

# Healing at the Pool of Bethesda

John 5:1-15; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 201-204



**H**ave you ever been the last to finish a race, or the last one to learn to tie your shoes, or the last to finish your work at school? The man in our story knew what it was to be the last one in the pool.

**J**esus has come to Jerusalem to attend a feast. As He walks alone on a Sabbath morning, He is deep in thought. Soon He finds Himself near a pool, the Pool of Bethesda. Five beautiful covered porches surround the pool. This is the kind of place that should be peaceful. It should be surrounded with lush green plants and colorful flowers. But it is a place of sickness and misery.

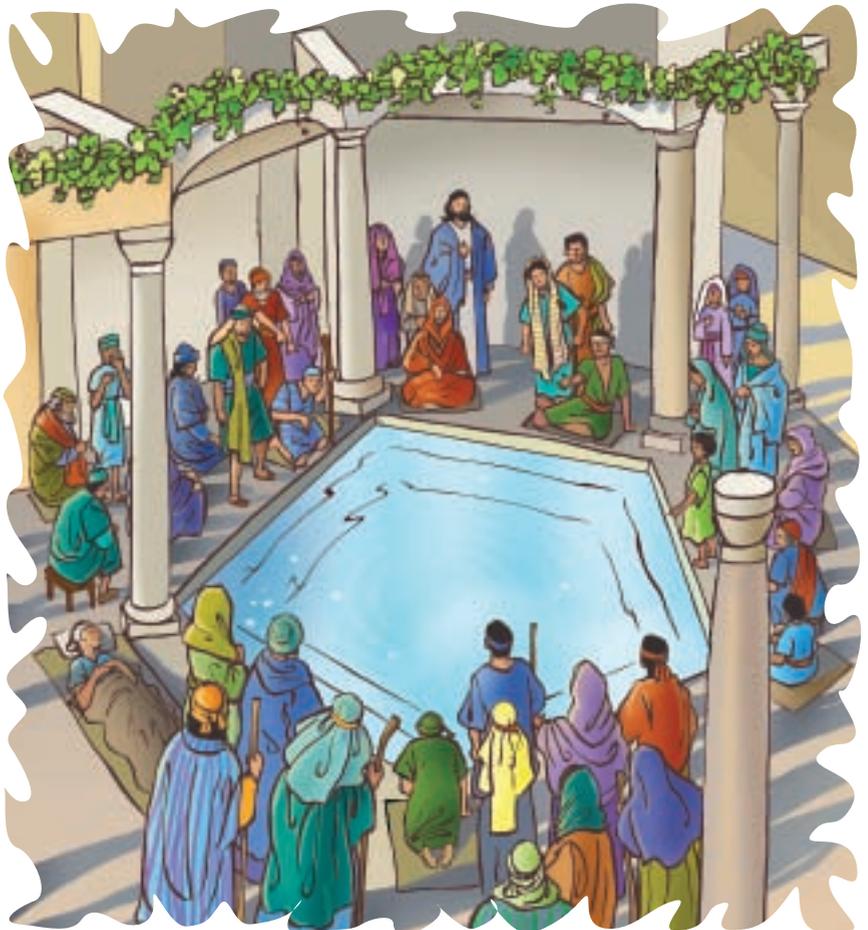
All around the pool, people are struggling. Sick people lie in all angles or sit hunched over. So many people! Jesus stops. He looks around. He sees the blind, the deaf, the crippled. He sees some with stomach problems and skin diseases. Some suffer from mental health problems. His heart goes out to the elderly, the children, and those of all ages in between.

All are here hoping for a miracle. But this is a place of little hope. Mostly it is a place of disappointment. The people wait for the water in the pool to move. Many believe it will be stirred by an angel. And whoever is first in the water afterward will be healed. Jesus knows that isn't true. It is a false hope, but the people wait and watch. And when ripples appear, the eager

people rush forward. Desperate for healing, they trample the smaller or weaker. Instead of a place of healing, this is a place of death.

Jesus looks over this crowd of sick people, and He has compassion on them. He wants to heal all of them! He is tempted to do just that, but it is Sabbath. He knows what would happen if He healed them today. The Jewish leaders would be very angry. They would even try to kill Him. But His time has not come. His work on earth is not yet finished.

Jesus knows each person's name and their sickness. He especially notices one man who



# The Message

Jesus sees our needs and helps us.

