

## ENCORE Discoveries

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1. Discuss experiences of when a testimony led to someone believing in Christ.
2. What do people need to believe about Jesus? Jesus was with the Samaritans for two days; how much can one learn in only two days? What would you teach if you had only two days in which to teach it?
3. Jesus noted that “a prophet has no honor in his own country.” What do you think this means? In what situations would this apply to us today?
4. What can we learn from the account with the nobleman? What limitation initially seemed to be on his faith? What are some examples of *our* limited faith?
5. Share some testimonies as to how God has strengthened your faith.
6. What types of signs are people looking for today? What do people “wait on/for” before they trust Christ?

<sup>39</sup>And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, “He told me all that I ever did.” <sup>40</sup>So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup>And many more believed because of His own word.

<sup>41</sup>Then they said to the woman, “Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.”

<sup>43</sup>Now after the two days He departed from there and went to Galilee. <sup>44</sup>For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country. <sup>45</sup>So when He came to Galilee, the Galileans received Him, having seen all the things He did in Jerusalem at the feast; for they also had gone to the feast.

<sup>46</sup>So Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum. <sup>47</sup>When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and implored Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. <sup>48</sup>Then Jesus said to him, “Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe.”

<sup>49</sup>The nobleman said to Him, “Sir, come down before my child dies!”

<sup>50</sup>Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your son lives.” So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way. <sup>51</sup>And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told him, saying, “Your son lives!”

<sup>51</sup>Then he inquired of them the hour when he got better. And they said to him, “Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.” <sup>53</sup>So the father knew that it was at the same hour in which Jesus said to him, “Your son lives.” And he himself believed, and his whole household.

<sup>54</sup>This again is the second sign Jesus did when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.

Do you want to change?

## Read: John 5:1-15

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### Monday

1,2 — What was the feast of the Jews? What is the Sheep Gate? Bethesda means “house of mercy.” What do you think of when you think of mercy? How has mercy affected your life?

### Tuesday

3,4 — Why did so many sick people hang around this place? What did the water do for them? How many people did it affect at a time? How is this different from God's healing?

### Wednesday

5-7 — How long had the man been lame? What did Jesus ask Him? Why do you think He asked this? What was the lame man's excuse for not getting help sooner?

### Thursday

8-10 — Why was it bad for the man to be healed? What are other examples where “religion” can get in the way of mercy? How can we be faithful to the Word, yet also merciful?

### Friday

11-13 — What did Jesus do after He healed the man? Why do you think the Jews wanted to find Jesus? Do you think that there are people around you who have experienced the mercy of God, yet have not known this mercy was from Jesus?

### Saturday

14,15 — What is the significance of the place where Jesus found the lame man? What did Jesus tell him to do? What should be the result of experiencing the mercy and forgiveness of God? What did the man do after his encounter with Jesus? Peek at verse 16 to find out what.

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