

Weekly Study Guide

The Week of February 3, 2013

Daily Readings

Monday	John 3:22-36	Tuesday	John 4:1-26	Wednesday	John 4:27-42
Thursday	John 4:43-54	Friday	John 5:1-15	Saturday	John 5:16-30

My notes on this week's readings...

Next Week in Worship

Next week's message: *Let God Be Glorified*

Next week's readings: John 9:1-52

We learned this week that Jesus reveals the goodness and truth of God to us. When our *Shine* series continues next week, we'll see another side of Jesus' identity in his healing of a man who was born blind.



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Group Discussion

Connect	<p>Spend a little time getting to know each other better. If you had a whole day to yourself, what would you like to do in that day?</p>
Learn	<p>Read John 5:1-15 to learn the story of Jesus' healing at the pool of Bethesda.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What seem to be the important parts of the story?• Does the story raise any questions for you that you'd like to try to answer? <p>This pool by the sheep gate is a strange place. It was outside the Jerusalem city gates and was therefore open to a wider mixture of religious practices. It was also located near a Roman fortress (the Antonia), where Roman soldiers were likely to have visited with their own religious ideas. Ancient Roman religions were easily mixed together. The various gods didn't care if you worshiped other gods, and people felt free to add a variety of gods and faiths together.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In this story we see the rather superstitious, hoped-for healing in the waters described next to the healing that Jesus performed. How are they alike or different?• What are the sources from which people get their religious ideas today? <p>After this healing, some Pharisees object to this man carrying his mat on the Sabbath day, which seems to be an exercise in missing the point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do you think religious people today are still prone to miss the point of what Jesus is doing?• Is there anything we can learn from this example that would help us avoid the same mistake?
Apply	<p>Even though this paralyzed man may have held some strange ideas about the magical powers of the waters in this pool, his description of his problem is still powerful. He tells Jesus, "I have no one to help me." With compassion, Jesus gives this man what he needs (healing) in a way he wouldn't have expected or understood (not bringing him to the pool).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who are the people in our world or in our lives who could say, "I have no one to help me"?• Talk with your group about ways you might respond to that need.
Pray	<p>If your answer to the "apply" question lead you to think of people who have no one to help them, include them now also in your prayers.</p>