

**The Woman at the Well
Coded Words**

Each number stands for a letter of the alphabet. Write the correct letter in the blank to find the coded words and phrase.

A 1	J 10	S 19
B 2	K 11	T 20
C 3	L 12	U 21
D 4	M 13	V 22
E 5	N 14	W 23
F 6	O 15	X 24
G 7	P 16	Y 25
H 8	Q 17	Z 26
I 9	R 18	

19 8 9 18 19 20 25

19 1 13 1 18 9 20 1 14

2 21 3 11 5 20

4 9 19 3 9 16 12 5 19

19 1 22 9 15 18

PHRASE:

1 12 12 16 5 15 16 12 5

1 18 5 9 13 16 15 18 20 1 14 20

20 15 10 5 19 21 19



Lesson 5 [Chapter 5] “The Paralytic by the pool”

Remember:

Last lesson, John 4, Jesus speaks with a Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well and offers her “living water,” symbolizing eternal life, while teaching that true worship is in spirit and truth rather than tied to a place; through her testimony many Samaritans come to believe in Him as the Savior of the world.

Lesson Goal:

It’s important for us to realize and recognize where our trust and hope are found. We need to pay attention to God’s Word and to be open to its truth. If we put our faith in the wrong things, we might miss the beauty of potential blessings.

Lesson opener:

Greet children, perhaps already with your pool gear.

Recommended possibilities: inner tubes, floaty wings, foot flippers, goggles, noodles, beach towel, sunscreen, etc.

So, who is ready to go for a swim? Summer is coming up, and one of the most fun activities of warmer weather is hitting the water. Whether you're heading to the beach or the pool, you need to be prepared with certain things, right?

So, here I've got my goggles (demonstrate or hold up goggles)...you'll need to protect your skin with some sunscreen; I've got that here... sometimes it's fun to bring extra toys and such to the pool, I've got those...oh, a nice towel!

Lesson Body:

Well, in today's gospel lesson, there was a man who wanted to get ready for a visit to the pool, but this was a special pool...the man in the story from John 5 was lame. He couldn't walk, and he hadn't been able to walk for 38 years. Thirty-eight years! That's a pretty long time to sit by a pool.

A Man Healed at the Pool of Bethesda 5:1-15



Now, the pool was called Bethesda, which means “house of mercy.” An angel went down at certain times into the pool and stirred up the water. And he granted with him power of healing so that the Jews learn that the God of angels can heal the sickness of the spirit.

And just as the nature of the water here, did not heal of itself (because if it did it would have healed at all times) but healed through the work of the angel, similarly, our purification is not by means of the water simply, but through the grace of the Spirit that is accepted and absolves us from all our sins. St. John Chrysostom.

So, lots of people who were sick or blind or lame would sit by that pool, day after day, just hoping they'd be the lucky one to make it into the water first if they saw the special whirlpool action.

Well, this lame man had been waiting there too, he continued lying down and did not withdraw from the pool. The sick man complained that he had no friends to help him. Even those who were healed went away in good health and met their friends. Not one of them was concerned about this poor man. He also complained that he was unable to compete with the others so that he may be the first to throw himself into the pool, for many stepped down into the water before him.

Give each child a cup of water and a drinking straw. Let kids blow bubbles in the water with their straws.

Say: Now let's see how this water works. When you blow your bubbles, stick your finger in the water and see what happens. Allow time.

Ask: "What happened when you put your finger in the water?"

Collect the straws and cups of water.

Say: Your finger got wet, but nothing amazing happened. That's because healing isn't magic. It's not something a bubbling pool can do. Healing happens through God's power—and Jesus is God. So, let's find out what happened next.

Jesus came by and spotted this man. He singled the lame man out from the crowd and asked if he wanted to be healed. Well, that seems an obvious answer. Of course he wanted to be healed, why else would he be next to the pool? Jesus wanted to grow his faith.

The guy explained the situation, but he didn't realize who he was speaking with. So, Jesus gave him some directions. He didn't provide deep explanations or even tell the man who He was. He just told him to pick up his bed and walk.

Immediately, the man was healed! It didn't take special incantations. It didn't take another thirty-eight years, or special bubbling water. It was just a word from Jesus and an action of obedience, and the man was healed!

When we have problems, we can go to Jesus, too. We can trust that Jesus is God, and He has the power to help us. Even if He doesn't solve the problem in the way we want, Jesus can be there with us and help us through it.

Sometimes we come close to missing the identity of the true master healer. Maybe we try to put our hope in things...if we just say the right words, or go to the right places, maybe that will work out well for us. Or we pay attention to superstitions, or good luck charms.

Or we think if we follow the rules just right, that will bring us closer to God.

Well, if we focus too much on those silly things, we can miss out on the author of hope and healing, God Himself. Jesus is the only One in whom we can truly place our trust.

The lame man didn't recognize Jesus as the Messiah...but when he was willing to follow directions, and as a result received the healing he had hoped for after so many years of waiting. When we recognize that our hope is in Christ alone, we know that only He has power in our lives.

