

## **John 5: 1-9**

### **Topic:**

a) *Do you want to be made well?*

a) Once there was a boy named Herman. One day after school, Herman came home, walked into the kitchen, opened the kitchen drawer, took out a hammer and hit himself in the head with it. The next day he did the same thing and the next and the next. The following day Herman's mother came into the kitchen and found Herman sitting at the table with the hammer in his hand. "Gee ma" said Herman, "I keep getting these terrible headaches!" Do think Herman wants the headaches to stop? What does he have to do?

a) There was a boy whose mom was a real good cook. Every night she would make her family a delicious meal. One night the boys mom made spaghetti and meat balls. You could smell the sauce cooking all over the house. At supper, his mom set a big plate of spaghetti in front of the boy. The boy looked at it and said, "No thanks mom, I think I'll go out and have a nice plate of worms." With that the boy went outside, dug in the lawn and ate a big handful of worms. He did this every night. Soon he went up to his mom and said, "Mom, I don't feel very good." Do you think he wants to feel better? What does he have to do?

a) Marci is disobedient. She is disobedient at school. When her teachers ask her to do something, Marci usually does what she feels like doing, not what her teachers asked her to do. She is also disobedient at home. When her mom gives her a job to do...Marci usually doesn't do it. When her parents ask her to stop doing something (like teasing her little brother) she pretends that she doesn't hear them and keeps on doing it. One day Marci noticed something. After all the bad reports from school and all the disobedience at home, she noticed that her house was a sad house. Her mom and dad didn't laugh as much as they used to. Her little brother didn't seem happy a lot of the time. Even her dog didn't seem to be enjoying himself. One day Marci sat on the edge of her bed and asked herself, "Why is everyone in my house so sad?" Why are they? Is there anything Marci can do to bring happiness back into her house?

a) The next day Marci went to school and had a terrible day. She didn't do her homework like she was supposed to, didn't study and flunked a test. Then in gym class they had these really heavy balls that the older kids played catch with. The coach told Marci not to throw the ball but she disobeyed, threw it and hit one of her friends in the head. Her friend was hurt. The gym coach sent Marci to the privnivals office and called her parents. That night was another sad night in Marci's house. Marci felt really bad. She really wanted things to get better. She wanted herself to get better. What is the first thing Marci should do? (pray)

### **Topic:**

b) *There are no excuses*

b) David's mom was going out. Before she left she asked David to shovel the sidewalk because when she got back she would have a lot of groceries to bring in and it would be hard to walk through the snow. David who was on the couch watching TV said he would shovel the walk. The show he was watching got interesting and then the show after that was one that David wanted to see so by the time his mom got home, the walk was not shoveled. His mom walked through the snow carrying all the groceries. By the time she got into the house she was not happy. She asked David why he didn't shovel the walk for her. David tried to think fast. "Uh, I was going to shovel the walk but a gang of robbers came by and stole our snow shovel! Uh...I was just about to shovel the walk when aliens came down in a spaceship, took me back to their planet and told me they wouldn't bring me back to earth unless I promised not to shovel the

walk! Uhhhh.....I was just about to shovel the walk when heaven opened up and God spoke to me. He said, "You shall not shovel the walk!" David's mom didn't believe any of these excuses and he was sent to his room for disobeying. What was the only real reason he didn't shovel the walk?

b) Genesis 3: 9-13...Adam and Eve blaming others and making excuses.

b) Randy's mom had just made a huge chocolate cake. It was covered with thick dark chocolate frosting. His mom put it on top of the refrigerator and told Randy not to touch it. While his mom was upstairs, Randy wandered into the kitchen looking for something to eat. He looked up and saw the chocolate cake. It was high up on the refrigerator. Randy thought, "It won't hurt anything if I just stick my finger in it and taste just a little bit of the frosting." So Randy got a chair, put it next to the refrigerator, climbed up, and reached up to take a bit of the frosting. Randy was standing on his tip toes. He lost his balance and started to fall. He grabbed the plate the cake was on and the entire cake fell on the floor. Next came Randy. He fell off the chair knocking it over and landed in the middle of the chocolate cake. His mom heard the crash and came running downstairs. There was Randy, lying on the floor on top of a squashed chocolate cake with a chair on top of him. "Randy!" shouted his mom, "What are you doing?!" Randy got out of the cake, stood up and said, "It's not my fault, you never should have made that cake! The devil made me climb up there and knock it over! It's the chairs fault!"

