



ENTER God's presence

Praise the Lord. How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise him! The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the exiles of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

-Psalm 147:1-3

Lord Jesus, you are the great physician and healer. You know exactly what words we need to hear to address the brokenness that lies in each of us. By your Holy Spirit, minister to us through your word as we gather again at your feet, our Saviour and Redeemer. Amen



SHARE life together

- 1. How have you seen Jesus at work in your life this week?**
- 2. Share how you went with your living purposefully from last time?**
- 3. Have you ever been injured and unable to walk, or cared for someone who could not walk? How did it impact on your/their daily life?**
- 4. Have you ever received miraculous healing or know someone who has? What happened?**

You walk into a room & no one seems to notice. You work on a group project but no one asks for your input. Coffee with friends is all about them...never you. It's like you have a cloak of invisibility that leaves you unnoticed, passed over, ignored by those around you...a painful reality when the silence speaks volumes. After Pentecost, the Spirit enabled the apostles to see other people deeply & to meet needs they didn't even know they had. The very first act of the Church after the Spirit poured out was to heal and restore to the community someone who had been overlooked and passed by for years. To meet the need for restoration at the deepest possible level and grant new life in Christ is a work of the Spirit that fulfils the promise of Jesus: "As the Father sent me so I send you. The Spirit lives in you to make you a healing presence pointing people to restoration in Christ. The Spirit works through you to transform lives & relationships in ways you never imagined. So today we experience and are called to healing acts.

Week beginning
Sunday 6th June 2021

Worship series:
Getting Our Acts Together



VERSE for the week

The Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."

Acts 3:6



REMEMBER this week

Receiving Jesus
brings healing to your life
Giving Jesus
brings healing to others'
lives.



LISTEN attentively

Read Acts 3:1-16

- 5. What do you find challenging/confusing/comforting about this text?**
- 6. The people who saw this were filled with wonder and amazement. What kind of miracle would it take to fill you with wonder and amazement?**
- 7. What question would you like to ask the lame man who was healed?**

This story from the book of Acts is only one of many healing miracles that were performed by the Apostles, and as we all know the gospels contain many stories of Jesus' healing miracles as well. After preaching the Word, healing was the second thing the Church was called to and is still needed today. We know that the world is full of violence, disease, and death. We spend huge amounts of time and money trying to address these issues. We have police and armed forces that work to minimise the level of violence we experience in our community, we have teams of scientists around the world working on vaccines and drugs to treat and prevent various diseases. All of this to try and put off the inevitable – death.

- 8. Would you describe yourself as 'well' or 'healthy'? What do you do to try to maintain a healthy life and put death off for as long as possible?**
- 9. What about your spiritual health? Is it 'healthy' or in need of a bootcamp? Explain.**

We spend so much time fighting off the effects of physical ageing; we do whatever we can to stave off death for as long as possible. We train, we diet, we exercise, we get medical check-ups all to give our bodies the best chance at a long and healthy life all the while often neglecting the one thing that will truly deal with and help us overcome death – our relationship with Jesus. Peter and John recognised that they did not have 'silver or gold' to give this lame man. But the gift of a healed relationship with the Father because of the death and resurrection of Jesus meant that they were able to give this man something even greater.

- 10. What do you make of Peter's statement, 'what I do have I will give to you'? What did Peter really have to give the lame man?**
- 11. What are some of the things you think might have changed for this lame man after being healed?**



GROW deeper

So often in the church, we talk about healing only in terms of these miraculous stories of physical healing. It can be really easy to focus solely on the physical miracle and fail to notice the miraculous spiritual transformation that happens when people encounter Jesus. One of the things that is easy to miss in this story is that the paralyzed man is placed outside the temple gates. His disability excluded him from participation in the worship life of Israel and from entering the temple. Notice that when he is healed he gets up and enters the temple courts with Peter and John. Jesus not only restored his legs, but also restored him to community and relationship.

- 12. Have you ever thought of your faith in Jesus and the forgiveness he offers you as a healing miracle? How does thinking of it this way change things for you?**

Peter and James were very clear with the crowd that had witnessed this healing, that it was not them who had healed this man but that the name of Jesus Christ and faith in that same Jesus Christ had been responsible for the healing which the man had received. Sometimes we too can make similar mistakes. We can fail to recognise God's healing when our broken bodies are healed by conventional medicine and good old fashioned bed rest. We can fail to recognise God's role in restoring our broken relationships, taking the

credit for ourselves because we have 'chosen' to forgive the other party. Unfortunately, many people still make the same mistake as these crowds, putting greater faith in the 'faith healers' themselves than in the God who the faith healers claim to be working for.

13. How do you think you would react if you witnessed a truly miraculous healing today? Would you accept it or be skeptical and want to scrutinize it? Why?

14. What might you say to someone who wanted God to heal them immediately? How might you help them to recognise God's healing in other ways?



LIVE purposefully

Read Luke 9:1-6 and Luke 10:1-12

Jesus sent out his disciples with the command and authority to heal the sick. There are certainly Christians with miraculous healing stories still today, some even from the Lutheran Church! What seems to be a common thread in all of the stories though, is people who were walking a very close walk with Jesus. Even Peter and John knew that all they had to offer this man was Jesus. If we do not prioritise our own spiritual health, striving to walk closer to Jesus every day, how is it that we can expect to help someone else experience something that we do not even have for ourselves. We cannot give Jesus unless we really know Jesus.

15. How is your walk with Jesus at the moment? What are one or two things that you can implement this week to help it be even closer?

16. Who are some people that you know who are sick at the moment? Pray and ask Jesus to help you know how to show them his love and care for them

17. Who is someone that is overlooked, ignored in the circles that you frequent? How can you see them, understand them and bring the healing of Jesus to them this week?



PRAY intentionally

- Praise God for healing and rescuing you from sin, death and the devil.
- Thank God for all of his healing gifts and pray for our frontline healthcare workers, especially in the midst of this Corona-19 pandemic.
- Take some time in your group to pray for those you know who are sick and unwell in body, mind, or spirit.



BLESS one another

You might like to address one person in your group and make the sign of the cross in the air as you say...

[Name], the Lord sees you and loves you. Amen.