SMITH FOR CHRIST · TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN · LEADER'S SHEET · THURSDAY DEC 17

John 5 · week 5 of 21

The Son Who Gives Life · Answers and notes for Thursday

READ MONDAY – WEDNESDAY · MEET THURSDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 17

Answers to every worksheet question, with the exact NASB key-word counts. Personal questions are marked "Personal."

THE WEEK

Monday	Read John 5 straight through, then again with a pen and mark it · Mon, Dec 14
Tuesday	Read the study notes; answer the Observe questions and count the key words · Tue, Dec 15
Wednesday	Interpret, Weigh the Teachers, the Word study and Apply · Wed, Dec 16
Thursday evening	Together: watch the John 5 part of the film, go through the worksheet, pray · Thu, Dec 17

KEY VERSE

> **JOHN 5:24 · NASB**
>
> *"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life."*

A man waits thirty-eight years by a pool, Jesus heals him on the Sabbath, and the religious leaders decide to kill Him. Jesus answers with His boldest claims yet, and calls witness after witness.

John 5 *The Son Who Gives Life*

KEY VERSE 5:24

Theme of the chapter. Jesus, equal with the Father, gives life to whom He wishes and holds all judgment. Whoever hears His word and believes has eternal life now and has passed out of death into life. Every witness points to Him, and men stay away not for lack of evidence but because they are unwilling to come.

KEY WORD COUNTS (NASB)

Sabbath	**4**	vv. 9, 10, 16, 18
testify / testifies / testified / testimony	**11**	vv. 31 (×2), 32 (×2), 33, 34, 36 (×3), 37, 39
life	**9**	vv. 21 (×2), 24 (×2), 26 (×2), 29, 39, 40
Father	**16**	vv. 17, 18, 19 (×2), 20 (×2), 21, 22, 23 (×2), 26, 36 (×2), 37, 43, 45
Son	**10**	vv. 19 (×2), 20, 21, 22, 23 (×2), 25, 26, 27
judgment / judge	**6**	vv. 22, 24, 27, 29, 30 (×2)

JOHN 5:1–9 The Healing

1 OBSERVE *Describe the man and his situation: how long he had been ill, where he lay, and what he says when Jesus asks him a question (5:5–7).*

> Ill "thirty-eight years" (5:5), lying at the pool of Bethesda. He answers, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up" (5:7).

2 INTERPRET *Why would Jesus ask, "Do you wish to get well?" (5:6) Guzik: "This was a sincere question." What can a man lose by getting well?*

> After years a man can make peace with his condition. Sproul: healing brings new responsibilities, and some men prefer the security of confinement.

3 OBSERVE *What three commands does Jesus give, and what happens (5:8–9)?*

> "Get up, pick up your pallet and walk" (5:8). "Immediately the man became well, and picked up his pallet and began to walk" (5:9).

4 APPLY *Henry: "It is not for want of a good will, but of a good friend, that I am unhealed." Who is the man in your life with "no man" to help him, and what would it take to be that man?*

> Personal. The study's application: be the man who puts him in the water.

JOHN 5:10–18 The Charge

5 OBSERVE *What do the Jews care about in 5:10? What does Jesus tell the man when He finds him in the temple (5:14)?*

> "It is not permissible for you to carry your pallet" (5:10). Jesus says, "Behold, you have become well; do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you" (5:14).

6 WEIGH THE TEACHERS *Guzik: "It was not a breaking of God's law of the Sabbath, but the human interpretation of God's law." What law had the man broken? Where do we care more about the mat than the man?*

> Only a human widening of Jeremiah 17:21, which forbade carrying loads of trade. The leaders were blind to a man walking after thirty-eight years.

7 INTERPRET *Why did the leaders now want to kill Jesus (5:17–18)? Did Jesus deny what they understood?*

> He said, "My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working," and they understood He was "making Himself equal with God" (5:18). He did not retreat. Guzik: "Jesus did not try and explain that He had not truly worked on the Sabbath."

JOHN 5:19–30 The Defense

8 OBSERVE *List what the Father gives or shows the Son in 5:20–27.*

> He loves the Son and shows Him all things (5:20). The Son gives life to whom He wishes (5:21). All judgment is given to the Son (5:22, 27), so that all honor the Son as they honor the Father (5:23). The Son has life in Himself (5:26).