- Whose fault is it?
- Why do we sin?
- Is it easy to sin?
- Is it easy to obey God all the time?
- Then how do we do it?

## **John 5: 10-16**

### **Topic:**

a) *Are there rules?*

a) Why did Peter leave his fishing business to follow Jesus?

- Did he have to?
- Would Jesus still love him if he didn't?
- But what would he have missed out on?

a) How many rules are in the Bible?

- Are they all good rules?
- Actually there are only two rules...Love God and love others.

a) Once there was a mom who really, really wanted to have a clean floor. Every time she would clean the floor the kids would come running in and get it all dirty again. So she made a list of "Floor rules."

....no black marks on the floor

....no dents in the floor

.....no scuff marks on the floor

....no brown marks on the floor

....no sneaker marks on the floor.

....no sandal marks on the floor

....no soccer shoe marks on the floor

....no boot marks on the floor.

Her son came into the house after being outside all day. He didn't even read the rules. Before he went into the house he took his shoes off. Does he need to worry about all those rules?.....Why not?

- If you love God and love others, you won't hurt anyone. You don't need any other rules.

**Topic:**

b) *Sin no more.*

b) In the backyard of Andrea's house was a hole that was known as the filthy pit. Andrea's dad told him many times to stay away from the filthy pit and definitely do not jump into the filthy pit. Andrea didn't listen. He walked up to the pit, thought it looked like fun and jumped in. He soon found out that he was being sucked under by the filthiness in the pit. He screamed for help. His dad heard him, came running out and pulled him out of the filthy pit. A week later, Andrea did the same thing. He jumped into the pit, screamed for help and his dad came running out and rescued him. A few days later he did the same thing and his dad rescued him again.

Question: if Andrea jumps into the filthy pit fifty times how many times will his dad pull him out? If he jumps in one hundred times, how many times will his dad pull him out? Why will his dad do this?

(Because he loves him).

- Would it be better if Andrea didn't jump in at all?
- When we sin, God will rescue us every time we call on him. Why?
- But obeying God is way better. (The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.)

**John 5: 17-21**

**Topic:**

a) *Jesus is God (How do you know?)*

a) It was lunch time at school. All the kids filed into the cafeteria to get their lunch. They were all really hungry. They rushed up to the counter to see what they were serving for lunch. It was beans. The next day the kids rushed into the cafeteria hoping that maybe they would have pizza or hot dogs for lunch but instead it was beans again. The kids were sick of beans. One boy named Arnold stood on his chair and yelled, "I am God! I will now turn these beans into ice cream cones!" Arnold closed his eyes and raised his hands. The next sound was the cafeteria lady yelling, "Get off that chair and eat your beans!"

- Do you think the beans will be turned into ice cream? Why not?
- Do you think Arnold is God? Why not? (One reason, what he said would happen...didn't.)

a) Andrew was babysitting his little sister. He decided he wanted to watch television. He came downstairs and there was his little sister lying on the couch where Andrew wanted to lie and watching a show that Andrew didn't want to watch. Andrew walked up to the couch, grabbed his sister, threw her off the couch, laid down and changed the channel. His sister got up and cried, "Hey, why did you do that?" Andrew answered, "Because I am God and you have to do what I say."

- Is God like this?
- Do you believe that Andrew is God? Why not?

a) All the kids were in the park playing. One of them ran over to Marci's house and asked if she could come and play with them. Marci ran out and brought her kickball with her. When she got to the park all the kids wanted to play soccer. Marci wanted to play kickball. The rest of the kids didn't want to play kickball. Marci said, "If you don't do what I say and play kickball, I am taking my ball and going home!" "Why?" asked the kids. "Because" said Marci "I am God and you have to do what I tell you to do!"

