



## Community Group Discussion Guide “Take Jesus at His Word” February 9, 2014

### Read John 4:43 – 5:9

In these two narratives, Jesus performs two healings by simply speaking healing into reality. For, Jesus is the very Word of God, who brought all things to life in the beginning. And He was made flesh to bring life back to a dying world. When Jesus heals it is a foretaste of the new creation life to come.

When a “royal official” comes to Jesus seeking healing for his dying son, because he had heard about Jesus, Jesus simply tells him: “Go...your son will live.” The royal official “took Jesus at his word.” He put his trust in the promise Jesus spoke to him. On the way back home, the man found out that his son was healed at the moment Jesus spoke those words. Jesus teaches us to *take him at His word*. He invites us to put our trust in the promises He speaks in His teachings and which are exemplified in His ministry and fulfilled in His death for our sin and His bodily resurrection from the dead. Jesus, our King, promises to heal us in body, mind, and soul with “eternal life” – the life of the everlasting age to come.

In the second narrative, Jesus travels back to Jerusalem, and comes to the pool of Bethesda. The pool of water was legendary as a place of healing both among the Jews and the pagans. For them it was like the “miracle cure” that the sick flocked to in the hopes of receiving their healing. Jesus meets a man, who had been disabled for 38 years, lying next to the pool, waiting for someone to put him in. Jesus stood there with the disabled man as the fulfillment of all the Jewish and pagan hopes for healing represented by the stirring waters of Bethesda. Jesus spoke his powerful word of healing: “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” And the man was healed. He picked up his mat and walked. Jesus demonstrates that *His word is all that it takes!*

Whether it’s emotional healing from past hurts. Or it’s our struggle with the guilt and bondage of sin. Or it’s the sickness and disease of our bodies. Jesus calls us to *take Him at His Word for His Word is all it takes!* His Word heals us. In His time and His way we receive measures of healing as a foretaste of the new creation life to come. On that final Day Jesus will speak the final Word of healing and our bodies will rise from the dead, perfectly healed, to live the joyful life that God intended for us.

*The Word of God should be a significant part of our daily life so that we may take Him at His Word. How do you include God’s Word as part of your daily life? If you could re-order how you use your time, what is the best time for you to renew your mind in the words and promises of Jesus?*

Keeping in mind this life we have in Jesus, discuss together the questions at the end of chapter 5, “Restructuring Our Relationships: The Hebrew Day Planner,” in the book *Real Simplicity: Making Room for Life*. How can the life we have in Jesus change the way we live our lives?