

## **DISCUSSION 1**

A perspective on suffering and hope

1. What are some notable facts revealed in the first five verses that give light to the situation?
2. Why do you think John mentions that the invalid had been in such a state for thirty-eight years? How might this reality be an encouragement in the midst of struggles?
3. What would you tell someone who was an invalid for thirty-eight years? How would you give them hope?
4. Jesus healed the invalid in this text, but we know that not everyone is healed by Jesus, then or now. What future hope does this text point toward? What other verses come to mind?

## **DISCUSSION 2**

Jesus reveals his authority

1. In verse 5, Jesus asks the man, “Do you want to be healed?” What does this reveal about Jesus? Why does he ask this?
2. Think of a struggle you are either going through or have gone through. Why might it be helpful in those times to ask that question of ourselves?
3. How does our sickness, brokenness, and pain point to a more important reality?
4. What does Jesus reveal about himself in verse 17? Is he making an identity claim?

## **DISCUSSION 3**

### The Jews and the law

1. Why were the Jews persecuting Jesus?
2. What fundamental error did they make in their assessment of Jesus's identity?
3. How can we avoid similar errors in our faith? What role does spending time in the Word play in this?

## **FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS**

1. What does this story tell us about Jesus?
2. How can this story encourage us when we experience sad or hard things?
3. What do the invalid's actions tell us about his faith in Jesus? Together, think through what it might look like for your family to live with that kind of bold faith.

## **APPLICATION**

- Take time to do a self-assessment. What has God saved you from? What has he saved you to? Evaluate how you are doing in following Jesus's command to, "Sin no more."
- In what area(s) of your life do you need healing? Pray to the God who has ultimate authority. Pray for healing, but also ask that he would sustain your faith through the hardship—even if ultimate healing does not occur in this life.