- Do you believe she is God? Why not? ( Is God like that ?)
- a) Jesus said He is God.
- Do you believe He is? Why? ( The way He is. All the things He did)

**Topic:**

b) *God gives life to what was dead.*

b) Once there was a sick flower. Instead of growing and getting taller and more beautiful, this flower was shrinking. Its leaves were all wilted and the flower was all bent over with its face on the ground. God saw the flower and made the warm sunshine come out. Then He sent a gentle rain. Soon the little flower looked different. Instead of being all bent over it was standing straight up. Instead of being all wilted it was bright with color. Who brought the flower back to life?

b) John 11: 1-45....Lazarus.

b) Genesis 4: 1-8...Cain and Abel.

- Is Abel dead now?
- Why not?

## **John 5: 22-23**

**Topic:**

a) *Jesus and the Father are one.*

a) John 14 : 8-9...."Show us the Father..."

**Topic:**

b) *Why didn't they believe Him?*

b) Luke 7: 37-39....Jesus says He is God. If He were really God would He be nice to this woman?

b) Luke 18: 9-14....I don't need to be forgiven.

**Topic:**

c) *What is judgment?*

c) Luke 23: 39-43....The criminal on the cross next to Jesus.

- This man was arrested and judged for the bad things he did. He did so many bad things that they put him on a cross. Death was his judgment.
- Soon he would have to be judged by God for all the bad things he did.
- But he wasn't judged by God and is alive in heaven right now....Why?

## **John 5: 24**

**Topic:**

a) *He who hears and believes passes from death to life.*

a) Once there was a boy who was standing in a dark room. He couldn't see anything. Every time he moved he would trip over something because he couldn't see where he was going. He stood in the dark room and yelled for help. His father yelled in that there was a light switch on the wall and that

the boy should find it, turn it on and there would be light. The boy heard what his father said, believed him and obeyed. He felt around the wall for the light switch, found it and turned it on. Instantly the room was filled with light. The boy was happy. It was much better to be in the light than in the darkness.

- This boy went from one thing to another. From what thing to what thing?
- How did he do it? (Heard, believed and obeyed)
- What does God say?
- Do you believe Him?
- Then you have gone from one thing to another...From death to life.

## **John 5: 25-27**

**Topic:**

a) *Jesus just has to say it.*

- a) Genesis 1: 3...Speaking things into existence.
- a) Luke 8: 22-25...Telling a storm to be quiet.
- a) Mark 5: 38-43....Speaking a dead person back to life.

**Topic:**

b) *What are we waiting to hear Him say?*

b) There was a race. All the runners were waiting for the race to start. The official stood on the side and said, "On your mark!" The runners lined up at the starting line. The official said, "Get set!" The runners crouched down ready to take off as fast as they could. Then the whole place got quiet. They were waiting for the official to say something else. What were they waiting to hear him say?

- What are we waiting to hear Jesus say?
- Some day we will hear Jesus say, "Come up here!" Then the party will start.

## **John 5: 28-29**

**Topic:**

a) *How long is forever?*

a) Cindy is going to Disneyworld for a whole month. She and her family are going to stay at a hotel with a cool swimming pool, go on all the rides and do a lot of fun stuff. She has to pack two bags, one for the plane and one for the month at Disneyworld. The plane trip is going to last about two hours. She has to pack some things to read and some games to play with. The other bag is for the month at Disneyworld. She needs her swimsuit, toys and enough clothes and stuff to last her a month. These two bags she has to pack...Are they both important? Which one is more important? Why?

- We live our lives on earth and we will live them in heaven.
  - Are they both important?
  - Which is more important?
- a) Sarah's family and Max's family live next door to each other. Both families are going on a trip to the same place...Dinosaur Land. It's a really cool park that has huge dinosaur robots that you can get on and ride. They have a dinosaur swimming pool, a dinosaur hotel, they have dinosaur everything and since Sarah and Max both love dinosaurs, they were really excited. Max's family loaded the car and

