



**ENTER** God's presence

### Psalm 147:1-6

<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord.

How good it is to sing praises to our God,  
how pleasant and fitting to praise him!

<sup>2</sup> The Lord builds up Jerusalem;  
he gathers the exiles of Israel.

<sup>3</sup> He heals the broken-hearted  
and binds up their wounds.

<sup>4</sup> He determines the number of the stars  
and calls them each by name.

<sup>5</sup> Great is our Lord and mighty in power;  
his understanding has no limit.

<sup>6</sup> The Lord sustains the humble  
but casts the wicked to the ground

- **Pray:** Lord of compassion and power, you bind up our wounds, you lift up the humble, you speak healing where there is hurt. As we gather in your name and around your word, give us ears to hear your voice, hearts to receive your grace, and faith to rise when you say, "get up and walk!" In Jesus name, Amen.



**SHARE** life together

1. **What are your highs and lows since you last met?**
2. **When have you recently had a 'restful' or 'restoring' moment; either physically, emotionally, or spiritually?**
3. **Have you ever felt 'stuck' in a place or situation for longer than you wanted? What helped you to move on?**
4. **Is there something in your life that you would love to see made whole or restored right now? How could your LifeGroup support you or pray for you in this?**

Week beginning:  
**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

Worship series:  
**Identity Check**  
#5 Show Me Your Wholeness



**VERSE** for the week

**Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." At once the man was cured: he picked up his mat and walked.**

John 5:8-9

(Full Text – John 5:1-14)



**REMEMBER** this week

**Jesus has made you whole, despite your excuses, to live the life he is calling you to live with him.**

It's something that serious people have recognised in every generation. St. Augustine famously articulated it this way, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you." C.S. Lewis framed the same idea this way, saying, "If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world." In 1999 the Christian music band "Plum" released a hit song with the same idea. It was called "God Shaped Hole". People of every time and place recognise a feeling of emptiness, incompleteness or brokenness. It gets described different ways, but it recognises the same universal reality – we are not whole.

Sometimes our brokenness is more physically obvious like the paralysed man in today's Bible reading but other times we don't acknowledge or recognise our broken parts so easily. We hide or ignore them because we have become used to carrying them around with us. It's only when we recognise that there is a God shaped hole in all of us, as the song suggests, and that God is the only one who can fill it, that we begin to experience the fulness of life Jesus so often talked about with his disciples.

Read the passage from John 5:1-14 [here](#), or in your own Bible.

5. **Try to summarise the main idea of this passage.**
6. **What verse/concept/teaching in this reading caught your attention and what was challenging/confronting/comforting about it for you?**
7. **What do we know from the story about the man at the pool. How would you describe the brokenness he is experiencing? (physically, emotionally, socially, spiritually)**
8. **In verse 6, Jesus asks, "do you want to be well?" Why do you think Jesus asks that question? What do you think Jesus is trying to get at?**
9. **What do you make of the Man's response? What does it tell you about his hope or expectation of any kind of healing or change in his situation?**



Jesus asked the paralysed man, "Do you want to be well?" It seems like a strange question—but it's one we often need to ask ourselves. Many of us go to Jesus with brokenness or struggle, but when He names the issue and offers a clear way forward, we hesitate. Like refusing medicine from a trusted doctor, we sometimes want to negotiate for a more comfortable or manageable path. But healing requires trust—and obedience.

10. **Have you ever known what you needed to do to move forward or heal—but resisted it? Why? What kinds of things can hold us back from responding to Jesus invitation to wholeness?**
11. **What are some ways we try to 'negotiate' with Jesus about sin, healing, or obedience—rather than simply trusting Him? Can you share an example of how you or others have done this?**
12. **If Jesus asked you today, "do you want to be well?" – what area of your life do you think he might be referring to and how do you think you would respond?**
13. **How might responding in obedience to Jesus be something that helps identify us as his disciples to those around us?**



## LIVE purposefully

### MAKE IT REAL:

Jesus didn't just restore the man's legs—He restored his life. He gave him back the dignity of movement, the freedom to rejoin his community, and perhaps most importantly, a new beginning. But this healing didn't come through a bargain or negotiation—it came through trust and obedience. The same is true for us. Wholeness isn't just about feeling better—it's about being restored to the life Jesus calls us to. It's not always easy, and it's rarely instant. But when Jesus speaks into our stuck places, He invites us not just to walk—but to walk forward in faith.

So, the question for us now is not just, "Do you want to be well?" but "Are you willing to live like someone who's been made whole?"

14. **Jesus tells the man, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." What 'mat' might Jesus be calling you to pick up today as a sign of trust in his healing?**
15. **Where in your life, or someone else's, do you long to see Jesus bring healing or wholeness?**
16. **What would it look like to trust him with that need this week?**

Plan your weekly devotions or [download the Church Central app](#) for the daily **LifeWay Devotions**



## PRAY intentionally

- **Praise the Father**, for his ongoing work of restoring all creation to wholeness
- **Thank Jesus** for the invitation to find healing and wholeness in him as we walk with him and his disciples
- **Ask the Holy Spirit** to grow you in obedience and wholeness so that others might see the fulness and wholeness of the life you have in Jesus
- Pray for Pastor Nich and his family as they journey to Australia this week.
- Pray for all of LifeWay as we grow into this next season of our lives together as God's people, living his love, sharing his hope with all, and growing in grace together.



## BLESS one another

You might like to address one person in your group and make the sign of the cross on their forehead or on the palm of their hand as you say...

**[Name], May the resurrection power of Christ bring wholeness to your life, Amen.**