

16. If you were telling someone about Jesus which of these witnesses do you think you would talk about? If this is too general, think of a particular person, what stops them believing that Jesus is the Son of God?

17. What reasons does Jesus give in these verses as to why the Jews would not believe? (Many did believe, but most did not.)

## Pray

If you have thought about a particular person or people in question 16 pray for them and that God would be pleased to break down the barriers to their coming to faith.

Pray for our witness to Christ, for confidence in the gospel, and that the Holy Spirit would help us to have the right words at the right time.

Pray for those members of your Church who through age and infirmity are no longer able to get to church week by week. Pray for those who visit them regularly.

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March 2015

# Meeting Jesus

## Week 3

### Sickness and sin

#### Read John chapter 5 verses 1 to 14

1. We are not told why this man was invalided but what do you think Jesus means in verse 14?

Was Jesus saying that the man's suffering was the result of some particular sin all those years earlier, or more generally that sickness, suffering and death came into the world because of sin? (known as 'the fall', cf. Genesis 3).

2. What sign is there here that through Jesus the effects of the fall will eventually be undone?

*We will shed more light on these questions in the next study on the man born blind.*

### Jesus' work

#### Read John 5.15-18

3. What work did Jesus do to heal this man and what does this show about Jesus power?

4. We are told in Genesis chapter 2 that God rested from His work of creation on the seventh day. What does Jesus therefore mean in verse 17 and what does this tell us about our universe? (Hint, this has to do with what we call general and special 'providence'.)

5. What accusations do the Jews make against Jesus?

6. Imagine you were the prosecutor in a court case against Jesus. What evidence would you put forward, from this passage, to back up the charges?

7. Imagine you were a member of the jury in the court case. What conclusion would you reach about whether Jesus had done what he was accused of doing?

8. What therefore did the Jews fail to understand about Jesus?

## **Jesus' teaching**

### **Read John 5.19-30**

9. In these verses what good things does Jesus promise and how does he say they can be ours?

10. What does Jesus say are the consequences of not believing?

11. Who will be raised at the final judgement?

12. How does what Jesus says in verse 24 fit with what He says in verse 29? (Does He teach salvation by faith one moment and salvation by works the next?)

### **Read John 5.31-47**

13. Now imagine yourself on the defence team in court. What witnesses would you call, based on these verses, to show that what Jesus was accused of is actually true, because He is who He said He is? (I think there are five, you may find more.) How strong is each witness?

14. Thinking more broadly than these verses are there other witnesses you might call?

15. In your own faith how important was such evidence? Did it just click or did you go through a time considering the evidence for Jesus? If the latter, were there particular things that convinced you?