

**RIVERSIDE ANGLICAN CHURCHES**  
**QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR REFLECTION**  
**John 4:43-5:15**

**Read 4:43-54**

1. What does the official stand to lose by traveling to Jesus? What does he stand to lose by leaving without Jesus and returning home? (HINT: think about the son's situation and the journey times implied in verses 50-52. If you have a map in your Bibles, find Cana and Capernaum and see if this helps)
2. In verse 48 Jesus seems particularly annoyed about the kind of belief the people of Galilee have (the "you" is plural – "you people"). Read verses 43-45 again (and 2:23-25) and discuss why you think he feels like this.
3. In verses 48-50 how does the official respond to Jesus words? Is he any different to the people Jesus has been complaining about? How so?
4. What is the official's obedience based on?
5. Is the healing of the official's son dependent upon his faith? What is the healing dependent on? (particularly discuss verses 50 and 53).
6. Besides gaining his son back from death, how do you think the official's view of Jesus has changed through this encounter? How would this have affected his whole household?
7. In your own life, how could it be made easier to obey God?
8. What aspects of obedience to God do you personally struggle with? Do you think there's a connection between your struggle and your view of who Jesus is? What can you do to improve this?

**Read 5:1-15**

9. Why do you think John gives the extra details about the 5 columns (now archeologically verified – although disputed for centuries) and the name of the place in verse 2?
10. Why might Jesus' question in verse 6 not be so silly as it appears initially? What does the man's response tell us about his outlook on life?
11. What causes this healing to occur? (Read verses 8 and 9 carefully) What involvement does the man have in this healing?
12. In verses 10-16, what are the Pharisees focusing on? The healed man keeps saying something they keep ignoring – what is it? What should their response be? How is this similar to the temple clearing in chapter 2?
13. In verse 14, why does Jesus find the man again? How do you think the man reacts to this? (*N.B: Whilst some sickness might be related to specific sin, Jesus is not making a point about the relationship between sin and sickness – he's contrasting the suffering of sickness and the suffering of judgment*).
14. Are we supposed to like or dislike the healed man by the end of the story? Why?
15. In both accounts, Jesus seems to redefine what each person really needs (i.e, belief in him more important than healing, ceasing to sin more important than physical wellness). Compare the responses of the two people?
16. In what ways lately has the Lord Jesus redefined your needs? What stops you from obeying him and ceasing from sin? What do you need to do about it?