9 OBSERVE *Read 5:24 slowly. What two things must a man do, and what three things are true of him?*

> Hear His word and believe Him who sent Him. He "has eternal life," "does not come into judgment," and "has passed out of death into life" (5:24).

10 INTERPRET *How can the Son be equal with God (5:18) and still say "the Son can do nothing of Himself" (5:19)?*

> Sproul: in being, Father and Son are equal; in the work of redemption, the Father sends and the Son obeys. Guzik: the relationship is "not one of master and slave."

11 INTERPRET *Verse 29 speaks of "those who did the good deeds" rising to life. Does that mean salvation by works? Compare 5:24 and 6:29.*

> No. Life comes by hearing and believing (5:24), and believing is "the work of God" (6:29). The deeds show which resurrection a man belongs to; they do not buy it. Spurgeon: "good works without faith are childish vanities."

12 APPLY *Verse 24 uses present and past tense: has life, has passed. How would you live this week if you believed it was already settled?*

> Personal.

JOHN 5:31–47 The Witnesses

13 OBSERVE *List the witnesses Jesus calls in 5:33–47.*

> John the Baptist (5:33), the works the Father gave Him (5:36), the Father Himself (5:37), the Scriptures (5:39), and Moses (5:46).

14 OBSERVE *What did the leaders do with the Scriptures, and what did they refuse to do (5:39–40)?*

> They searched the Scriptures thinking that in them they had eternal life, and the Scriptures "testify about Me." Yet they were "unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life" (5:40).

15 INTERPRET *Why didn't they believe? Look at 5:42 and 5:44.*

> Not for lack of evidence. They did not have the love of God in them, and they received glory from one another instead of seeking the glory from "the one and only God" (5:44). Sproul calls it moral resistance, not intellectual doubt.

16 APPLY *Spurgeon warns that for them "the Scriptures themselves became a sepulcher." How can a man read his Bible every day and still not come to Jesus?*

> Personal. The study's warning: "Bible without Jesus." Reading must end in coming to Him.

WORD STUDY

17 WORD *zōopoieō (G2227), to make alive. Only God raises the dead (Deut 32:39). What is Jesus claiming when He says, "the Son also gives life to whom He wishes" (5:21)?*

> He claims God's own prerogative. The same Son raises the spiritually dead now (5:25) and the bodily dead later (5:28–29).

18 WORD *metabainō (G3327), to change place, to pass over. In 5:24 the believer "has passed out of death into life." Read 1 John 3:14. What does a perfect-tense move tell you about your standing?*

> It is a completed move with lasting results. The believer has already crossed over and stays there.

ACTS 17:11 The Chosen check

> ACTS 17:11 · NASB
> *"...examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so."*

WATCH THIS WEEK
Season 2, Episode 4, "The Perfect Opportunity" (5:1–13)

Answers and notes for the Chosen check. Let the group find the differences in the text before you give them.

C1 OBSERVE

Read 5:1. Which feast does John name? Which feast does the show choose?

> John says only "a feast of the Jews." The show sets it at the Feast of Tabernacles.

C2 OBSERVE

Look at your Bible's note on 5:3b–4. How does the show treat the stirring of the water? Who is the man in John, and who is he in the show?

> Most modern Bibles note that 5:3b–4 is missing from the oldest manuscripts. The show implies the water was stirred naturally. John leaves the man unnamed; the show names him Jesse and makes him Simon the Zealot's brother.

C3 INTERPRET

What did the episode add that John 5 does not say? Does the addition help you see the text, or does it change what the text means?

> Additions are not automatically wrong; they are not Scripture. The test is whether an addition changes what the text says about Jesus.

C4 APPLY

The Bereans received the word eagerly and examined the Scriptures daily (Acts 17:11). Where are you most tempted to let a picture, a sermon or a feeling stand in for the text?

> Personal. Press for one concrete habit: reading the chapter before watching, and checking every scene against it.

The Chosen is a drama, not Scripture. God's Word is the truth; where the film differs, the Word wins.