



# Summer Blockbuster Reading Challenge

3 months—4 Gospels—Go!

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 2022



### Take your Pulse

The best thing about today is ...

The struggle today is ....

### Today's Reading

John Chapter 5

Jesus heals on a Sabbath day, and sets off a firestorm. The Jewish authorities are mad because for them the laws about the Sabbath are very sacred and very much set in stone. You have to observe the Sabbath in a very correct ritualistic way, or else you are not considered holy and can be cut off from the community. So, Jesus heals a man, and then tells him to carry his mat. That is breaking the Sabbath twice. Jesus response to all this madness is to point out that God is still working. God does not take a day off from healing, giving life, offering true belief. The laws about the Sabbath have cut people off from the work of God instead of lifting the people into the work of God. And that is a problem for Jesus. Jesus wants people lifted into the work of God.



### Start the Thinking

The man who is healed is asked if he wants to be healed. The man talks about the ritual of getting into this certain pool. But this ritual is all about superstition, and not at all about believing in the power of God. Think about a faith practice that you may have that is more based on superstition than it is on believing in the power of God.



### Conversing with God

Light of the World, you speak and even the dead hear your voice, and all who hear your voice receive eternal life. Open our ears, may we hear your sweet voice calling to us, lifting us into the fullness of God's eternal life. In your holy name we pray. Amen



### Be blessed

Brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ, our Savior, is alive! The grave could not hold him. Christ is alive! There is joy this morning! Go into the world with joy. Tell the world Christ lives. Tell the world of God's love. Go, my sisters and brothers, go without fear; go without shame; go without apology. Go in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.