took off down the road. As soon as they turned the corner, Max and his brothers and sisters started fighting. They argued, they wouldn't share their games, they teased each other. When their mom and dad told them to stop, they didn't. Max's dad wanted to stop at some fun places on the way but he couldn't because the kids were acting so bad. Finally they got to Dinosaur Land. Max's dad got out of the car. He didn't look happy. "Whew!" he said. "We're finally here! But that was the worst trip ever!" They went to Dinosaur Land but no one had a good time getting there. Sarah's family loaded up their car and started down the road. This trip was different than Max's. Sarah and her brothers and sisters didn't fight. They shared their games. The older kids took care and watched out for the little ones. When their parents told them to do something or stop doing something...they obeyed. On the way down to Dinosaur Land they got to stop at a lot of cool places and see some amazing things. Finally they got to Dinosaur Land. They piled out of the car. Sarah's dad said, "We're here! That was a really fun trip and now it's going to get even better!" They had a great trip!

- You are on your way heaven. Will you have a good trip or a bad trip? How do we have a good trip? (obey God)

## **John 5: 30**

### **Topic:**

a) *We have to make decisions.*

a) What is a decision? (it's a choice)

a) Billy and his friends got to class early. They walked into the room and no one was there. "Hey!" said one of Billy's friends, "Let's draw weird pictures on the whiteboard! No one will know that we did it." This was a risky thing to do because their teacher has a rule that no one is to ever, ever, ever draw on the white board. Now Billy has to make a decision. Should he join his friends and draw on the board or not.

Unfortunately Billy didn't make a good decision. He and his friends drew all over the board. They didn't know it but there was another boy who walked by the class and saw them drawing on the board. This boy, whose name was Phil, told the teacher what Billy and his friends had done. When the teacher came in, the boys got into a lot of trouble. At lunchtime one of the boys said, "That Phil told on us and got us in trouble. Let's grab his lunch and dump it on the floor!" Now Billy has to make another decision. What should he do?

a) Marci and Tamara are friends. They have been friends for a long time. Lately Marci has also been hanging out with Cynthia, Susan and Amber. Cynthia, Susan and Amber for some reason do not like Tamara. One day Marci was in the hall at school talking with Cynthia, Susan and Amber when Tamara walked up and said "Hi." Cynthia, Susan and Amber turned to Marci and said, "Don't be friends with Tamara, we don't like her." Now Marci has to make a decision. What should she do?

### **Topic:**

b) *How can we make the right decisions?*

b) There was a boy who wanted to go to Buffalo. He was walking down the road when suddenly the road divided in two directions. He could go left or he could right. Since he was left handed he felt that going left was the best way. He started walking when a big car pulled up. The man in the car was the man who had built the road. He asked the boy where he was going. The boy told him Buffalo. The man in the car said that if he wanted to go to Buffalo he should go right instead of left. Now the

boy has to make a decision. Should he go the way he feels like going or should he listen to the man in the car? What should he do?

- If we do what God says we will always make the right decisions.

## **John 5: 31-36**

**Topic:**

a) *The work that God does.*

- a) Genesis 1: 1-19...the creation of nature.
- a) Genesis 1: 20-25....creation of animals.
- a) Genesis 1: 26-28....creation of people.
- a) Luke 19: 1-10....creation of Gods children (Zacchaeus)
- a) Luke 7: 36-50...fixes people (the weeping woman)
- a) John 19: 30....saving people (“It is finished.”)

b) Susan had to walk to school. She didn't mind because she could talk to her friends on the way and it was good to be outside. Her school was on the corner and she would cut across the lawn to get to the front door. She would always go the same way because growing in the middle of the lawn was one little flower. It was yellow with pink spots on it. Susan would stop every day, look at the flower and bend down and smell it. It had a nice smell and it made her feel good. One day she stopped to see the flower when she saw something that made her sad. Someone had stepped on the flower. It looked like someone tried to squash it on purpose. It was all bent over and it looked like its stem was almost broken. Susan ran home and got some special flower tape. Then very, very carefully she lifted the flower up and very, very gently wrapped the tape around its stem. Then she got a little stick and taped it to the side of the flower to help it stand up straight. Every day she would bring a little cup of water for the flower and made sure that no weeds were growing up around it. Then a few days later she gently, very gently took away the stick and slowly and very gently unwrapped the tape that was around the flower. When when was done she stood back and was very happy to see that the little flower was standing up straight and was all better. The flower was happy too.

