

Sermon Discussion Guide



Signs: Do You Want to Be Healed?

John 5:1-18


Adam Jones, March 3 & 4, 2018



March is *invite* month! Who are you inviting?

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read the sermon scripture(s) listed above. What stood out to you? What do you find interesting and/or important? What is challenging or causes you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 When was the last time someone asked you a ridiculous, strange, or odd question?
- 2 What was your one main/big takeaway from the sermon? How would you summarize the main theme of the sermon in one phrase or sentence?

HEALED? HELPLESSNESS

- 3 Adam said, "You don't have what it takes to become a Christian, and you don't have what it takes to stay a Christian. We have to come to the end of ourselves. Our sickness is our self-sufficiency." Why don't you have what it takes? Have you ever come to the end of yourself? How is self-sufficiency a hindrance to your spiritual growth?
- 4 Is the goal of the Christian life to sin less and less, or is it to see our sin more and more? Is the goal of sanctification greater independence from God or greater dependence on God? How are you spiritually like Barbie?

- 5 Discuss the following excerpt from the Westminster Confession of Faith:

The most wise, righteous, and gracious God doth oftentimes leave, for a season, his own children to manifold temptations, and the corruption of their own hearts, to chastise them for their former sins, or to discover unto them the hidden strength of corruption and deceitfulness of their hearts, that they may be humbled; and, to raise them to a more close and constant dependence for their support upon himself...

HEALED? DISRUPTIVE CURE

- 6 What makes Christianity, or becoming a Christian, disruptive? The Bible recounts many examples of people who didn't want to leave their former ways of doing life. How might God be calling you to let go of an old pattern in order to live more fully for Him?
- 7 In your own words, what is the difference between wanting relief from your circumstances versus wanting to be cured by God?

HEALED? FALSE HOPES

- 8 *Myth.* What myth did the paralyzed man believe? What is your version of the myth, "If only _____, then all would be well"? What actually happens to you the longer you try to hold onto that myth?
- 9 *Religion.* What was missing from the Pharisees' reaction to the healing of the paralyzed man? Do you believe that good things happen to good people? How is competitive comparison the way that religious people get their significance? How do you respond when really good things happen in other people's lives?
- 10 *The Sign.* William Cowper wrote, "There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Immanuel's veins. And sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains." March is invite month. Who can you invite to experience the healing of Jesus?

Step 3: Final Reflections

- ✝ How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?