## Memory Verse

*“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith . . . it is the gift of God”*

*(Ephesians 2:8, NIV).*

has been crippled for 38 years. He knows that sin has caused his illness. Jesus also knows that the man is sad. He is lonely, and feels that he is not worthy of God’s mercy. Quietly, Jesus kneels beside him and bends over to see his face. Tenderly, He asks, “Do you want to be healed?”

Hope jumps in the man’s heart. Of course he wants to be healed! Doesn’t everyone here? He doesn’t know who Jesus is. He doesn’t know that Jesus can heal him. He believes his

me. I can’t get into the pool fast enough. When I try, someone always gets in before me.”

Jesus doesn’t ask the man to believe in Him. He doesn’t even tell the man who He is. He knows the man doesn’t feel worthy of God’s love. But Jesus wants to pour His grace out on this man. So He says to the man, “Get up! Pick up your bed and walk.”

The man doesn’t hesitate. He obeys. He wants to be made well. Nerves and muscles that haven’t been useful for years are brought to life! The man jumps up! He rolls up his rug and blanket. Then he looks around for the One who just healed him. But Jesus has slipped away into the crowd.

Later, Jesus meets the man in the temple. The man is overjoyed. And he tells everyone he meets the good news about Jesus.

That day Jesus healed a man’s body. Jesus’ healing grace also brought him back to God. With love, Jesus says to us, “Will you be healed?” He wants us to be healthy in body and spirit. He wants to pour out His grace on us too. Will you accept Him today and let Him be your Saviour too?



only hope is to get into that water. So he tells Jesus, “Sir, I don’t have anyone to help



# S A B B A T H

**DO** Go with your family to a place where you can enjoy flowing water or a fountain. What do you see around the water? Find a quiet place and read your lesson story together.

**DO** Study your memory verse together. Ask: What does it mean to be “saved by grace”? (See John 3:16; 1 John 1:9.) Sing “Amazing Grace” together; then thank God for His wonderful grace in your life.

# S U N D A Y

**DO** Share the bedroll you made in Sabbath School with someone today. Tell them about Jesus and the crippled man. (Or make a bedroll by cutting a strip of cloth or paper to represent a blanket. Write the memory verse and message on it. Roll it up and tie it with a ribbon, string, or yarn.)

**DRAW** Draw a picture of the Pool of Bethesda. Write your memory verse on the water part. Use this to teach the verse to your family.

# M O N D A Y

**READ** With your family, read and discuss John 5:1-9. Why couldn't the man get into the water before others? Imagine that you are that man. What would it be like to have no friend to help you? Name some friends you can count on when you need help.

**THINK** Think of someone you know who needs a friend. How can you be their friend today? Ask Jesus to help you.

The Bible tells us about seven miracles that Jesus performed on the Sabbath.



# T U E S D A Y

**READ** For worship today, read John 5:1-9 again. What did many people believe about the water in the pool? Was this true? How was this man healed? (Hint: See your memory verse.) Now read John 5:10-16. Why didn't the man know who had healed him? How can sin make people sick?

**SING** Sing praise songs such as “He’s Able” (Sing for Joy, No. 40). Then thank Jesus for His healing power. Ask Him to help you to have faith in Him too.

\*It was not true. For more on this see *The SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, p. 948.

# W E D N E S D A Y

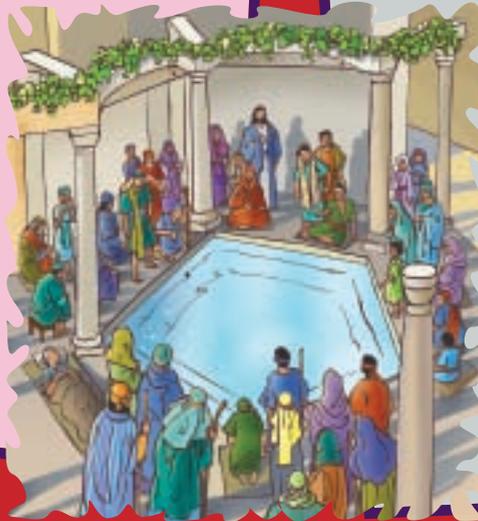
**THINK** With your family, read John 5:1-9 again. How long had the crippled man been sick? Talk about sickness in your family. Who has been sick for a long time? What happened to them? What is the longest time you’ve been sick? Who took care of you? Thank the people who take care of you.

**DO** Try walking around your house with crutches or a cane. How would these help people who use them all the time? Count while you do as many jumping jacks as you can. Thank God for your health.