- In this pretend story, Susan fixes a flower. The real story is that God fixes people who are broken because they are sad, hurt or lonely.
- b) Tasha was new in school. She didn't know anyone and didn't have any friends yet. She walked into her new class for the first time. When she walked in everyone turned around and stared at her. As she was waking to her seat, her foot got caught on one of the chairs. She tripped and fell on the floor. Some of the kid started laughing. One of the girls said, “What a weirdo!” Tasha felt terrible. At lunch all the kids came into the cafeteria and sat down. Tasha was sitting by herself watching the kids and wishing she had a friend to sit with. A group of girls were sitting at a table near Tasha. Tasha heard one of them say, “Don't sit next to the weirdo.” Just then one of the girls got up from the table. Picked up her lunch and walked over to Tasha's table. She asked Tasha, “Can I sit with you?” For the first time that day Tasha smiled. She and the girl became best friends.
- Was anyone in this story doing the work of God?

**Topic:**

c) Where do we get the strength to do the work?

c) Acts 3: 1-12....Peter and John heal a lame man.

c) Once there was a boy who had some work to do. There was a huge rock in his back yard and he was told that he had to get it out of there right away. The rock was bigger than the boy. He tried pushing it, shoving it and pulling it. He couldn't even get it to move one inch. He was out there all morning pushing and shoving that rock. One of his neighbors was very strong. He lifted weights every day and had huge muscles. The strong man saw the boy trying to move the rock. He walked over, grabbed the rock and lifted. The rock went into the air and the man carried it away.

- Did the work get done?
- Could the boy do it himself?

We can't do anything without Jesus. God does the work.

c) Cheri and Mellissa were outside playing. They decided to climb a tree. As Mellissa started to climb she slipped and fell. She got a cut on her knee. It wasn't a bad cut but it was bleeding. Cheri ran into her house and asked her mom to give her a wash cloth, some cream to put on the cut and a band aid. Then she ran outside, washed off Mellissa's cut, put some cream on it and the band aid. Mellissa was glad that someone had the stuff to make her cut better and she was glad that she had a friend who cared.

- Did Cheri have the stuff to fix Mellissa's cut or did she have to get it from someone else?
- We can't love others or help them unless we get it from Jesus.

## **John 5: 37-47**

### **Topic:**

a) *What is prophecy?*

a) God telling people what is going to happen before it happens.

a) Luke 1: 30-33...the angel tells Mary what will happen. How did he know?

a) Genesis 41: 14-40....Joseph tells Pharaoh what will happen. How did he know?

a) Genesis 22: 1-14...Abraham and Isaac acting out a prophecy

a) Leviticus 14: 1-7....offering for healing of leprosy...a prophecy of Christ.

### **Topic:**

b) *Why wouldn't they come to Jesus?*

b) Once there was a boy who fell off a cliff. This was a very high cliff and he was falling through the air towards the ground. A helicopter was flying by and saw the boy falling through the air. The helicopter swung around and pulled up next to the boy as he was falling. A man in the helicopter yelled to the boy, "Here, grab this parachute!" The boy answered, "Nah, I don't need it. I'll just flap my arms and fly."

- Why didn't he take the parachute?
- Did he need it?
- People wouldn't come to Jesus because they thought they could get to heaven by themselves.
- Could they?

### **Topic:**

c) *How do we come to Jesus?*

c) Robert came home from school and saw his mother working in the front yard. He ran up to her and she told him some good news. “Your father went to the store and bought you that remote control car you wanted.” Robert was so happy to hear this! He had seen the car in the store and had wanted it a long time. “Wow!” said Robert, “Can I have it?!” Roberts mother said, “Your father paid for it and he wants you to have it.” Robert ran into the garage where his father was working on the car. “Dad, can I have the car you bought me?!” Roberts dad smiled, reached into the car and handed Robert a box. Inside was the remote control car. He and his dad put the car together and played with it in the driveway.

- Jesus paid for you to go to heaven by taking our sins on the cross.
- Want heaven? Ask Jesus...the answer is always, always yes!