

Small Group Material

Transforming Miracles 3 - The Real Deal John 5.1-15

Welcome (10 mins)

Can you think of a time when you felt 'set free' from something? What was it and how did you feel afterwards?

Worship (10 mins)

Amazing Grace (my chains have gone) - Chris Tomlin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jbe7OruLk8I>

Give thanks to God for setting us free

Word (30-40 mins). Read John 5.1-15 *This healing happened at a pool that evidently had a reputation for bringing healing to the first person to get in when it's waters were stirred.*

Discovery questions (move through these quickly!)

How do you think this man felt having been an invalid for 38 years?

Why do you think Jesus asks him, 'Do you want to get well?' v.6?

What did the man hope that Jesus might do?

What was the man really saying by his response to Jesus' question, v7?

What did Jesus mean by saying, 'Stop sinning - or something worse may happen to you!'

For discussion (It may be too much to look at all these questions!)

1. What similarities and what differences do you see between this healing and the healing of the official's son (John 4.46-54)?
2. If this is another 'sign' performed by Jesus, what is it pointing to? Is there any significance in Jesus choosing to do this healing at this pool? (*Leaders' note: 'This pool, a pagan shrine, points dimly to the healing that Jesus was bringing. Paganism looks to the world of creation and tries to harness forces within it for its own ends. The*

healing that Jesus offers is the reality that the created world was waiting for, the beginning of the new creation.' Tom Wright)

3. 'Get up!' The word Jesus uses is regularly used in the NT to describe resurrection! Does this bring any fresh understanding to you about Jesus' command - and therefore his claim? (*Leaders: Jesus is 'bringing a new life, a new creation' and 'not trying to put right something that's gone wrong within the old creation'. Tom Wright*)
4. Can you see any significance by Jesus choosing to heal the man on the Sabbath? (*Tom Wright again: 'It was time for the work of the new creation to go forward', not yet time for God to rest.*)

Application

This man had been paralysed for a very long time. In what ways does sin paralyse us? In what ways does Jesus set us free? Did the man want to be free? Do we want to be free from sin?

New life! New creation! Resurrection! Read 2 Corinthians 5.17. Spend a quiet moment asking God to show you what this means for you. Then, proclaim that verse together!

Witness (15 mins)

Try to watch this video from International Justice Movement. Spend some time praying for the work of IJM setting people free from exploitation. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wKXSKJrOxbl>

Pray for new Lifeskills and Kintsugi Hope* Courses starting soon.

There will be Kintsugi Courses for both youth and adults.

Pray for the right people to join, for Hannah and Joel setting them up and for them to be powerfully used by God to help people grow and begin to flourish.

Pray for people who you know are paralysed by something? Eg fear, guilt, debt.

* Meaning 'golden joinery' in Japanese, 'Kintsugi' is the Japanese technique for repairing pottery with seams of gold making them more beautiful. Just as we would go to the gym to look after our physical wellbeing, a Kintsugi Hope wellbeing group provides a safe and

supportive space where you can learn tools to look after your mental and emotional wellbeing.