

# JESUS & THE LONELY MAN

JOHN 5

## MAIN TAKEAWAY

People need people, and Jesus was drawn to lonely people. Jesus sees us, loves us, understands our needs, and offers His healing and hope. With Jesus, we are never alone!

## INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

**Pastor Greg shared that one in three Americans feels lonely at least once a week and that the Surgeon General has labeled loneliness a public health epidemic. How have you seen the effects of loneliness? Why is loneliness such a big problem today, even with our great advancements in technology and connectivity?**

**All of Jesus' miracles pointed people to deeper spiritual truths, and Jesus often asked questions to help people see their greater spiritual needs. In this passage, the lonely man was physically disabled, but he was also in desperate need of a Savior. How has God used a difficult circumstance to help you come to Him? How can this provide perspective for future difficulties?**

## UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

### HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 5:1-9

**Pastor Greg said, "Christians don't believe in *coincidence*; we believe in *providence*." How does this story reveal the way in which Jesus acted according to a plan and purpose to meet individual needs?**

**The lonely man may have felt unseen, but he was seen by Jesus. Why is Jesus' question so important in this story and necessary for every nonbeliever today (v.6)?**

**Jesus gave three short commands: “Rise, take up your bed, and walk.” How do these commands reveal how Jesus asks the impossible, removes all possibility of a relapse, and expects continued success? How have you experienced these expectations?**

**Jesus answered the man’s request for healing even though he came with limited expectations. What did it take for this man to see beyond his circumstances?**

## **HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 5:10-18**

**After the man’s healing, how does Jesus’ warning highlight the seriousness of sin and the reality that God is always looking out for our eternal best interest (v.14)?**

**How does this moment mark a turning point in the life and ministry of Jesus? For what reason do the Jewish leaders seek to destroy Jesus? With their focus on keeping the rules of the law, what had they missed in the Scriptures about the coming Messiah (John 5:39-40)?**

**What is the greatest miracle that all miracles ultimately point to (2 Corinthians 5:21)? How does this miracle point to that truth and illustrate how God can meet the greatest needs of different people?**

## **APPLICATION**

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

**How can the church address our society’s problem of loneliness? How does knowing God and being part of His family ensure you are never alone? How have you experienced this to be true?**

**Is there any area of life where you need Jesus “to make you well?” How will you cooperate with Him to bring change in this area? As Pastor Greg asked, “Are you willing to put yourself in the hands of Jesus?”**

## **PRAYER**

Give thanks to God that He sees you and loves you. Bring to Him any spiritual or physical needs. Pray for opportunities to minister to the lonely. Rejoice that in Christ, you are never alone.