

Katie



The Sunday  
School Lady



## JOHN 5

# THE HEALING AT THE POOL

**Scripture:** John 5:1-21

**Open:** Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

**Supplies:** Blue streamers or bed sheet, buckets of water, Lego people

### Game:

Have the kids stand in a line. They are going to play a game similar to a ring toss or bucket toss. Have each child try to toss a Lego man into a bucket of water. If any make it, have them take a step back and try again until only one remains. Play a few times.

### Ask:

Has anyone ever broken a foot or sprained an ankle or hurt a knee? (Allow for answers)  
What was it like to have your walking hindered? (If you have a child in a wheelchair or who has been on crutches and they feel comfortable, ask them to share the difficulties of not being able to walk).

Today, we are going to talk about a man who couldn't walk for 38 years.

**Read:** John 5:1-15

### Explain:

During this time, some manuscripts show that there was a belief that when the waters of the pool stirred, if someone was the first into the pool, they would be healed.

This water, however, had no power. We just learned last week how Jesus is the "Living Water." He and he alone has the power to heal this man. And he does it with just his words.

Can anyone tell me what the problem was with this taking place on the Sabbath? (The Jewish leaders regularly fought with Jesus over his "work" on the Sabbath, which was and still is a day of rest for the Jewish people. Jesus often reminded the leaders that they would help a cow or donkey if it was hurt on the Sabbath, how much more important were people?)

**Activity:**

The kids are going to reenact the story we've just read. You will need someone to be the paralyzed man, someone to be Jesus, kids to be the pool (with streamers or bedsheet), kids to be other "invalids," and kids to be the teachers of the law.

First, run through the regular occurrence of the day. Have the waters be stirred up by the kids, waving streamers along the ground or shaking the bedsheet. Have the "invalids" rush by rolling or dragging themselves into the pool.

Next have Jesus appear on the scene, replay the story, reading from the Bible when necessary to help the kids remember it all.

**Read:** John 5:16-21

**Explain:**

This is a beautiful miracle for the paralyzed man. However, this miracle leads to persecution for Jesus. Now the leaders are upset, and they try even harder to kill him. They don't like that Jesus is healing on the Sabbath, and they don't like that he is claiming equality with God. To claim to be God was the highest form of Blasphemy to the Jews (blasphemy means to speak sacrilegiously against God or sacred things). It was an offence that was punishable by death.

But Jesus doesn't shy away. He responds that, just like this miracle brought a new life to the paralyzed man, he offers life to all who believe in the Father who sent him.

This same offer is available to us today. We can believe in Jesus, the Living Water. The one sent by God to save us from our sins by his death on the cross. That belief will change us from the inside out. He will begin a work in us, making us more like him, strengthening us and teaching us to obey his Word and live a life that looks like Jesus. We will make mistakes, but he is faithful to forgive us and guide us as we run to him again and again.

**Memorize:** John 5:21

Close in Prayer