



## THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

### Religion Blocking Access to Mercy

Session Number: 14 | Week: 3 | Day: 2

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#### Bible Passage

John 5:1-15

#### Introduction

In this session John 5: 1-15, we ask ourselves a question, “why would sick persons stay at the house of mercy, or grace or kindness (Bethesda) for 38 years and not connect to grace? After Christ helping the man in turning obstacles into steppingstones, he responded by worshipping the healer in the temple and finally went back to make the healer known to the religious leaders.

#### Session Objectives

By the end of this session the learner will have:

- Understood what prevents sick people from connecting to God’s grace, though within their reach by looking at the invalid man at Bethesda.
- Appreciated that healing may result to worshipping the healer or the healing
- Been warned that religion always stands in the way of the travelers’ healing and health

#### Session Outline

- Sick persons at the house of mercy but not connecting.
- Religion obstructing healing
- God’s grace and mercy
- Healed to proclaim

#### Connecting

- Study together in a group of two or more people.
- Begin with a prayer, asking God to bless your understanding.
- Read the passage at least twice using different Bible versions, then retell the story among your group members.
- Share the challenges and blessings from the previous day.

#### Comprehending

- What is God’s grace? What is God’s mercy? and what is God’s kindness?
- Read John 5: 1-15. List three possible reasons why the sick person could stay in the house of mercy, or grace or kindness

(Bethesda) for 38 years and not connect to God's grace? (See his perception to self, perception to others, to Jesus the healer, perception to sins, perception to his enemies etc.)

- How did the 38-year sick man encounter Jesus, experience Jesus and express Jesus to others?
- What did Jesus do to this man to heal him? What is the proof that the man was converted into a worshipper? What lessons do you learn about healing and Worshipping?

## Committing

- Engage with the Bible—read, study, memorize, meditate, pray, listen, and live it out.
- List three lessons you learnt as an agent of change that you would practice and teach others about
- Take time and worship Jesus with the attributes revealed about Christ now.
- Engage SPACEPETS model, to do something after the session. Look for:
  - **Sin** to confess
  - **Promise** to claim
  - **Attitude** to change
  - **Command** to keep
  - **Error** to change
  - **Prayer** to make
  - **Example** to copy
  - **Truth** to obey and
  - **Something** praiseworthy

## Communicating

- Identify one person and share the lessons you learnt in this session?
- Visit or call a new believer and Pray with them over the issues they are struggling with. Issue of attending the church.
- Form another group and repeat this study.