

### Aim of lesson

To consider how we can be a witness for Jesus, and to see how Jesus witnesses about his Father.

### Bible background

John 5

### Outline of lesson

#### Healing a lame man

Get the class to read John 5:1-15, using different members of the class for the narrator, Jesus, the lame man and the Jewish leaders (if possible).

Turn to the workbook and help the class to discuss how the lame man is a witness for Jesus. Bring out that the man witnesses by:

1. Obeying him.
2. Continuing to obey even when it could get him into trouble.
3. Telling people about Jesus and what he had done; even telling powerful people who were opposed to Jesus and could make life difficult for the man.
4. His being healed was a witness to all who saw him.

#### The Father and His Son

You may like to let the class search on their own through verses 16-30 to find statements about the Father and the Son and to write these into the relevant boxes in their workbooks. In going through what they have found, encourage them to see how Jesus answers the accusation of his making himself equal with God. Help them to see how Jesus shows the ways in which he is not 'equal' with his Father, verse 19, "he can do nothing by himself"; and ways in which he is 'equal', verse 23, they should give him the same honour they give his Father, because he is doing his Father's work.

#### Five Witnesses

Let the class search through verses 31-47 together to find the five witnesses there (John the Baptist verse 33, the works of the Father verse 36, the Father verse 37, the Scriptures verse 39, Moses verse 46). Get them to say when they find one of the witnesses. Ask them for the reference and how they think each one is a witness to Jesus.

### Digging deeper

#### Healing the lame

This section looks at other miracles involving physically handicapped people: the centurion's servant, the man whose friends lowered him through the roof, the lame man in the temple, and Aeneas.

### Relevance to our lives

Ask the class how they think they can be a witness to Jesus in the next week. Ask them to compare the ways in which the lame man was a witness to see if their witnessing could be similar.

### Prayer

Dear Father, thank you for the way your Son has witnessed to us about your love and mercy. Help us to be true witnesses to you as he was.

### Other suggestions for activities

You could make a 'radio news interview' in which bystanders and perhaps the lame man and the Jewish leaders are asked about what happened.