

**AGAPE HOUSE OF WORSHIP
MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY**

Topic: Part 9: Healing at Bethesda and the Sons' Authority
Text: John 5: 1-47

**Wednesday, April 1, 2026
Facilitator: Pastor Tunde Olugboji**

Learning Objective: *To demonstrate that the healing at Bethesda reveals not only the compassion of Jesus, but also his divine identity, authority, and role as life giver.*

1. The Healing at Bethesda John 5:1–9

Key point: Jesus healed a man with a 38-year infirmity.

- **Lessons:** Jesus can spot an individual, even in a crowd; long-term affliction is not beyond the power of Jesus; human inability is not a barrier to divine intervention; the word of Jesus carries creative and restorative power.

Discussion Question: *Why do you think Jesus asked, “Do you want to be made well?”*

2. Excuses, Limitations, and the Word of Christ John 5:6–7

Key point: The man focused on what he lacked, describing competition, delay and frustration.

- **Lessons:** Long suffering can produce a defeated mindset; people are often able to explain their condition quicker than they express faith; Jesus is not limited by the world's system.

Discussion Question: *What's the significance of the lame man's bed?*

3. The Sabbath Controversy: Religion Misses the Miracle John 5:9–16

Key point: The religious leaders focused on the bed being carried, not the man being healed.

- **Lessons:** Legalism can blind people to the mercy of God; religion without compassion becomes hostile to divine activity; healing is only a component of God's plan for humanity.

Discussion Question: *Why do 'religious people' resist what God is doing?*

4. Jesus' Claim of Equality with God John 5:17–18

Key point: They sought to kill Jesus because he called God his father in a unique sense.

- **Lesson:** Jesus did not present himself as merely another prophet; his sonship is unique and divine.

Discussion Question: *Why is the equality of Jesus with God particularly relevant to the healing here?*

5. The Son and the Father: Perfect Unity John 5:19–23

Key point: The Son must be honored as the father.

- **Lessons:** Jesus acts in perfect unity with the Father; the Son is not independent of the Father, but one with him; Jesus gives life and executes judgment.

Discussion Question: *What does it mean to honor the Son just as we honor the Father?*

6. Jesus as Life Giver John 5:24–26

Key point: Whoever hears Christ's word and believes has everlasting life.

- **Lessons:** Eternal life is a present possession of the believer; Jesus does not merely improve life, he imparts life; the Son is divine.

Discussion Question: *What does it mean to “pass from death into life”?*

7. Jesus as Judge John 5:27–29

Key point: The Son has authority to execute judgment.

- **Lesson:** Jesus, rejected by men is both Savior and Judge.

Discussion Question: *How should the reality of future judgment affect Christian living?*

8. The Witnesses that Testify of Jesus John 5:30–40

John the Baptist; the works of Jesus; the Father; Scripture.

- **Lessons:** God has not left Jesus without witness; Scripture is meant to lead us to Christ.

Discussion Question: *Can a person be versed in Scripture and still miss Christ?*

9. The Root Problem: Unbelief and Love of Human Praise John 5:40–44

Key point: Jesus said the people did not seek the honor that comes from God.

- **Lessons:** Pride can keep people from coming to Christ; desire for human approval can impact faith.

Discussion Question: *How does the desire for human praise hinder faith?*

10. Moses pointed to Christ John 5:45–47

Key point: Jesus said Moses would accuse them.

- **Lessons:** The Old Testament points forward to Jesus; rejecting Christ reveals lack of understanding of Scripture; the law was never meant to replace the Son.

Discussion Question: *In what ways does the Old Testament prepare the way for Christ?*