

# 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

### Leg-less Race

You will need the following:

- No supplies needed

1. Set a beginning and ending point for the race. Explain that the children will all need to cross the finish line without moving their legs.
2. Time how long it takes for the last child to cross the finish line.
3. Start a second race, but this time each child has a partner. Only one child is not allowed to move their legs, but the partner can help them move.
4. Time how long it takes for the last pair to cross the finish line this time.

SAY: Was it easier to cross the finish line when you had a friend to help you? I was timing how long each race took and the second race was \_\_\_\_ shorter! In today's story, we're going to meet a man who couldn't move his legs. He thought that his greatest need was a friend to help him move around. But he's going to meet Jesus who will show him what he really needs!

## LESSON

### I. Introduction

Jesus is moving around again! Two weeks ago, He was in Samaria and then last week, He healed a boy in Capernaum while Jesus was in Cana. Today, Jesus is going down to the city of Jerusalem to celebrate a feast. **Use map to help children understand the places where Jesus has been going.**

### II. 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.**

### III. Key Words

When I read the story to you from the Bible, I need your help in listening for our KEY WORDS. Our first KEY WORD is JESUS. Who can show me what the motion for JESUS is? Our other KEY WORD today is SICK. When we hear the word SICK, let's make the sickest faces we can and put our hand on our foreheads.

JESUS: Use middle finger to indicate nail holes on opposite hands

SICK: Hand on forehead

Let's read the story together right out of the Bible! (The version I've used here is the NLT)

Afterward Jesus returned to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish holy days. Inside the city, near the Sheep Gate, was the pool of Bethesda...Crowds of sick people—blind, lame, or paralyzed—lay on the porches. 5 One of the men lying there had been sick for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him and knew he had been [sick] for a long time, he asked him, “Would you like to get well?”

“I can’t, sir,” the sick man said, “for I have no one to put me into the pool when the water bubbles up. Someone else always gets there ahead of me.”

Jesus told him, “Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk!”

Instantly, the man was healed! He rolled up his sleeping mat and began walking! But this miracle happened on the Sabbath, so the Jewish leaders objected. They said to the man who was cured, “You can’t work on the Sabbath! The law doesn’t allow you to carry that sleeping mat!”

But he replied, “The man who healed me told me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’”

“Who said such a thing as that?” they demanded.

The man didn’t know, for Jesus had disappeared into the crowd. But afterward Jesus found him in the Temple and told him, “Now you are well; so stop sinning, or something even worse may happen to you.” Then the man went and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had healed him.

## 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 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

All through the gospel of John, we meet people who have different needs--they are sick, they are lonely, their family members are going to die. Each of these people think that these are their greatest needs. But Jesus sees inside of us. He sees that we have black, sinful hearts that only want to sin all of the time. Jesus knows that this is our true need.

That is why we see Him always changing people’s hearts. He changed the heart of the Samaritan woman when she was just thirsty. He changed the heart of the royal official when he was worried about his son dying. And here, Jesus sees that this paralyzed man’s true need wasn’t to be healed, but to believe in Him.

We all have things that we want or need that are important. But it’s the sin in our hearts that will kill us forever. Our biggest need is for Jesus to give us new hearts--hearts that believe His word, hearts that want to love and serve Jesus. Have you believed in Jesus?

