

LEARNER GUIDE

John 4:39-45

Jesus was welcome to gallop into Galilee with His lame-walking, blind-seeing, water-into-wine powers. They just preferred He leave His Messiah-proclaiming, Gentile-receiving, enemy-loving messages behind. They welcomed Jesus' _____, not His _____.

Signs are not meant to _____ faith. Signs are meant to _____ faith. Those who love what Jesus does, but not what Jesus says become _____ when the message becomes _____.

John 4:46-54

Who is Jesus? Jesus is _____.

John 5:1-9

Jesus' 3rd sign in the Book of John was not just make a lame man arise and walk. Jesus' 3rd sign was to make a lame man arise, _____, and walk.

John 5:10-18

The Pharisees may not have been polluted by pagans, but they poisoned themselves by drinking in the _____ and _____ that belonged to God alone. The Pharisees became _____.

Who is Jesus Jesus is the _____ of God because He is God. And as His children, He calls us to be _____, too.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think so many people are willing to welcome Jesus' work but not His Word? Read Hebrews 4:12 as a jumping off point for your discussion.

2. Has there ever been a time in your life when you were looking for a sign, but God gave you a word instead? What do you think was His reason for that and what was the result?

3. When Jesus commanded the lame man to carry his mat, He knowingly disobeyed a Jewish law. It seems as though Jesus wanted the Jewish leaders to see and question the healed man. What do you think Jesus was trying to accomplish?

4. What is the opposite of entitled? Read Philippians 2:5-11 and discuss if and how Jesus embodied any of the antonyms you named.

5. In what ways can entitlement present itself in Christians and in the church? Ephesians 5:1 commands believers to be *imitators of Christ*. How can entitlement affect our ability to obey the command in that verse?

PERSONAL STUDY

Part One

Read John 4:43-54

When this desperate father heard that Jesus was in Cana, he quickly set out on the 20-mile journey to beg for a miracle for his dying son. Look again at what the father asks of Jesus in John 4:49: *The official said to him, “Sir, come down before my child dies.”*

Where did the father want Jesus to go?

The father asked Jesus to go to where the boy lay sick in Capernaum. Instead, *Jesus said to him, “Go; your son will live.”* (John 4:50).

John described this encounter as the *second sign that Jesus did when he had come from Judea to Galilee* (John 4:54). The signs in the Book of John are meant to help us understand something about Jesus as the Son of God. And this sign teaches us that Jesus didn't have to go to Capernaum to save the boy because as the Son of God, Jesus is **omnipresent**.

What does *omnipresent* mean?

Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary defines *omnipresent* as “being present everywhere at once, which is true only of God.” When Jesus, standing 20 miles from where the father's little boy lay dying told that hurting daddy that his son would be healed, John 4:50 says, *The man believed the word that Jesus had spoke to him and went on his way.*

The father, who hastened to get to Jesus, took 2 days to make the same trip home. He came in **fear**, but he left in **faith**. What gave him such confidence? The father believed that *God was with his son*.

God is with our hurting children, our aging parents, our sick spouses, our weary friends, too. How can truly believing that relieve your fear?

Close in prayer, acknowledging that there is no place that God's power does not reach.

Part Two

Read John 5:1-30

This passage marks the third of Jesus' signs in the Book of John. This sign originated with the miracle of a lame man walking, but it came to fullness in the controversy the miracle produced.

Look again at John 5:15-18. Why did the Jewish leaders hate Jesus?

The Jews hated Jesus because He claimed to be God. But against their intense scrutiny, Jesus didn't back down one bit. Instead, He entered into an extended discussion with them to prove His claim that He indeed is equal with God.

According to *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* produced by Dallas Theological Seminary, the Jews considered the power over life and death to be "the prerogatives of deity," or in other words to be a power possessed by God alone. Read John 5:25-29 one more time. Whose voice does Jesus say gives life in verse 25?

Who has the authority to execute judgment (or bring death) in verse 27?

Did you notice that in verse 25, Jesus described himself as *the Son of God*, but in verse 27, Jesus gives Himself the title *Son of man*. Both are accurate names for Jesus. But each can bring something unique to mind.

Read Daniel 7:13-14, where the phrase *son of man* first appears. In Daniel's vision, he prophesies about Jesus to whom God gave ruling authority to judge the whole earth. Now read Luke 19:10. How does Jesus describe His role as the Son of man?

Your judge, the holy, sinless Son of man who has the authority to demand payment for your sins, came to seek you out and to save you from that judgment by dying on the cross to take away that penalty. That is a beautiful irony; that is **grace!**

Close in prayer, recognizing that Jesus is equal with God, having the power over life and death and, like His Father, Jesus is abounding in grace.

Part Three

Read John 5:31-47

Yesterday we saw Jesus defending Himself to the Jewish leaders and asserting His equality with God. In this passage, His discourse with the religious leaders continued and His message was consistent - Jesus is God. And He has witnesses to prove it!

But why are witnesses so important? Because in the Jewish legal and religious system, witnesses were required to corroborate a claim. Read Deuteronomy 19:15.

Jesus gave 4 witnesses which testify that He is God. Identify them in the chart below.

Witness	Scripture Reference	Testimony
	John 5:33-35	His ministry, who these Jews experienced first hand, announced the coming of Messiah and identified the Messiah as Jesus.
	John 5:36	Because they would be impossible for man alone, these bear witness to Jesus as God.
	John 5:37-38	At Jesus' baptism a voice came from heaven announcing, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." (Luke 3:22)
	John 5:39-47	Everything, from the first page to the last including those treasured Books of the Law written by Moses, ultimately point to Jesus.

Jesus clearly laid out the testimonies of John the Baptist, Jesus' works, God the Father, and the Scripture as proof that He is God. What did Jesus say in John 5:34 was His motivation for defending Himself with these witnesses' testimonies?

Jesus wants all men to be saved. Yet the Jewish religious leaders could not see the Messiah standing right before their eyes. Look at John 5:44. What kept them from believing?

True belief was not possible not because of what they **thought**, but because of what they **sought**; they sought the praise of men, not God. Spurgeon put it this way, "Christ has not placed his salvation in sacrament, or books, or priests, but he has kept it in himself; and if you want to have it, you must **seek him**."

Close in prayer, thanking Jesus that salvation is found in Him.

Heart-to-Heart

Spend some time with Jesus using one of the suggestions below. Remember to reference the RESOURCES pages to help you.

- Revisit a verse or passage that stuck out to you this week. Compare the text in a few different Bible translations or do a word study on a few key words.
- Read a commentary on John 4:39 - John 5:47.
- Journal about what you learned through His Word this week.
- Spend time in prayer, focusing on what the Holy Spirit revealed to you through your study of John 4 and 5.
- Record any questions you still have about the text.

Looking Ahead

Read John 6.

Use the space below to record anything that jumps out to you or any questions that come to mind about the text.
