

JESUS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Adapted from *Jesus in the Spotlight* by Kay Arthur with Cyndy Shearer

KEY PASSAGE: John 5:1-17

FOCUS: The Plot Thickens: Jesus Heals Man at Bethesda

MEMORY VERSE: John 4:23-24 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

No introductory activity today

LESSON

(Note to teacher: Read/teach the lesson to the students; be sure to allow them enough time to look up verses and engage with the Scripture independently. Each student should have the printed Scripture and colored pencils. Write the key words/symbols on the whiteboard before class..)

I. Introduction

"Sometimes movies take place in the future. Sometimes they take place in the past. Have you ever wanted to travel to a different place in time? Well, you can... sort of. This week we're going to show you how you can travel back to Bible times by looking for clues and asking questions of the passage you're studying." (p. 47, *Jesus in the Spotlight*)

We're going to be detectives today, searching for every clue about WHEN and WHERE. So let's pull out our magnifying glasses and start looking!

Prayer

Whenever we study God's Word, we need to start with prayer. It is only through the Holy Spirit that we'll understand and believe this. Let's pray together. **Pray with students. Pray for their prayer requests too.**

II. Bible Passage

Today is the day we travel back in time. And our time machine is called *context*. When you study the Bible, it's very important to understand the context of a passage. Context is the setting in which something is told or found. For instance, where would you find a bed in your house? *Allow students to answer* What about a refrigerator? *Allow students to answer*. A bedroom is the context for a bed. And a kitchen is context for a refrigerator. When you look at context in the Bible, you look at the verses surrounding the passage you're studying. You think about where the passage fits in the big picture of the whole Bible. Context also includes:

- The place where something happens (Jesus was born in Bethlehem, not New York)
- The time an event occurs (the sun rises in the morning, not in the evening)
- The customs of a group of people (girls wouldn't have been allowed to wear jeans in Bible times)
- The time in history an event occurred (Noah and the ark came before Jonah and the big fish)

Sometimes you can discover all of these things from just the verse you're studying. Sometimes you have to study more passages of Scripture. But it's always important to be on the lookout for context because it helps you discover for yourself what the Bible is saying.

Let's look at the context of John 5:1-17. First mark the names of the places Jesus went. (Hint: A place doesn't always have to be a country or a city.) Location is very important. It tells you WHERE something happens or WHERE the characters are supposed to be." (p. 47-49, *Jesus in the Spotlight*)

John 5:1 *Jerusalem*

John 5:2 *by the Sheep Gate at the pool Bethesda*

John 5:14 *Temple*

"Now let's see WHEN these things happened. You can mark time, like days of the week or special festivals, on your [sheet] by drawing a green clock in the margin. You can also put a clock by words like "after", "afterward," "when," and "then". You should find at least three references to time." (p. 50, *Jesus in the Spotlight*)

John 5:1 *After this (healing the royal official's son), there was a feast of the Jews*

John 5:9 *Sabbath day*

John 5:14 *Afterward*

These markings will help you see WHEN and WHERE Jesus went and the order in which certain events happened. They will show you what happened on one day, then the next day, then the next. They help you see that Jesus was a real person who lived at a certain time and in a certain place.

[Next week], we will learn about one of the customs in John 5 that was really important when Jesus was alive. Remember, this is another way to look at context." (p. 50, *Jesus in the Spotlight*)

Now let's read through the whole story today.

Read through John 5:1-18 with the students, then answer the following questions together. Encourage the students to ask their own WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY, and HOW questions.

III. 5 W's and an H

Now that we've finished reading our passage, let's ask our 5 W's and an H questions. What questions do you have after reading through this passage? *After answering the student's questions, if there's time, go through the provided questions.*

Most students will not have the ability to write in the answers during the time provided. Please reassure them that they can finish with their parents later.

John 5:1, 5, 10 WHO are the main people you read about in this passage? *Jesus, Invalid, Jews*

John 5: 2 WHERE was Jesus when He did this miracle? *At the Sheep Gate by the pool Bethesda*

John 5:5 HOW long had the man been sick? *38 years*

John 5:7 WHAT did the lame man tell Jesus when He asked, "Do you want to get well?" *I have no one to help me get into the water and someone else always beats me to it*

John 5:8-9 HOW did Jesus help the man? *He healed him*

John 5:14 WHAT did Jesus later tell the man? **Go and sin no more**

VI. MEMORY VERSE

This is the last week to work on the memory verses. If you can say it to Mrs. Courtney after church or next week, she'll have a small prize for you. Sing or work on the memory verses. **Review the verses with the kids and play the video if you wish.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-fAKXdhEZw>

VII. APPLICATION

Just like last week, Jesus is seeing what the true need of men is. The royal official thought that his greatest need was for his son to be healed from his deadly disease. But what he truly needed was to be born again--just like Nicodemus needed back in John 3. That's what Jesus did for him and his entire family! They all believed in Him.

This week, the man didn't even ask Jesus for help. He was discouraged that he had no friends to help him and no ability to get into the healing waters himself. Jesus saw his physical need, but more importantly, He saw the man's sinful heart and need to be born again. He healed the man's legs and then gave him a new heart, "Go and sin no more."

The gospel of John is full of people that think their greatest needs are here on earth--Samaritan Woman wanted love and acceptance, Nicodemus wanted answers, The Royal official was worried about his son--but Jesus saw the true need of each person--HIM!

What needs do you have? What is your greatest need or want? While all of those things are important, they are not the most important. Jesus told the man, "Go and sin no more so that nothing WORSE may happen to you." Even being an invalid for 38 years is better than going to hell to suffer punishment for our sins. Jesus has already taken the punishment for all of His children--Believe on Him!

STORYBOARD

"When a director plans a movie, he first creates what is known as a storyboard. A storyboard is a rough sketch of each of the main scenes in a movie." (p. 7, *Jesus in the Spotlight*) We've been working together to create a storyboard for the gospel. If you were to draw a picture that shows the main point of John 4:1-42, what would it be?

Ask students to draw a picture of the main theme/events.

JOHN 5

After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

2 Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. **3** In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. **5** One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. **6** When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a

long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be healed?” **7** The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me.” **8** Jesus said to him, “Get up, take up your bed, and walk.” **9** And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked.

Now that day was the Sabbath. **10** So the Jews^s said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed.” **11** But he answered them, “The man who healed me, that man said to me, ‘Take up your bed, and walk.’” **12** They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Take up your bed and walk’?” **13** Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. **14** Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.” **15** The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him. **16** And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. **17** But Jesus answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I am working.”



= WHEN



= WHERE

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John 5:5 HOW long had the man been sick?

John 5:7 WHAT did the lame man tell Jesus when He asked, “Do you want to get well?”

John 5:8-9 HOW did Jesus help the man?

John 5:14 WHAT did Jesus later tell the man?

