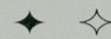


JESUS PEOPLE



THE MINISTRY YEARS OF JESUS

Jesus People Part 7—Keep The Door Open Pastor Rich Harris 7.17.2022

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

[John 5:2-11, NKJV]

² Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. ³ In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. ⁴ For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. ⁵ Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, **"Do you want to be made well?"** ⁷ "I can't, sir," the sick man said, "for I have no one to put me into the pool when the water bubbles up. Someone else always gets there ahead of me." ⁸ Jesus told him, **"Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk!"** ⁹ Instantly, the man was healed! He rolled up his sleeping mat and began walking! But this miracle happened on the Sabbath, ¹⁰ so the Jewish leaders objected. They said to the man who was cured, "You can't work on the Sabbath! The law doesn't allow you to carry that sleeping mat!"

¹¹ But he replied, "The man who healed me told me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'"

1. Jesus People focus on the Solution, not the problem.

"He had no one to help him in, and Jesus was always the friend of the friendless, and the helper of the man who has no earthly help." -William Barclay

When it seems like no one and nothing can help you out of the state you're in, Jesus is always close at hand, ready to help you out of it.

[John 5:8, NLT]

Jesus told him, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk!"

The Word of the Lord is POWERFUL!

Let the Word of God stir your faith and lift your eyes to the Solution!

[Philippians 4:19, NIV]

And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

[Psalm 27:13, NIV]

I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

[Romans 8:28, NIV]

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

***What we see with our eyes is not the end!
You are never stuck when Jesus is in your corner.***

2. Jesus People focus on the open door of the Kingdom of Heaven.

[Luke 19:10, NIV]

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

If it was the priority of Jesus, it's the priority of Jesus People.

[John 5:9-10, NLT]

⁹ Instantly, the man was healed! He rolled up his sleeping mat and began walking! But this miracle happened on the Sabbath, ¹⁰ so the Jewish leaders objected. They said to

the man who was cured, “You can’t work on the Sabbath! The law doesn’t allow you to carry that sleeping mat!”

[Matthew 23:13, NLT]

What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you shut the door of the Kingdom of Heaven in people’s faces. You won’t go in yourselves, and you don’t let others enter either.

***We need to be the kind of church that keeps the door open.
Life is short, eternity is real, and people matter most.***

FOR MONDAY—

1. Pray and ask God to show areas in your life that you need to repent that might have shut the door to others.
2. Keep the door open. Jesus wants to use you to rescue people. Invite someone to coffee or a meal this week.

TALK IT THROUGH

1. Have you ever felt like the paralyzed man in this story? *"God, I've done all I know what to do but nothing is working!"* What are you waiting on God for?
2. What are some problems or excuses that take our focus off of the Kingdom of Heaven? What are some ways to keep our eyes on Jesus?
3. How have you kept your focus on the solution and not the problem? How has shifting your perspective changed the way you wait on God to answer your need.
4. Pastor Rich shared *"the Word of God is the most powerful creative force in existence, and when it's met with faith, get ready to see things change!"* Share a time when you stood on the Word of God and saw things change.
5. Does the way you live your life leave the door open for those who don't know Jesus to walk through? What do you need to change to open the door again?
6. How do we practically keep the door open for those in our sphere of influence?