

Believe and Have Life

The Gospel of John

John 5:16–30

1. Go back and skim read John 1–4. Summarize what have we learned so far about Jesus' identity.
1:1–5, 16–18, 29, 41, 49

2:11, 16

3:13, 19, 34–36

4:25–26, 42

Read John 5:1–30.

2. What were the Sabbath rules? (Ex. 31:12–17)
3. According to the Jewish leaders, how was Jesus breaking the Sabbath rules? (vv. 8–12, 16)
4. Jewish religious tradition taught that God was the only one who was above the Law, and who was “allowed” to work on the Sabbath (holding the Creation together and sustaining life). What is Jesus revealing about his identity when he chooses to heal the disabled man on the Sabbath? (vv. 17–18, 21, 26)
5. Jewish religious tradition referred to God as Father in the general sense of Creator or Father of all humanity. Jesus, however, speaks about God as Father in a much more intimate way.
Read 5:19–28. One way to view this section is to see it as the Father and the Son working together in the “family business.”
 - a. What is the Father's role?
 - b. What is the Son's role?

- c. What characterizes their relationship? (vv. 19–20a, 22–23, 30;  * Mt. 3:16–17)
6. Look back at Jesus' exchange with the Samaritan woman (4:4–26) and the two miraculous healings (4:46–53; 5:1–15) in chapters 4 and 5.
- a. In what ways are these individuals “dead”?
- b. How do these stories demonstrate the truth of verse 25?
7. In verses 28–29 Jesus is speaking about the resurrection that will happen at the end of human history. Everyone will “hear his voice” and be raised.
- a. What is the “good” (v. 29) for which some will be given eternal life? (vv. 24; 3:18, 36)
- b. What is the “evil” (v. 29) that will result in condemnation for some? (vv. 24; 3:18, 36)
8. Look at the response of the Jewish leadership to Jesus in verses 16–18.
- a. What do they get right?
- b. What do they get wrong?
- c. How does their unbelief give birth to evil?
9. What amazes you about Jesus from this passage?
10. Meditate on verse 24.
- a. What does it mean to you that eternal life is guaranteed?
- b. How do your lifestyle and worldview look more like “life” rather than “death” now that you have “crossed over from death to life”?

Have you heard and believed in Jesus? If not, you can pray in faith right now.

*The  symbol indicates verses for further study.