

## USE THIS GOSPEL W2

The Gospel. It is one of the most dynamic, powerful, and redemptive stories of love, grace, and mercy. It is a story of Jesus and how he gave the world freedom and new life. It is a story that can change our lives forever. But this story is also an invitation from God that we can accept or reject. So whether you have never heard the gospel or you have been in church all your life, or somewhere in between, throughout the next few weeks we will be unpacking the powerful, simple, life giving gospel and how to use this gospel to change the world.

### ILLUSTRATION //

Have you ever heard of something but when you actually experienced it, it exceeded expectations?

- Illustration // Share a story of a time this has happened for you. My story: The time I tried this famous burger from New Jersey for the first time.
- In the same way, the story of Jesus sounds pretty cool but when you actually experience Jesus your story is forever changed.

### SCRIPTURE //

John 5:1-9 - Afterward Jesus returned to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish holy days. 2 Inside the city, near the Sheep Gate, was the pool of Bethesda, with five covered porches. 3 Crowds of sick people—blind, lame, or paralyzed—lay on the porches. 5 One of the men lying there had been sick for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him and knew he had been ill for a long time, he asked him, “Would you like to get well?” 7 “I can’t, sir,” the sick man said, “for I have no one to put me into the pool when the water bubbles up. Someone else always gets there ahead of me.” 8 Jesus told him, “Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk!” 9 Instantly, the man was healed! He rolled up his sleeping mat and began walking!

### TENSION //

How can my story change the world?

- The Title of Today’s message is ‘It’s Not You, It’s Me’...

### MAIN POINT // We don’t give the gospel power, but our stories display the power of the gospel.

- Your testimony through the gospel of Jesus is made powerful.

### P1 // Your Story is Unique

- We see in John 5:1-5 we see a man that was sick for 38 years.
- He would lay near this pool of Bethesda which was rumored to have healing power because they believed an angel would stir up the water but he couldn’t ever go in quick enough. Many believe it was actually just a hot spring but it was the only hope he had. So everyday he felt like he was close to a miracle but just out of reach.
- APPLICATION //
  - This man had a story that was unique, it was personal, it was his own. And when Jesus entered it only that man that was once lame understood the magnitude of what Jesus did in his story. It also connected with others that had similar illnesses.
  - In the same way we all have a unique story. Jesus wants to enter in your story and change your life forever. How do you look at your story? Do you know it’s uniquely yours?

## **P2 // Your Story is Physical**

- We see in John 5:6-9 this man couldn't help himself. He was broken and fallen. But Jesus came in and brought him the gift of healing. And this man made the decision to walk in his healing.
- Sound familiar? This is the same pattern of the gospel. The Fall. The Gift. The Decision.
- This man's story just wasn't any story, it was a physical example of the power of the gospel.

### **APPLICATION //**

- Your testimony is the physical, tangible evidence of the power of God.
- Though we may not see Jesus with our physical eyes, testimonies help us see Jesus working today.
- Do you know your testimony is the bridge for someone to experience Jesus? What's stopping you from sharing your story?

## **P3 // Your Story is Powerful**

- We see in John 5:8 Jesus says to this man pick up your mat and walk.
- Can you imagine the impact it made on people around him to see him walking and carrying that mat? The same mat that was labeled as something negative is now used to show the glory of God.
- The power of this man's story came from the before and after. The transformation of Jesus.

### **APPLICATION //**

- In the same way your old mat that you carry is the thing that God saved you from. Your new walk is proof of God's power.
- What if the story you hold so close could show someone the power of God?

**CHALLENGE //** Write down your testimony and share it with someone this week.

## **RESPONSE**

- Salvation
- Rededication
- Something that gives everyone an action step.
- Push to invite friends that don't know Jesus (maybe invite cards?)