



Exploring Christian Healing

by John Ryeland

www.healingmission.org
www.encounterprayer.net

LEADER'S NOTES

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.

90 MINUTES



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



Introduction

Welcome the participants and introduce them if they do not already know each other.

It may be helpful to ask each person what they are hoping to get out of this course.

Explain that the nature of the course is a combination of video teaching and group discussion, and that notes for participants will be circulated **after** each session.

Open with prayer, perhaps asking God for his wisdom and revelation.



Group discussion



Encourage personal reflection about the healing ministry

Allow a few minutes for people to reflect upon their own experience of the healing ministry and then share together:

- What happened when they received prayer for themselves?
- What were the results of their prayers for others?
- What conclusions have they drawn about the healing ministry as a result?



God's heart to heal - 1.1

Play (or screen share) Video 1.1



The 4 truths shared in the video were:

- 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



Group discussion



Ask the participants:

- What difference would it make to their spiritual lives if they really took these statements seriously?
- Are there any barriers that make it hard for them to believe these truths?
- How might these four points help to increase their faith when they pray?



Study



What is the nature of Christian Healing?

Introduction to the study:

The range of healing needs touched by Jesus was quite extensive, in fact way more numerous than what we tend to think of as the traditional healing stories.

Depending on how many people are in your group, either divide them into small groups for this study or keep them all together. Assign one of the Bible passages below to an individual or group and ask them to consider what change was brought to each person:

Bartimaeus – **Mark 10:46-52**

Zacchaeus – **Luke 19:1-10**

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

- What were they like before this encounter with Jesus?
- What change happened to them during their encounter with him?



Feedback



Afterwards, ask for feedback once everyone is back together.

Conclusion: Healing is more than simply getting better. It is about Jesus bringing his powerful touch to every part of us and our lives.



Group discussion



- In the light of this, ask the group how they would define healing?

In case it helps, my own 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.

Are there any other comments people would like to make?



Closing Prayer



At this point, remember to circulate the Notes for Participants - Session 1 - to all those who took part.



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.