



International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

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John 5:1-9 Study Hints for Discussion

[*Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further*](#) are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The [*Class Preparation Guide*](#) includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class; then, they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible lesson. And/Or, consider giving each student the [*Verse-by-Verse Scripture Handout*](#), which includes the Bible verses to be studied before class and other questions.

1. Why was the pool near the Sheep Gate used by the blind, the lame, the paralyzed, and others? How was it used?

They used the pool for healing purposes. They believed they would be healed of their afflictions if they were the first to enter the pool when the angel stirred the water.

2. Why did Jesus speak to and heal one of the people at the pool?

The man had been ill for a long time, for thirty-eight years. Jesus probably had many other reasons.

3. What did Jesus ask the man? Why do you think Jesus asked His question?

“Do you want to be made well?” I think Jesus asked the man the question to help him through a process of self-examination, to help him think through what the real reason might be for him not getting well rather than blaming others for not helping him get to the pool in time.

4. What did Jesus say to the man and what did the man do?

Jesus said, “Stand up, take your mat and walk.” With the healing power of Jesus, the man did what Jesus told him to do.

5. What did the royal official in John 4 have before Jesus healed his son that the man at the pool did not have?

The man had some faith that Jesus could and would heal his son, that is why he traveled from Capernaum to Cana to find Jesus and ask Him for help. The man at the pool had no knowledge of who was talking to him and no faith in Jesus. Jesus worked a miracle without the man having faith in Him. Jesus does not depend on our faith to do anything He chooses to do.

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