



## STUDY 2

### HOPE FOR THE HELPLESS (PART 2)

How do you respond when a patient or person in your life undergoes extreme measures for physical healing or makes an important life alteration but does not make the internal changes necessary for sustaining change?

Think of an example and discuss it in your group.

**REVIEW JOHN 5:1-9 (part 1) AND READ THE REST OF THE STORY FROM JOHN 5:8-20 (NIV):**

#### BACKGROUND

John 5:8-20 takes place in Jerusalem at the Pool of Bethesda, where Jesus heals a man who had been disabled for 38 years. The passage highlights the miraculous healing and the resulting controversy with the Jewish authorities. Jesus commands the man, *"Get up! Pick up your mat and walk."* The man is immediately healed and follows Jesus' instructions. However, carrying his mat on the Sabbath becomes a point of contention because Jewish leaders considered it a violation of the Sabbath law. Later, Jesus finds the healed man in the temple and tells him, *"See, you are well again. Stop sinning, or something worse may happen to you."* This command serves as a call to repentance, inviting the man to turn toward Jesus entirely.

<sup>8</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." <sup>9</sup> At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. The day on which this took place was a Sabbath, <sup>10</sup> and so the Jewish leaders said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat."

<sup>11</sup> But he replied, "The man who made me well said to me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'"

<sup>12</sup> So they asked him, "Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?" <sup>13</sup> The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.

<sup>14</sup> Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you." <sup>15</sup> The man went away and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had made him well.

<sup>16</sup> So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him. <sup>17</sup> In his defense Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working." <sup>18</sup> For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

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## ASSESSMENT

- What was the man's condition when he met Jesus for the second time? What concerns did Jesus express?
- How did the Pharisees exert a powerful influence in this story? What pressures did they put on the healed man and on Jesus? **What influence(s) might a patient have in their life, inhibiting or making change more difficult?**
- What outcome did the man experience because of his encounter with Jesus? What outcome did Jesus want this man to experience? How do the two outcomes compare?
- What can you learn from Jesus to help you care for a patient who seems unmotivated to change?

## PUTTING FAITH INTO PRACTICE

- **Jesus finds the man at the temple; he pursues the man. How does knowing Jesus individually pursues us make you feel? Where do you need to turn fully to Jesus? Are there places you need to allow his forgiveness and love to heal you?**
- How can you help your patients understand that health is multidimensional: physical, emotional, mental and spiritual? What could you say to help patients consider their spiritual health and need for Jesus' healing?



## MY RESPONSES

TYPE YOUR RESPONSES INTO THIS BOX!

### CALL TO FAITH

A call to faith is an intentional invitation at your NCF meeting for students and nurses to respond to Jesus in several ways, including an invitation to follow him for the first time. At some point during the 8-week Bible study series, make space for a clear call to faith—inviting participants to respond to the gospel. Trust God’s leading on when and how, and feel free to extend the invitation more than once as the Spirit prompts.

#### BEFORE

**PRAY:** Ask God to move in powerful ways and pray that God will prepare hearts to respond to him.

**PREPARE:** Calls to faith are not something we do every meeting; practicing what you want to say can be helpful, including how you’ll transition to the response and connect it to the passage and your personal story during your meeting.

#### DURING

**SET UP:** Say something like: “As we close our discussion today, I want to create a space for us to respond to God and the hope he offers us through Jesus. We are all on a journey with Him; some of us have been with Him for a long time; we have said yes to Jesus and accepted His death on the cross as our punishment for our wrongdoing. Some of us are still curious about Jesus, and we fall everywhere in between. Tonight, we will make space for you to identify where you are in your journey with Jesus and take the next step.”

**PRAY:** Open in prayer, making room for silence. Ask your participants to prayerfully consider the responses on their card and choose one. End in prayer.

**RESPONSE:** Print the response card at the end of this bible study. Have one card printed for each person attending.

**SHARE:** Have people share their responses. Share yours first to break the ice.

**CELEBRATE** those who’ve decided to follow Jesus!

#### AFTER

Connect with each person about what they shared on their response card that they turned into you and invite them to take the next step.

Spend a few minutes in silence as you determine how Jesus is leading you to respond. Check one:

- ☐ **Commit my life**  
I have decided to become a follower of Jesus.
- ☐ **Renew my faith**  
I am already a follower of Jesus but have given Him a new area of my life. (vocation, relationships, etc.)
- ☐ **Lead with Jesus**  
Jesus is calling me to take a risk for him. I am committing to: \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ **Seek the truth**  
I am not ready to commit my life to Jesus but would like to talk with someone to learn more about Him.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



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