

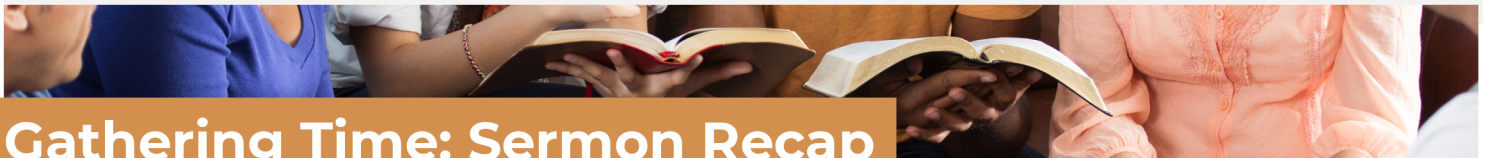
How to Use This Guide:

- **Read the Sermon Recap** by yourself (for devotions) or with your group. You can also watch the sermon on YouTube @CBCFamily.
- **Read the passage/s.** Look for truths, promises, and/or commands. Try to find the “who, what, when, where, why, and how.”
- **Group Time:** First, take turns reading the Scripture passage/s from the sermon, round-robin style, letting each person read one verse. Go around the circle until the whole passage has been read. Then, **utilize the Group Time** portion of this 4G Guide.

What's a 4G? A guide that covers:

1. Gathering Time (Sunday morning)
2. Group Time (for group meetings)
3. God Times (personal and family devotions)
4. Give Time (a prompt for reflection)

- **Personal God Time:** Use these each day to dive into the passages further and challenge yourself to apply the texts.
- **Family God Time:** Use these each week to dive into the passages with your family.
- **Give Time:** Ask your group, yourself, or your family what might be a good response to the sermon or text? How are you inspired to give of your time, talent, or treasure?



Gathering Time: Sermon Recap

What Do You Need?

Today, Pastor Erin gave a message about finding our need and seeing others' needs. He looked at **John 5:1-16; 8:7-11; and 9:2.**

As Erin explained, sometimes what we think we need isn't what we really need after all. In addition, there are also times when a small need is indicative of a greater, underlying need. How do we get to the root of it all? How can we find out what we really need?

Erin used John 5:1-16 as an example. In this story, a man who had been disabled for 38 years was lying near a pool of water. He was unable to get into the waters first in order to be miraculously healed. His immediate need was to get into the water, but he needed help. He needed someone to put him there.

The man had another need, though. He needed to “sin no more.” Being separated from God because of sin is far worse than being disabled. Jesus reminded the man to live life God's way. What we need most is God!

We can also help find others' need. After seeing and realizing the disabled man's needs, Jesus healed him. Then, He asked the man to get up and carry his mat *on the Sabbath*. This upset the Jewish leaders who had rules about not working on the Sabbath day. They rejected God's miracle because they focused on the mat. There's a lesson: we must not be so rigid that we miss God's movement.

How can we find others' needs? We need to take an interest in them, and we need to engage with them. How? We observe and listen, ask open-ended questions, and make a holistic assessment. We can use the B.L.E.S.S. acronym as our guide, asking about their body (health), livelihood, and emotional, social, and spiritual well-being. Then we pray for those needs, pointing them to Jesus.

So, what do *you* really need? Are you walking with God? What about those around you? Do you see and realize what they need? What are you doing to point them to Jesus?

Group Time: Questions

Conversation Starter

Ask: Have you ever thought you knew what you needed, but God showed you otherwise?

Discussion Questions

Choose a track, mix and match, or do them all.

- **Track 1:** After hearing the Sermon Recap how would you sum up the message Erin gave? What did the Bible passages show you?
- Why do you think people have a hard time discerning the difference between their needs and wants? How can our wants get us off track?
- In the Bible story, did the man at the pool know what he really needed? Did Jesus give him what he needed? How?

- **Track 2:** What made the Jewish leaders miss (or reject) the miracle? What were they focused on?
- Is there an area of your life where you might be missing God's movement because you are focusing on "the mat"?
- What do people need most? What are some ways you can meet your true need?
- **Track 3:** What two things did Jesus do before He asked the man if he wanted to be well?
- What do you need to do in order to really see the needs of others?
- What will you do this week to show someone you care? How will you meet needs?



God Time: Personal

Use the sermon notes from our Gathering Time this week for your personal time with God. Use a spare notebook or your favorite device to journal your responses. Include prayer and application in your time with God!

- **Monday:** Read John 5:1-9. What stands out? Mark your Bible or journal about it.
- **Tuesday:** Read John 5:10-16. What stands out? Mark your Bible or journal about it.
- **Wednesday:** Reread John 5:3-6. What did the man think he had to do to be healed? Do you think he understood God's mercy and grace? Why or why not?
- **Thursday:** Reread John 5:10 and 15-16. How did the Jewish leaders respond? What was their main focus?
- **Friday:** Reread John 5:7-8, 11, and 14-15. Look at every response the man made about his healing. Compare and contrast his response to the blind man's response in John 9:30-38. When Jesus meets your needs, what should your response be?



God Time: Family

Parents: Familiarize yourself with sermon recap from our Gathering Time. Sum it up in a way your child can understand.

- Consider **reading** a story of Jesus healing someone from a children's Bible.
- Give a **summary** statement like: "Sometimes, we think we really need something, but we just *want* that thing. Our biggest need is to be a friend and follower of Jesus. When we give our hearts to Him, God satisfies our biggest need - He forgives our sin and gives the promise of life forever with Him! He also helps us with all our other needs and even some of our wants. He is wonderful!"
- **Ask:** What is our biggest need?
- **Say:** Our biggest need is to be a friend and follower of Jesus! Then we can share Him!
- **Activity:** Together, make a random list of things your family needs and wants. Make sure God is on the list. Rewrite your list in order of importance. Now pray over the list.

Give: *How does this week's sermon inspire you to give of your time, talent, or treasure?*