

## Storyline for Parable of the Great Supper, Healing Paralyzed Man, or Healing Man at Pool of Bethesda

Have students make a storyline for one of these stories. If there are enough students, divide them into groups and have each group take a different story. Share and compare storylines when they are finished.

<i>References for the stories:</i>	<b>Parable of the Great Supper</b>	Luke 14:16-24
	<b>Healing the Paralyzed Man</b>	Matthew 9:2-8; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:18-26
	<b>Healing the Man at the Pool of Bethesda</b>	John 5:1-15

### An Introduction to Making a Story Line

This is an exercise that can help people reflect on which parts of a story are happy or sad. This can generate considerable discussion in a family or group of students, depending on the story. We are enclosing an activity sheet that can be used for this activity and some alternatives.

The first step is to identify 6-10 key events in a story. To make the story line, you will need to decide whether each event is happy or sad or somewhere in between. Take for example, the parable of the Great Supper. When the servant brings the poor, the maimed, the lame, and the blind into the house to be the master's guests, is this event happy, sad, or somewhere in between? Note that there is a neutral, middle line on the story line chart. Anything above the line is happy, and anything below the line is sad. The degree of happiness or sadness is shown by how far away from the middle line it is placed.

The story line can be plotted out on paper (see below) or on a chalk board. You can also write the events on index cards, place them in sequential order, and then arrange them on a table or the floor (making the neutral line with a rope or masking tape). Another alternative is to have each person represent one event and stand "above" or "below" the neutral line.

Decide whether you want to make a story line showing your response to each event or showing how a character in the story responded to the events. Discussion is key here! Make 2 separate story lines if students disagree and have good reasons for different points of view.

#### Other Options:

- Take a different color pen or marker and plot another story line from the perspective of someone else in the story—someone whose view is likely to differ. (For example, if one were doing this activity for the story of Daniel in the lions' den, it might be interesting to plot a story line for Darius the king.) Then see how these lines compare.
- Let older students work together in small groups to develop story lines from the point of view of several different characters in a story.

