



Session 3

Before + After

BIG IDEA

In the book of John, we meet character after character who experience radical transformation when they encounter Jesus.

OPENING QUESTION

Have you ever been blessed by and not knowing who it was? Share the circumstances, and if you ever figured out who had chosen to bless you.

GROUP DISCUSSION

- Read this passage: John 5:1-15. Twice out loud, in different versions of the Bible – everyone listens.
- What are some significant observations you have about this text? What stood out? What didn't you like? What was confusing?
- What does this passage teach us about God? How does it change how I see God?
- What does this passage teach us about humanity/ourselves? How would it change how I treat others?
- What does this passage teach us about obedience and following the way of Jesus? How should it affect the way I live?

A disciple of Jesus is someone who is following Jesus, being changed by Jesus, and committed to the mission of Jesus.

August 24
WEEKEND

Thought:

Your personality can be impacted by pain. Functioning with pain can shape everything you encounter. We see in this passage that Jesus shows up in broken places.

Questions:

If you have ever been offended by someone and then found out about some painful circumstances or truth about them, how did that change your perspective on the offense?

Jesus helps hopeless people. Sometimes we can see people who are in circumstances that seem to be self-inflicted. How does that impact on our view of someone who is hurting?

How does how long someone has been suffering impact them?

How does how long someone has been suffering impact how we view them?

Thought:

This is one of those stories where John wants you to wrestle with what it means for everyone involved. There is no bow at the end of the story, we do not get clear details about how everyone ended up after their encounter with Jesus. This chance to think through how others may have responded to Jesus is meant to challenge us in how we will respond to Jesus.

Question:

What tensions do you see unresolved with this encounter with Jesus?

ACTION STEPS

I will statement...

Based on what God is teaching in this passage, what should I do? Reflect for a minute or two and develop an action statement. As disciples this helps us to be changed by Jesus. Put it in the form, "I Will _____". Make it concrete, simple, and achievable.