

Family Lesson – The Pool of Bethesda (John 5)
Level 3 – The Lord’s Truth

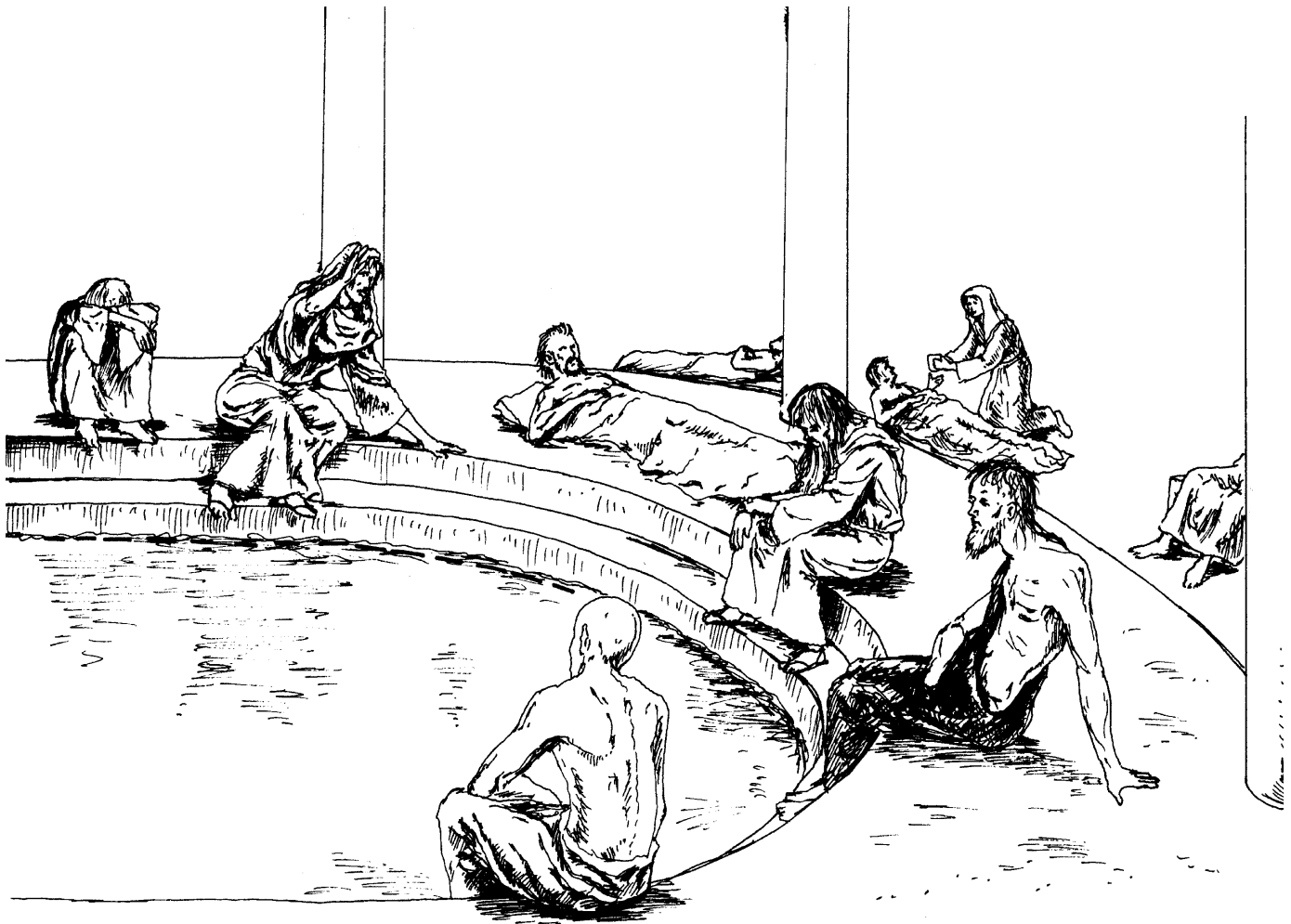
The Lord’s Truth

Here is a picture of the pool of Bethesda.

Whenever water is mentioned in the Lord’s Word it is a picture of truth. Water washes our bodies and makes them clean, just as the true things we learn from the Word can “wash” our minds.

A picture of our minds

Look at the picture. Think about what happened at the pool.



What happened at the pool is a picture of something that happens in our minds. What do you think that might be?

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Sometimes we are “sick”

The pool of Bethesda (water) is a picture of how the Lords’ truth works.

So what do you think the sick people around the pool might be? What in our minds could we see as being like the sick people? Well, we all have thoughts and wishes in our minds that are selfish or unkind or hurtful to other people. We could think of these thoughts and feelings as being like the “sick” people that need to be made better.

The people around the pool were sick, but when they got in the water they were cured. What about those thoughts and feelings we have in our minds that need to be made better. How are we going to “cure” them?

The Lord’s truth can make us well

When we learn and use the Lord’s truths in our lives, the Lord cures us. He makes us want to do good instead of selfish, hurtful things.

The man at the pool was sick for 38 years, a long time. The Lord asked the man, “Do you want to be made well?”

Do you remember what the man said? He said that there was no one to put him in the pool. Then the Lord told the man to “Rise, take up your bed and walk.” He told the man to get up and **do** something.

We have to change ourselves with the Lord’s help. We often put it off and make excuses and keep doing the wrong things. Maybe there is someone at school we are teasing. We know we shouldn’t do it, that it is mean and unkind. But we sort of enjoy it and tell ourselves that its their fault because they are so stupid, or whatever other excuse we can think of.

That is why the Lord asked the man if he **really wanted** to be cured. If we really do want to get rid of “sick” thoughts, feelings, and actions, we must **do** something. We must get into the “water.” How do we do that? We turn to the Lord by listening to the true teachings in His Word. And He will cure us.

Application

On page 3 is an activity to help you think about using the Lord’s truth to heal wrongs.

You may wish to color the picture on page 1. You could add the angel stirring the water.

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Things that need to be “cured”	Truths – the “water” to cure them
Hating the Lord.	
Cheating on a test at school. This is stealing someone else’s answers.	
Saying something bad about a person to someone else. This is murdering his reputation.	
Disobeying one of your parents.	
Using one of the Lord’s names to swear.	
Lying about something you have done.	
To want to have something of someone else’s because you think you should have it instead.	
To do something to someone else that you would not like them to do to you.	
To think that you should be trusted better than other people because you are more important.	

*Cut out the “truths” below. They are like the water in the pool.
Glue each truth next to each thing in the first column above that it will “cure”.*

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind & strength	Do unto others as you would have them do unto you
You shall love your neighbor as thyself	Honor your Father and thy Mother
You shall not covet	You shall not kill
You shall not bear false witness	You shall not steal
You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain	