



Exploring Christian Healing

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NOTES FOR PARTICIPANTS

Session 1

God's heart to heal

AIM OF THIS SESSION

To encourage thought and discussion about God's heart to heal and the variety of ways in which healing might be experienced.



A SPACE TO MEET WITH THE LIVING GOD FOR
RELATIONSHIP • HEALING • TRANSFORMATION

Healing is an enormous subject, and it is not uniquely Christian. What sets Christian healing apart from other forms of healing is that it is all about the person of Jesus Christ – getting to know him more and finding the good things he has for us.

Does God really want to heal? These 4 truths from the New Testament make a compelling case that he does!

- 1 God's love is real**
 'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.' John 3:16

- 2 Jesus came to bring us fullness of life**
 'The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.' John 10:10

- 3 Jesus has already paid a price for our healing**
 'He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases.' Matthew 8:17

- 4 Jesus came to restore God's vision for this world**
 'The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.' 1 John 3:8



What difference would it make to your spiritual life if you took them seriously?



What is the nature of Christian Healing?

The range of healing needs touched by Jesus was way more numerous than what we tend to think of as the traditional healing stories, for example:

Bartimaeus – **Mark 10:46-52**

Zacchaeus – **Luke 19:1-10**

Peter - **John 21:15-19**

Healing is more than simply getting better.

It is about Jesus bringing his powerful touch to every part of us and our lives.

John Ryeland's attempt at a definition goes something like this:

Christian healing is the ministry of bringing the on-going touch of Jesus that transforms us into the people we were created to be.



Homework

Is there a specific issue in your life where you would love to see God's touch? It might be a healing need, a situation you are facing or a friend for whom you are praying

You might find it helpful to hold a cross, and as you worship God for each of the four truths we have been looking at, you can take hold of a different 'arm' of the cross.

First, begin by declaring and worshipping God for his love in this situation, whether it involves you or someone else. This will probably begin with words but seek to capture the emotion of God's love.

Secondly, give thanks that Jesus came that you might have fullness of life. Thank him that this is what he came to bring to you, not just to dangle in front of you.

Thirdly, think of some of the suffering endured by Jesus. Perhaps there is an aspect of it that seems particularly relevant to the situation you are facing. Worship him that healing comes through his wounds.

Finally, acknowledge the ways in which your life has been disrupted by the devil's attempt to thwart the purposes of God in your life. Give thanks that Jesus came to restore God's vision for it.