

**GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM**  
**Primary Lessons: Phase 1 – Lesson 9**  
**The Pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-15)**

**I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher**

- A. The Lord performed miracles for two reasons: To strengthen and confirm the faith of those who wanted to believe in Him, and for the sake of the Word.
- B. Each miracle is really a parable teaching us of some good work which the Lord can perform in our souls if we believe in Him and ask His help.
- C. All healing power is in the Lord.
- D. We are building spiritual bodies each day as we choose good or evil.
- E. Pool of Bethesda = truths about the Lord and the right way to live.

**II. Story Circle**

A. Introduction

- 1. The Lord did many miracles when He was on earth. Do you remember what a miracle is? (A wonderful thing that the Lord does.)
- 2. Last time we learned about the miracle at Cana. Do you remember what the Lord turned into wine? (Water)
- 3. Today we'll learn about one of the many times the Lord healed a sick person. Only the Lord can do that! As I read the story, listen for what the Lord asks the sick man and what He tells him to do.

B. Tell/Read the Story

- 1. Read aloud John 5:1-15.

C. Ideas to Discuss

- 1. What was the name of the pool of water? (The pool of Bethesda)
- 2. In what city was the pool of Bethesda? (Jerusalem)
- 3. Who waited around the pool? (Sick people) What were they waiting for? (For an angel to stir, or "trouble," the water; then the first person to step into the pool was healed.)
- 4. One man had been waiting by the pool for a very long time. How long had he waited? (38 years)
- 5. What did the Lord ask the man? ("Do you want to be made well?") Then what did the Lord tell him? ("Rise, take up your bed and walk.")
- 6. Was the man well? (Yes; he took up his bed and walked.)

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7. Did he know that it was the Lord who had healed him? (Not until the Lord spoke with him at the temple)
8. What did the Lord tell the man at the temple? ("Sin no more." Don't do anything that you know is wrong!)
9. Did the man tell anyone about the miracle? (Yes, he told the Jews that the Lord had made him well.)

### D. Further Ideas

1. Do you ever think that it's just too hard to be good? Maybe your parents keep reminding you to be nice to your sisters and brothers, but you feel it's too hard. Or perhaps you lie sometimes, and you don't think you'll be able to stop lying. Everyone has some bad habits that seem impossible to get rid of. This is like being sick spiritually.
2. Do you think the Lord can help you get well spiritually? Of course He can! But first you must really want to be good; you must ask the Lord to help you; and you must try very hard to be good. Then the Lord can help you just as He helped the sick man in today's story.
3. But sometimes we get well by stepping into the pool of Bethesda after the angel "troubles" the water. This is when we listen to the angels reminding us of the true ideas we have learned.

## III. Enrichment Activities (Do as many as time permits)

### A. Music

1. "See the Savior in the temple," HYMNAL #166.
2. "I pray Thee, Lord, to guide my ways," HYMNAL #169.
3. "Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah," HYMNAL #175.

### B. Activities: THE POOL OF BETHESDA – A Coded Dot-to-Dot

1. See activity page in *Sunday School Activity Book* for Lesson 140 (yellow volume). You may want to give this to children as a take home activity.

### C. Project: TORN PAPER COLLAGE OF THE POOL OF BETHESDA

1. Materials Needed
  - a. 12" X 18" construction paper background
  - b. Glue
  - c. Several shades of blue paper (to blend as water for pool)
  - d. Appropriate colors of paper for the Lord, the sick man, and his bed
  - e. 1 text slip per child
  - f. Optional: Glitter, or white & yellow crayons or oil pastels

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### 2. Motivation

- a. Let's make a beautiful pool of water to help us remember that water is like wonderful truths from the Word. Can you mix the different shades of blue paper to make it?
- b. Can you show the sick man standing up beside the pool, ready to walk while he carries his bed? Do you know what his bed might have looked like? Not like yours at home! [Show children a picture of this story as an example.] Is the man happy or sad?
- c. How can you show that the Lord is a special person in your picture? How can you make Him look different from the sick man? (You could use white or yellow paper to make the figure of the Lord; you could use glitter or white or yellow crayon [oil pastel] around Him.)

### 3. Procedure

- a. Make the pool by tearing small pieces of blue paper and gluing them so the edges overlap each other, leaving no background showing between them.
- b. Tear pieces of paper to make the sick man standing up, holding his bed. Glue them to the background page.
- c. Tear pieces of paper to make the Lord. Glue them to the background. Find a way to show that the Lord is special.
- d. Glue text slip to the page: "Rise, take up your bed and walk."

## IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Illustrations of the story

## V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. Dole's BIBLE STUDY NOTES, Vol. 6, "The Pool of Bethesda" (John 5:1-15), p. 63-78.

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