

Transition:

After healing in Galilee, Jesus travels to Jerusalem for a feast. Near the temple is the Pool of Bethesda, where the sick gather in hope of healing. Jesus' encounter with a paralyzed man leads to confrontation over His divine authority.

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) the best you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Jesus asked, "Do you want to be made well?"
2. Why did Jesus choose to heal on the Sabbath, knowing it would create conflict? (Mark 2:27, Matthew 12:1-14)
3. What is significant about Jesus' statement in verse 17?

Fundamental:

Authority over Life - Jesus has complete authority over the physical and spiritual realms. By healing the man and confronting the Jewish leaders, Jesus shows He is not just a prophet or teacher, He is God in the flesh. His divine power is not limited by time, space, or tradition. Whether it's sickness or health, death or life, nothing is beyond his reach. 1. What is your response to knowing that Jesus has authority over all? 2. What comfort can you find in the fact that Jesus shares authority with the Father? (Romans 8:38-39, Matthew 8:25-36, 28:18, Hebrews 1:1-3, Ephesians 1:17-23)

Homework/Challenge:

1. Reflect on an area in your life where you feel stuck. What would it look like to respond in faith?
2. Read John 6 in preparation for next week.

Discipleship Tip:

Jesus didn't wait for the man to ask. He took the initiative. Sometimes your disciple won't know what to ask for. Step in gently and ask the hard questions. Your willingness to see their need and speak to it may be the beginning of their healing.

Prayer:

Jesus, we long to honor You and love You by making You Lord of our life. Please confront me with any areas of my life where You do not have full authority. Please make well what is sick and paralyzed within me. Amen.