

TO HELP US STUDY

1. Who lay on the five colonnade porches of the pool at Bethesda? _____

2. According to the footnote to Verse 4, why were these people lying around the pool? _____

3. How long had the lame man been unable to walk? _____
4. What did Jesus ask the man? _____
5. When the man said yes, what did Jesus tell him to do? _____

6. What day of the week was it when Jesus did this? _____
7. Did the Jewish religious leaders like this? _____ Why? _____

8. Did the Jewish leaders know who healed the man? _____ How did they find out? _____

9. Jesus told them: "My _____ is always at his work to this very day, and _____, too, am working."
10. Jesus explained: "The _____ can do nothing by himself; he can do only _____"
_____."

TO HELP US REMEMBER: *Young ones*—John 5:19, "The Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing."

Older ones—John 5:19-20

TO CHALLENGE TEEN THOUGHT

What is the meaning of the word *Bethesda*? Look this up in a good Bible dictionary and write your answer on the back of this page. Where is this name used in America? Do you know why?

TIPS FOR TEACHING PARENTS

Verse 4 is missing in the text of the RSV, the NIV, and most other modern versions. Usually it appears in the footnotes. This indicates a serious doubt that these words belong in our Bibles. Most scholars feel that some scribe copying the Bible by hand inserted this part about the angel long after John wrote his book. We can use this to teach our children about their Bibles and how to use a footnote like this.

More than likely the idea about the angel troubling the water was a local legend of Jerusalem. The angel may have come. Whether he did or not, the sick people *thought* he did and were waiting for him to return. We will need to bring this in to explain why all these sick people were at the pool. But we surely won't want to bother our little ones with such details. Just say they were waiting for an angel. After all, they were.

The important thing in this lesson is not the angel. We want our children to see, above all else, the power of our Lord and his close, intimate tie with his Father.

FOR ADULT STUDY: Ps 2:7; Mt 11:27; 27:54; Mk 14:61-62; Jn 8:18, 27-29; Heb 1:5; Gal 4:6; Phil 2:1-9; 1 Jn 4:15.