# THURSDAY

**READ** Read and discuss John 5:10-16 with your family today. Ask: What law had the man been accused of breaking? Who made this law? Now read Exodus 20:8-11. What does God's law say about keeping the Sabbath? Read Matthew 12:9-13. What did Jesus say about doing good on the Sabbath?



# FRIDAY

**READ** For worship tonight, read from *The Desire of Ages*, pages 201-203 (chapter 21, paragraphs 1-7). Then act out the lesson story.

**DO** Ask to use a cup and 18 raisins or nuts. Pretend the raisins or nuts are pills. Drop one "pill" into the cup for each word as you say the memory verse. Repeat. Then eat the "pills."

**SING** Sing a "thank-You" song before prayer.

## Healing at the Pool of Bethesda

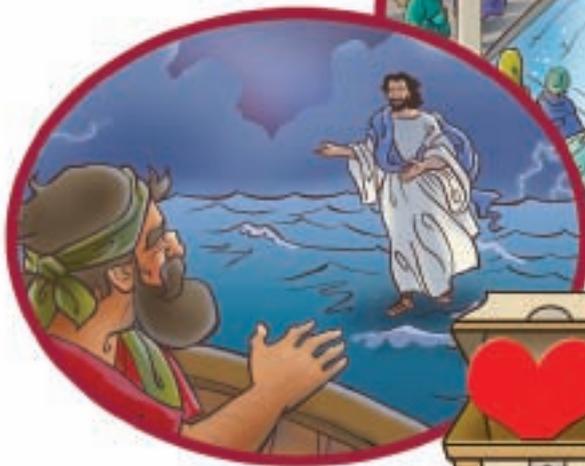
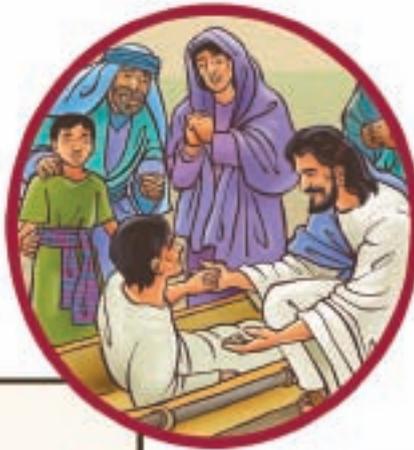
# PUZZLE

Directions: Think about each statement and draw a happy face if you agree or a sad face if you disagree.

😊	☹️	😊	☹️	😊	☹️	😊	☹️	😊	☹️	😊	☹️
☹️	<p>1. Jesus cares for people who are hurting. <input type="radio"/></p> <p>2. The water in the Pool of Bethesda healed people. <input type="radio"/></p> <p>3. Jesus knows each person's name and their sickness. <input type="radio"/></p> <p>4. Jesus can heal our bodies and our souls. <input type="radio"/></p> <p>5. I want Jesus to be my Savior. <input type="radio"/></p>										😊
☹️	😊	☹️	😊	☹️	😊	☹️	😊	☹️	😊	☹️	😊

# GRACE

Directions: Find five treasure chests. Each one has an object that reminds us of one of our memory verses about grace. Write the correct text for that verse.



Find words from lessons 5-9 or names of objects or people that appear on these two pages.

W \_ \_ k \_ \_ (1) on \_ a \_ e \_

N (2) (4) \_ d \_ m \_ \_

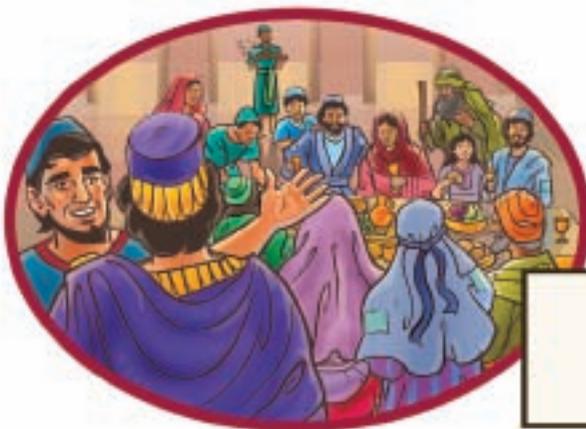
(1) (2) e \_ t (3) e \_ s (4)

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P \_ \_ l o \_ B (5) \_ h \_ \_ d \_

God's love is a (1) (2) (3) (4) of (1) (2) (3) (4) (5).



A large empty rectangular box for writing the answer to the word search puzzle.