# Do You Want to Get Well?

Connect Group Guide - 10.14.26

### Opening Prayer

## Key Scripture

- **John 5:1-8**

## Message Recap

In this message, we explored one of the most penetrating questions Jesus ever asked: "Do you want to get well?" Using the story of the man disabled for 38 years at the Pool of Bethesda, we discovered that this question goes far deeper than the surface. Jesus was not asking a simple yes-or-no question about physical healing. He was asking whether the man was ready for the life that comes with being truly changed.

## Key Takeaways

- **Jesus's questions expose our hearts.** When Jesus asked the disabled man if he wanted to get well, He was not asking a dumb question. He was cutting straight to the heart of what the man truly wanted and what he was truly willing to accept.
- **Our condition can become our identity.** After 38 years, the man's disability had become more than a physical limitation. It had become his livelihood, his identity, and his way of life. Jesus was asking him to leave all of that behind.
- **Healing comes with a cost.** The mat that once carried the man was now something he had to carry. The thing that represented his limitation became a testimony of his transformation. But transformation required him to learn an entirely new way to live.
- **Salvation is free.** Discipleship will cost you something. Jesus did not call us to an improved version of our old life. He called us to a new life entirely. The old must die so the new can live. That process requires surrender, and surrender is never without cost.
- **Jesus loves us enough to tell us the truth.** Like the rich young ruler, Jesus will not lower the standard or chase us down when we walk away. He loves us enough to let us count the cost and make our own decision.

# Discussion Questions

## Opening Questions

1. When you first heard the question "Do you want to get well?" what was your immediate reaction? Did it seem like an obvious question, or did it make you stop and think?

## Going Deeper:

2. The man at the pool did not answer Jesus with a simple yes or no. Instead, he gave an explanation of why his situation had not changed. In what areas of your own life do you find yourself explaining your condition rather than believing God for change?

3. Pastor Mike said, "Sometimes the condition that we have lived in for so long becomes more than a condition. It becomes our identity." Can you think of a time when a struggle, a label, or a difficult season began to define how you saw yourself? How did that affect your ability to move forward?

4. Pastor Mike pointed out that there can be hidden benefits to staying broken. The disabled man had built his entire way of life around his condition. What might someone risk losing when they allow Jesus to truly heal and change them? Have you ever resisted change because of what it might cost you?

5. Jesus told the man to pick up his mat and walk. The mat did not disappear. It just changed hands. What does it mean that the very thing that once represented limitation can become a testimony of transformation? Can you share an example from your own life or from someone you know?

6. Pastor Mike drew a contrast between the man at Bethesda and the rich young ruler. One had nothing. One had everything. Both encountered Jesus. Both were asked to leave something behind. What is your "mat"? What is the thing that has been carrying you that Jesus may be asking you to pick up and carry differently?

7. Pastor Mike said, "Salvation is free. But discipleship is going to cost you something." How do you hold those two truths together? How does understanding the cost of discipleship change the way you live out your faith day to day?

8. Jesus let the rich young ruler walk away sad. He did not lower the standard or negotiate. What does that tell us about how Jesus views our choices? How does knowing that Jesus loves us enough to tell us the hard truth affect the way you approach your relationship with Him?

# Practical Applications

- **Sit with the question.** Take 10 to 15 minutes in a quiet place and honestly ask yourself: "Do I want to get well?" Write down the areas of your life where you have been living in a condition that has started to feel more like an identity than a circumstance. Bring that list before God in prayer.
- **Identify your mat.** Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what has been carrying you that Jesus is calling you to now carry differently. It may be a habit, a relationship, a mindset, a source of comfort, or a way of coping. Name it specifically.
- **Count the cost honestly.** Luke 14 records Jesus telling His followers to sit down and count the cost before building. This week, have an honest conversation with God about what following Him more fully would require you to give up. Do not rush past the discomfort of that question.
- **Take one step toward the new identity.** The man at Bethesda had to learn to walk. That did not happen all at once. Identify one concrete action you can take this week that reflects the new person Jesus is making you, rather than the old identity you have been living under.
- **Pray for someone in your group.** Pair up with another group member and commit to praying for each other specifically around the area where you most need healing or transformation. Follow up with each other before your next meeting.

## Prayer Requests & Closing