This does not always mean that miracles will happen. We might still experience pain or difficulty. But we trust that God knows what He is doing. And we need to be willing to change. We can't sit around hoping to jump in the pool someday. We must be ready to do something different, and to follow seemingly strange instructions.

We must know that only Jesus can bring peace—not legend or rules or silly things. Our healing might look distinct from what we would have initially expected, but we know that only God can bring hope and peace. Are you ready? Do you want to get better? Then jump on and follow Him!

The true hearts of the religious leaders are shown in this chapter. They did not even care about the man or that he had been made well. All they cared about was the fact that Jesus had broken one of their rules. Not so with Jesus, He cared more about healing this man according to God's will than keeping man's laws.

The Sabbath was a central issue in the conflicts between Jesus and His opponents (Mark 2:23, 3:4). Though the Mosaic Law required that work cease on the seventh day, the religious leaders added their own rules which were not of God. These human traditions often hid the divine intention in God's Law. God is always kind and merciful to people. Unfortunately, some religious people are not. This man did not think about the reaction of the religious leaders, he simply obeyed the words of Jesus.

Jesus later found the healed man in the temple area, which implies that Jesus came to him to speak to him. This time the man would receive a warning from Jesus. The warning was that his tragic life of 38 years as a cripple was no comparison to the doom of hell. Jesus was not just interested in healing this man's body. Jesus knew the more serious problem was the crippling condition of sin in his heart. Jesus wanted to heal the man spiritually, to cleanse him from his sins.

What a wonderful feeling of excitement and relief this man must have experienced through this miracle. What a miracle it was to be healed from a lifetime of sickness! But he needed an even greater miracle, to have his sins forgiven. His healing was great, but he had to turn from his sins and seek God's forgiveness to be spiritually healed. It is

God's forgiveness that will ultimately be the greatest gift we can ever receive, for this is our greatest need.

Honor the Father and the Son 5:16-23

When Jesus healed a man, He showed people that Jesus is God. That can be hard to understand. God doesn't ask us to completely understand His nature. God's ways are higher than we can imagine!

So, let's compare God and Jesus to help us get a better idea of what it means that Jesus is God.

- Divide the room in half. One group of kids will reflect God's actions; the other half will reflect Jesus' actions.
- As you read the following statements about God, kids on the "God" side of the room will come up with an action to show what God did. Then as you read the statements about Jesus, kids on the "Jesus" side will copy the action created by the other side of the room.

God's group	Jesus's group
God showed His power over water and wind when He divided the Red sea so His people could walk safely across. (Exodus 14:21-31)	Jesus showed His power over water and wind when He calmed a storm on the sea. That kept the disciples safe from drowning. (Matthew 8:23-27)
God provided bread from heaven to feed His hungry people in the wilderness. (Exodus 16:14-35)	Jesus used a few loaves of bread to feed more than 5,000 hungry people. (John 6:5-14)
God helped a widow when He brought her son back to life. (1 Kings 17:17- 24)	Jesus helped a widow when He brought her son back to life. (Luke 7:11-17)
God used the prophets to tell His messages and show His power.	Jesus sent His disciples out to share the message of God's love, and He gave them His power to do miracles, too.

Have both groups sit down. Ask:

- What were some of the things you noticed that were the same about God and Jesus?
- What can this help you discover about Jesus?

Say: the more we get to know things about God, the more we understand and get to know Jesus. That's because Jesus is God. That can be a hard thing for us to understand! All God asks us to do is trust. As you grow in your friendship with God, you're also growing in friendship with Jesus! Because Jesus is God!

The Fourfold Witness 5:31-47

If He bore witness of Himself without the witness of the Father through the prophets, and without performing divine, miraculous works, they would have had an excuse to consider His witness false.

He mentioned in His conversation three witnesses: the first is the works that He did, the second His Father's witness, and the third is John the Baptist's announcement of Him.

"You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; these are they which testify of Me." [39] As though He says to them: 'It is not enough for you to pride yourselves upon possessing the Scriptures, and that you read them. It is necessary that you search them diligently so that you may enjoy your redemption and eternal life, because all the Scriptures revolve round My coming to you.'

Memory Verse: 5:24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life."

Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man

One day some men brought their friend who was paralyzed to Jesus. Jesus told the man, "Your sins are forgiven." Some teachers of the law didn't like what Jesus said, so instead Jesus said, "Get up, take your mat and walk." Why did Jesus heal the man?

Use the code to find the letters that fit in the blank. Match the arrangement of the lines with those in the code. The first one is done for you.

J U L L O L O U S O U E

7 O U N S U L U

7 O S 7 S U W S O U

O U O O E E U W O

O U O S E

S U O U O 7 U

O U O N N 7 U L N U L .

J	N	E	O	S
P	U	W	H	K
A	L	R	F	D
T	G	M	I	V

JESUS HEALS A PARALYZED MAN

Guide Jesus to the paralyzed man.

