



Healing - A Facilitators' Guide

Overview

For 5 weeks commencing May 4th the small group study will focus on healing.

May 4th - Foundations: healing and wholeness

May 11th - Spiritual healing – forgiveness and reconciliation

May 18th - Emotional wholeness – healing life's hurts

May 25th - Physical healing – praying for the sick

June 1st – Dealing with barriers to wholeness

A time to heal

In the last 40 years huge changes have happened in the church. The charismatic movement moved through all churches and denominations and transformed the ministry of healing, which had been regarded as something only clergy did for the very sick. The Holy Spirit began to reveal that it is a ministry that can involve all people and that it should not be restricted to those with serious illness, because all of us need God's healing grace in our lives (Mark 2.17)

Jesus' call to 'preach the gospel and heal the sick' is as relevant as ever. We are on a journey to see this become a natural and normal part of everyday church.

It is fair to ask the question whether the ministry of healing is an appropriate ministry to be promoting in the twenty first century. Some would argue that God has given us a greater understanding of healing and now this is the preserve of the medical profession. Whilst agreeing that God's activity is not restricted to the church, we also recognise the need to affirm that we are spiritual as well as physical and psychological beings and that ultimately all healing is of God. Jesus was a healer who calls the church to continue his ministry today.

The ministry of healing is:

- Visionary – because it beckons toward the future and a glimpse of the kingdom – the hope of creation renewed in perfect health and wholeness.
- Prophetic – because it calls us to reconsider our relationship with God, ourselves, each other and the world and to seek forgiveness, reconciliation and a new start in our lives.
- Dynamic – because Jesus is with us to the end of time. When we pray for his help, he comforts, strengthens, heals, responds to our deepest needs and meets us at our point of need.

So as we begin this new series, let's hear afresh the words of Jesus to 'come follow me' in this exploration of healing. Perhaps it's a bit of a journey into the unknown. If we travel with Jesus it will certainly be an adventure, as we pray for ourselves as well as for others, for we all need saving and healing.

'It's not the healthy who need a doctor but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners' (Mark 2.17)

Series prayer

Come in weakness, find strength; come in sickness, find health;
Come in chains, find freedom; come in confusion, find peace;
Come in sorrow, find joy; come in doubt, find faith;
Come in despair, find courage; come alone, find Christ.

You are receiving the small group notes for all 5 sessions in advance so that you can view them holistically and assess how they can be best used for your particular group. As we know, God meets us where we are and it is part of our rich diversity that group members are at different stages of Christian maturity. Our aim, as always, should be to take this teaching and to go on to discover the range of possibilities of how God wants to use us all throughout our entire lives and, in particular, on our frontlines.

NB You have the master copy for your group. Print off as many extra copies of the study, as you require.

For discussions

- **The key point with this series is that due to its very nature, it will require handling with sensitivity and care. As facilitator you may feel that you want to remind members from the outset that they should only share what they feel comfortable sharing and of course stress to them that maintaining confidentiality in anything shared within the group is essential.**
- You will be able to facilitate (sensitively) and in a manner which enables members to be changed (in language, behaviour, attitudes) by the Word and the Spirit so that they become more Christ like i.e. whole life disciples seeking to glorify God whenever and wherever He has placed them.
- The series is an opportunity for spiritual growth, for going deeper with God and for actively seeking healing and wholeness in our lives and the lives of others so as you read the Scripture together let it give life, listen carefully to one another as you share experiences and pray together. Invite the Holy Spirit to open your spiritual eyes to discern what God is doing.
- You will be able to encourage the group to reflect back on each week and ask questions about what has been going on for them, what changes they have made, what God has been doing in their lives.
- Enjoy the series and we pray that it will richly bless you and your group.