



## small groups Discussion Guide



# Wholeness vs. Woundedness

John 5:1-8

### **Ice Breaker** (10 minutes)

#### **Discuss**

This Sunday was Mother's Day. What your fondest memory of your mother?

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### **Lesson Review** (30 minutes)

#### **Read John 5:1-8**

#### **Discuss**

- Were you surprised to learn that verse 4 is missing? Does that affect your view of the scriptures? How?
- The man in the story was dealing with a physical disability, but Craig listed several categories of wounds — physical, emotional, relational, etc. What category resonated most with you?

The man at the pool of Bethesda had been coming for 38 years. Craig suggested that in those years the pool that once seemed a place of hope and expectation had become a place of routine hopelessness. The man had probably settled into a life of resignation, of settling for second-best.

#### **Discuss**

- Where have you settled?

Craig suggested that the man at the pool might have also been approaching his healing with a formula in mind — something about doing, saying or being at the right place at the right time. But then he said, "I think it's important to note also that he wasn't healed because he was good or because he went searching and earnestly seeking after Jesus. It was Jesus who found him. And Jesus healed him because Jesus is good." Jesus heals because he is good, not because we are.

## **Discuss**

- How does that truth make you feel?
- Have you ever tried to corner God into doing something for you? Tell about it.

Craig said Jesus' response to the crippled man was threefold.

Jesus asks the impossible

When you get to the point that you are ready to be made whole - there is always something that God will ask you to do or to believe or to act on that seems impossible.

Jesus removes all possibility of relapse

Jesus is saying something very important to people who need to be healed: Do not make any provision to go back on what you have done.

Jesus told him to walk on his own:

If Jesus gives you the power to rise, Jesus is the One who can give you the power to walk everyday. To keep going. To step away from the familiar.

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## **Application**

**Discuss** (20 minutes)

- Does it feel like Jesus is asking the impossible of you right now? How?
- What can you do to encourage one another toward doing the impossible things Jesus is asking?