

"Get up!"

1. Read John's narrative about the healing at the pool, in John 5:1–9. How do you think the invalid understood the purpose of Jesus' question in verse 6? What do *you* think was Jesus' purpose in asking the question?

If Jesus queried you with similar purpose, what would the question be?

2. The man who was healed had been in his condition for thirty-eight years. Share a story about a work of God that came after many years, perhaps after most people had given up hope.
3. "My entire hope is exclusively in your very great mercy. Grant what you command, and command what you will" (*Confessions of Saint Augustine*). In the story in John 5, what is the connection between Jesus' mercy and his command? What is the connection between the man's faith and his obedience to Jesus' command?
4. Read what happened after the healing, in John 5:16–23. Guided by these verses, what does the *sign* recorded in the first nine verses of the chapter reveal about Jesus?

Recurring Questions

- » How have you seen God working in your life or the lives of those around you this week?
- » What prayer requests would you like to share with the group, including prayer for any spiritual struggles you may be experiencing?