



READ: In John 5:1-16 we read the story of a man who had been disabled for 38 years. Jesus found the man here, along with many others who had come to the pool with the hopes of being made well. The pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem was believed to possess healing powers for the first person to enter the pool after it was stirred. Because of his disability, the man we learn about this week had no chance of ever making it to the pool first on his own. But Jesus approached the man and asked if he wanted to get well. After explaining his situation, the Bible says Jesus was filled with compassion for the man and

commanded him to get up. He was instantly healed! Later, Jesus and the man had an exchange at the temple where Jesus warned him against sinning. Jesus cared about the man's body and healed it. He cared for his soul as well and encouraged obedience. Help your kids understand that the man was unable to help himself, physically and spiritually. When we trust in Jesus, He frees us from the power of sin and death so we can follow and obey Him.

DO

Activities for PRESCHOOLERS:

1. After the healing, religious leaders were mad that the man carried his mat away. They claimed he was breaking Sabbath law. Set out a sleeping bag or picnic blanket and talk through this week's story as a family. Explain that this "law" was actually put in place by people and Jesus would never command anyone to sin and break a law.
2. Spend some time talking through where to find the book of John in the Bible. Show your kids how the Bible is divided into Old and New testaments. Talk about the four gospels which contain stories of Jesus, including the healings we have been learning about. Help them find this week's story in John 5.

Activities for KIDS:

1. After the healing, Jesus instructed the man to pick up his mat and walk. Prior to his miraculous healing this would have been impossible for the man. Play a game full of impossible commands to help your kids understand what an amazing miracle this was. Imagine if they could: jump in the air and wait 10 seconds before letting their feet hit the ground, count to 15 million, rub their belly & pat their head & clap their hands all at once, balance on one foot for a whole day, or throw a rock 500 yards!
2. Work on Bible skills by having your kids locate their key verse - Isaiah 53:4-5. See how much they have memorized so far. We introduced the third and final part this week: "Yet he himself bore our sicknesses, the punishment for our peace was on him, and we are healed by his wounds."

PRAY: Thank you, Jesus, that you care for our physical *and* spiritual needs. We are amazed at your compassion for others. Please help us demonstrate that same kind of compassion to our friends, family, and anyone we meet. Thank you for loving us so much that we have the chance to say "yes" to you, obey your commands, and believe that you have the power to save us.