



### Week Three

#### Opening Prayer

God, thank you for allowing us to be here together. Help us to grow in our friendship and faith today. Amen.

#### Talk It Over

In this series we will be exploring who Jesus is, what Jesus did, and why his story matters to us now. Today we looked at the idea that Jesus is our healer.

- Have you ever had to miss out on something fun because you were sick? Tell us about that experience.
- Tell us about a funny or embarrassing memory involving being sick.

#### Due to the nature of today's topic, let's take a look at a brief overview of the topic:

While Jesus didn't heal everyone, healing was a big part of Jesus' ministry — it showed his connection to God and his compassion for people. Despite how many stories we see on the topic in the Bible, this idea of Jesus being a healer is often misunderstood and misused in Christian circles. We can say this idea of healing is one of those that we cannot chalk up in very clear, black and white way. It's a complex subject. In turn, we often find contrasting and extreme positions on this topic amongst Christians. There are some people who don't see healing as a thing Jesus still does and there are some people who think everyone can be healed at anytime and that any lack of healing is somehow tied to a lack of faith or a sin issue.

- Prior to this week's talk, what experiences have you had with healing or the topic of healing?
- If you have a favorite story of healing in the Bible share with the group why it's your favorite.

Today we'll be revisiting the story of Jesus' healing a paralyzed man and four truths that come from this story.

#### Read Luke 5:17-26 (NLT)

#### Lesson One — We can be so fixated on our immediate needs that we miss our deeper needs.

The friends in this story lowered their paralyzed friend down from a roof so he could receive physical healing from Jesus. But Jesus prioritized healing the condition of the man's soul. Jesus cared about the physical needs, but his top priority was the man's spiritual needs.

- What are some of your physical needs that often have your attention?
- Are their spiritual needs in your life you often don't take time to pray for? Why do you think those needs aren't your top priority?

#### Optional Supplemental Verse: Read James 1:2-4 (Voice)

It's natural to want to protect ourselves from pain and difficulty. But, in our pursuit of "pain-proofing" our life, we often want to skip the development and maturity that comes from journeying well through struggle.

- Without minimizing what you went through, tell us about a struggle you endured that led to growth?
- Do you know someone who's gone through a lot and has come out the other side for the better? Tell us about what you see in that person and how they endured well.

### **Lesson Two — Jesus sometimes heals our bodies. Jesus always heals our souls.**

Our souls represent the eternal parts of us; it's the deepest part of who we are and it's the part of us Jesus came to rescue. This healing is open and available to everyone right now.

- Have you ever seen someone not get the physical healing they wanted? Tell us about that experience.
- What are some of the gifts that have come from us allowing Jesus to heal our souls?

### **Lesson Three — Physical healing is temporary. Eternal healing is found in death.**

Without sounding apathetic, or as if it's no concern to us, the reality is that even the people Jesus healed physically all inevitably died one day. And as heartbreaking as death can be, the reality is death is simply an unavoidable reality of our fallen, broken world. But according to the Bible, our physical death is not the end of the story. The Bible tells us that life will continue past our death here on earth; that Jesus' has conquered our earthly death; and we will find eternal healing on the other side with him.

- Growing up, what messages were you taught about death and heaven?
- These days, what are your thoughts about death? What are your thoughts about heaven? *Remember, a key goal for this group is that everyone has space to openly share and process their faith journey.*
- What questions do you have about death or heaven? Questions can be personal or more informational.

### **Lesson Four — Healing results in praising God.**

Looking back at our story about the paralysed man who was lowered from the roof, we see that upon his healing all the attention was centered on God.

- Tell us about a time God answered a prayer in a way you didn't see coming.
- If you participated in this week's prayer healing at the end of service, tell us about that experience.
- What areas of life are you seeking healing for this season?

### **Closing Prayer**

Instead of praying one group prayer this week, break up into groups of two or three and pray for one another to experience healing. Take a few minutes to share about the specific request before jumping into prayer. And remember, our prayers can be short, casual, and conversational. Talk to God just like you'd talk to a friend.

**Homework Challenge:** Read Corinthians 15 this week to learn more about the healing that is to come.

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### **How To Use this Discussion Guide**

The guide is meant to serve you and your group as you intentionally create space to grow in friendship and faith. Use the guide as a tool to help your unique group.

With that in mind, consider reviewing the guide before your group to see if some content or questions might resonate more or less with your group. Don't feel pressure to read all the content or to hit all the questions. The guide is not meant to be something you power through for the sake of completing. Pick the content from the guide you feel will help foster friendship and faith in your specific group.

In addition, spend some time praying for your group each week, preparing your heart, and asking God for wisdom and guidance as you lead.