



**Chapter 5**  
**Get a life – follow Jesus**  
**The Sign, the Sabbath, and the Son**

**Accusation:** Jesus “worked” on the Sabbath and told a man to carry his mat.

**Response:** “My Father is working... and I am working.” (5:17)

**Warm-up interaction:** What are some “unwritten rules” Christians sometimes add—things treated as sin even when Scripture doesn’t say so? (Give 2–3 examples, then move on.)

**Chapter 5 Highlights**

- Jesus heals a man disabled for **38 years**
- Jewish leaders become hostile
- Jesus explains His unity with the Father
- Jesus calls witnesses to His identity
- Jesus rebukes unbelief and wrong motives in Bible study

**A. Miracle on the Sabbath (5:1–9)**

- 38 years of helplessness ended in a moment
- Jesus’ command: **“Get up... take up your bed... walk.”**

**Interactive prompt:** Why might Jesus ask, “Do you want to be healed?” (Not an obvious question!)

**Three Encounters — One Life-Giving Message *John 3–5***

| Nicodemus (John 3)      | Samaritan Woman (John 4)  | Bethesda man (John 5)           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Jewish man              | Samaritan woman           | Jewish man                      |
| Religious leader        | Social outcast            | Helpless invalid                |
| Morally respected       | Morally broken            | Physically broken               |
| Educated in Scripture   | Spiritually thirsty       | Hopeless for 38 years           |
| Comes <b>at night</b>   | Met <b>at midday</b>      | Lying by the pool               |
| Talks theology          | Talks daily needs         | Silent, passive                 |
| Needs <b>new birth</b>  | Needs <b>living water</b> | Needs <b>healing &amp; life</b> |
| Struggles to understand | Gradually understands     | Obeys and walks                 |
| Leaves quietly          | Runs to tell others       | Walks into controversy          |

## One Gospel — Three Needs — One Savior

- **Religion cannot save** (Nicodemus)
- **Brokenness does not exclude** (Samaritan woman)
- **Helplessness is no barrier** (Bethesda man)

### Jesus' One Invitation

**“Anyone who hears My word and believes... has eternal life.”** (*John 5:24*)

**Key Truth:** Jesus meets people **where they are** but offers **the same life** to all.

### B. Uproar and accusation (5:10–18)

- Leaders focus on rule-breaking, not restoration
- The deeper issue: Jesus speaks of God as **His Father** in a unique sense
- In their eyes: Sabbath violation + “making Himself equal with God” = blasphemy

**Interactive prompt:** What happens to us when we care more about **systems** than **people**?

### C. The Defense: the Son and the Father (5:19–23)

Main claim: the Son does what the Father does.

Jesus claims divine works:

1. **Giving life / raising the dead** (5:21)
2. **Judging humanity** (5:22)
3. **Receiving honor equal to the Father** (5:23)

### D. Two “dead” realities and two outcomes (5:24–29)

- **Now:** those spiritually dead hear and live (5:24–25)
- **Later:** bodily resurrection to life or judgment (5:28–29)

**Interactive prompt:** What does Jesus say is the difference between *condemnation* and *life*? (5:24)

## E. The Five Witnesses (5:31–47)

Jesus calls witnesses in His defense:

1. **John the Baptist** (5:33–35)
2. **His works/miracles** (5:36)
3. **The Father** (5:37)
4. **The Scriptures** (5:39)
5. **Moses** (5:45–47)

## F. Jesus' Closing Statement (5:40–47)

- Wrong reason for Bible study: knowledge, pride, argument-winning
- Right reason: to come to Christ and receive life
- “If you believed Moses, you would believe Me...”

**Interactive prompt:** What are “right reasons” and “wrong reasons” for studying Scripture?

## G. Let's think it over

1. Before judging the leaders, where might we resist Jesus because He disrupts our routines?
2. Our purpose in Scripture is **to know God truly and come to Christ for life.**

## Discussion Questions

1. Why were sick people gathered at Bethesda? What were they hoping for?
2. Why did Jesus ask the man if he wanted to be healed?
3. How did Jesus heal him—and what did Jesus command him to do?
4. Why were the leaders upset, and what does that reveal about their priorities?
5. Which of Jesus' “witnesses” is most compelling to you—and why?