2. When Jesus Speaks…He heals the sick

**Welcome** (10 mins)

What has been the best thing someone has ever said to you?

**Worship** (10min)

Watch this [‘Jesus is Amazing’](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E6iTVyp2o_A) video to help you worship. Gather yourselves and pray before watching, that we would be lifting these words in worship as we watch. Ask someone to pray at the end for the rest of the session.

**Word** (30 min)

**Way in:** Healing is a big subject! Be aware that there may be some in your group who have skewed ideas and difficult experiences with this. The aim of this session is to affirm that Jesus’ words bring healing, in the broadest and best way possible.

**Read:** John 5.1-13

**Q)** What are your first responses and instincts to this story? Shockers and blockers. (this should give a sense of any issues)

Try and imagine the scene at the pool and put yourself there.

**Q)** What kind of place would it have been?

**Q)** Why did Jesus seek out this place? This man?

Jesus specialises in speaking surprising words. V6 is a good example. Ask people to find and read out some other examples as below. Ask them to say the obvious thing first - what would they have said, what does Jesus say?

- John 4. 15-16 (Woman at the well)

* Luke 5.18-20 (Man though the roof)
* Matt. 20.29-31 (Blind men)
* Matt. 8.23-26 (Calming the storm)

It has been said that Jesus asks these surprising questions ‘not for information, but revelation.’

**Q)** Why does Jesus ask this man if he wants to be healed? What is revealed as a result?

This is about Jesus searching the man’s heart in the way he still searches ours. *‘Cure has its implications, particularly when the. Need is so long staining that a. Whole way of life has been built up around it. Jesus’ question needs to be faced by all who would be delivered. Are we ready for the implications, including possibly repenting of sin and expressing a new loyalty to Christ? (v14)’ (Bruce Milne)*

**Q)** What is the revealing question that Jesus would ask you? Are you ready to hear that voice?

 **Note:** you may wish to do this in pairs to make sharing easier, or leave it as a take home question if too revealing for your group.

 This may be a good point to stop and pray, but if you’ve raced through the material you can use the extra bit below.

**Re-read:** John 5. 9-15

**Q)** What is the focus for the pharisees in this healing event?

**Q)** What is Jesus’ focus? Why does he slip away unseen?

**Q)** What does ‘being well’ appear to mean to Jesus?

**Witness** (10 min)

Use this time to pray specifically for the sick - in mind, body and spirit.

Draw an outline of a person on a piece of paper. Ask people to write names on the person’s body where prayer is needed (i.e ‘mary’ on head for migraines). Pray together that Jesus would speak words of whole-life healing to these people.