

UPSIDE DOWN GLORY



Small Group Questions

Message: “The Canvas of Glory”

Speaker: Pastor Bob

Series: “Upside Down Glory”

Date: 2/8/26

Text: John 5:1-13; 9:1-7

1. **ICEBREAKER:** Share about a time when you experienced a long wait for something important (medical results, job news, answered prayer, etc.). How did that season of waiting affect your faith or relationship with God?
2. Read **John 5:1-5; John 9:1-7**. What are the key similarities and differences between these two healing stories? What do you notice about how Jesus approaches each person?
3. Read **John 5:6** aloud. Jesus asks the man at Bethesda, Do you want to be healed? This seems like an obvious question for someone sick for 38 years. What do you think Jesus is really asking? What might this question reveal about the man's heart and ours?
4. In **John 9:1-3** the disciples ask, **Who sinned?** Jesus reframes the question entirely. How does Jesus answer in verse 3 challenge both the disciples' assumptions and our own when we encounter suffering or disability?
5. Pastor Bob noted that the word invalid can be split as in-valid, someone the world sees as having no worth. **How does the Gospel challenge this worldview?** What does it mean that every person bears the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27), regardless of ability?
6. **Who do we treat as “in-valid” in our lives and world?** Where are the modern Pools of Bethesda - places where people wait for mercy and help but feel overlooked? How might our church better see these individuals and families?

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7. **Share honestly:** When have you or someone you love faced a difficult circumstance and asked, ***Why would God allow this?*** How can we create space for that natural question while also helping one another move toward ***What will God accomplish through this?***
8. Based on this sermon, what is one specific way you can be part of removing barriers so more people can encounter Jesus? This could be learning, serving, advocating, or changing your own assumptions.
9. **Close your group time by praying for:**
 - a. Families in your church and community affected by disability.
 - b. Those who are waiting by modern Pools of Bethesda to encounter Jesus.
 - c. Wisdom and courage for MBC as we launch our disability ministry.
 - d. Open eyes to see how God displays His glory through weakness.
 - e. The Joni and Friends partnership and upcoming training opportunities.
10. **Pray the Big Idea together:** *Jesus, help us see the overlooked, restore the forgotten, and join You in this mission. Make us Your hands and feet. Amen.*

Going Deeper (Optional)

Read the rest of John 9 (verses 8-41) to see how the religious leaders respond to the healing. What does their response reveal about hard-heartedness? How does the formerly blind man's testimony develop throughout the chapter?

Memorize John 9:3 as a family or small group this week

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