOME

Jim told how as a young college student, he almost fell into a cult. What safeguards do we have to protect ourselves and others from false teaching?

PRAYER REQUEST

- _____
- _____

Tips on Group Prayer

Prayer is an important part of being in a Small Group. We've found that group prayer goes better when we follow three simple guidelines:

WE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME

Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request. Once a request is introduced, the group focuses on that request. Once it's covered, the group moves on to the next topic.

PRAY MORE THAN ONCE

Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during the prayer time for those topics they feel most led to pray about. No one is required to pray out loud.

WE KEEP OUR PRAYERS SHORT & SIMPLE

Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused, and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Workers of the Month Please pray for Matt & Jonna Conway, our workers in Central Asia.

Prayer Gathering Please join us for our time of gathering, safely, to cry out to our great God and Savior in Prayer. Sunday, November 22, 6-7 pm



The Gospel of John---That You May Believe

The Heart of Legalism

John 5:1-18 (ESV) Jim Vandermeer November 15, 2020

A Close Call with a Cult

Similar appearances....same songs....scriptural sermons...but something's wrong.

I Earthly Need

- A pool called Bethesda
- A multitude with problems
- An invalid in particular

II Divine Intervention

- A recipient of grace
- A human response
- A command from Jesus

III Obscured Truth

- Frustration Instead of Awe
- Anonymous Grace
- Physical Healing with a Spiritual Reality

The Reality of Legalism

- It ignores earthly needs
- It objects to divine intervention
- It obscures and destroys the truth