



## ENTER God's presence

**He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside still waters, He restores my soul.**

– Psalm 23:2-3a

Lord Jesus, the Good Shepherd, restore our souls and bring us deeper into your healing love as we gather around your word. May our time together in your presence be a healing and renewing walk in green pasture and beside still waters. Amen.



## SHARE life together

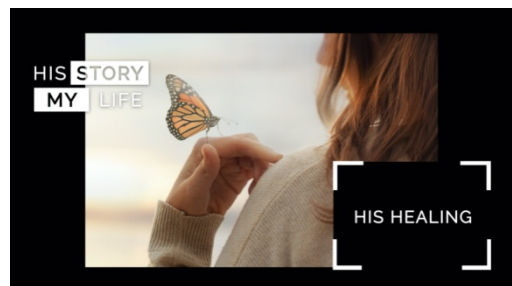
1. Share your highs and lows with each other?
2. Share how you went with your living purposefully from last time?
3. Share a time in your life when you have felt 'broken'.
4. Can you recall a situation in your life or the life of someone close to you, when you were acutely aware of God restoring or healing something in your life?

The Healing power of Touch. We know it. We crave it. We were made for it. The tender touch of compassion, the embrace hug of comfort or welcome, the caring touch of support and healing. For many isolated in this time of COVID - 19, whether in quarantine or stuck overseas, touch has become the rarest quarantine provision. Without it, we don't feel so human. It drains us of life, it robs us of hope, it diminishes our joy and isolates us from community. Jesus came to save, heal and restore; his entire life on earth was characterised by touch. To those who feel isolated, vulnerable and alone, know there is power in touching Jesus. It's a touch that cares, heals, embraces, lifts up and restores. Come and receive the power of his healing touch again today.

Week beginning:  
**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

Worship series:

**His Story...Your Life**



**VERSE** for the week  
**Jesus turned and saw her, "take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed at that moment.**

- Matthew 9:22



**REMEMBER** this week

**When you feel drained of life, let the touch of Jesus restore and heal you.**



## **LISTEN** attentively

Read Matthew 9:18-26

5. What key words/thoughts/ideas/questions arise for you as you hear this text?
6. What do you hear this scripture saying to you right now?
7. This is one story with two healings. What similarities or differences do you notice between both healing miracles?

We might well look at the whole of God's story as presented to us in the Bible, as a story of healing and restoration. Healing or restoring are basically the same principle, however in English it seems that one applies to living things and the other to inanimate objects. In both cases the goal is to make something as it was intended to be. A body that is sick has something wrong with it. It may be an infection, a broken bone, a faulty organ; healing attempts to put those things right. Restoration is the same, you might restore a classic car or bike by replacing or repairing parts that no longer work, fixing the paint job; you take something that is not in its original condition and try to restore it to that condition. From the moment of humanity's fall into sin, we were no longer in our original condition. God's story reveals and recounts the execution of his plan to restore all things through the death and resurrection of Jesus. He restores us to life and restores us into relationship with himself and each other.

8. When we speak of healing, we usually mean physical healing from a disease or condition. What other kinds of healing or restoration do you think God is interested in?

One thing that is important to note is that there are two kinds of healing going on in this passage. Firstly, the daughter of the synagogue leader was an insider. As a leader in the synagogue, this man would have been a well respected member of the Jewish community. However, the woman with the issue of bleeding would have been an outcast in the community. Blood was one of the things that according to the Jewish law and teaching made you unclean. Those who were considered 'unclean' were forced to the outskirts of communities, required to live apart from others so that their 'uncleaness' would not spread to others.

9. In this story, Jesus heals someone who is considered to be part of the 'in' crowd and also someone who was not. How does this challenge or affirm your understanding about God's healing?



## **GROW** deeper

The social status of those in this story might have been vastly different, but one thing they had in common was faith that Jesus could do something about their situation. Yet their faith and trust in Jesus' ability to help them, led them to two different approaches. The synagogue leader knew that only Jesus could do something and so he asked Jesus for help. He asked Jesus to reach out and touch his daughter (v18), yet the woman with the bleeding responded not by asking Jesus to reach out to her, but by reaching out and touching Jesus herself (v20-21).

10. What is it that you reach out for to provide hope and security when things are out of control in your life?
11. All of us fall somewhere on a spectrum between always reaching out to Jesus in every situation, or reaching out to him only as a last resort. If '1' was reaching out only as a last resort, and 10 was immediately reaching out for Jesus in every situation, where would you place yourself on that spectrum?
12. How does the image of Jesus going to the dead girl and reaching out to take her by the hand and restoring her to life (v25), reflect itself in God's larger story of healing and restoration and salvation for you?

In both of these cases, people were healed. Whether it was by reaching out to Jesus or having Jesus reach out, the healing comes when people encounter Jesus. This is still true today. Very little is healed in our lives simply by knowing about Jesus. We assume the woman with bleeding knew about Jesus and had heard stories of what he had done for others, leading to her belief of what would happen if she could just touch his cloak. Yet, it was only when she encountered Jesus and he spoke to her that she was healed.

**13. How do we move from learning about Jesus, to actually encountering Jesus and building a relationship with him that transforms and restores us?**

But the healing and restoration that Jesus gives is more than just a physical restoration or healing. Jesus restored the dead daughter to life and restored the woman with bleeding to her community. In the same way Jesus still does this for us. As a result of his death and resurrection, we are no longer dead in sin but alive in Christ. We are no longer cut off and excluded from God and his goodness, but we have been restored into relationship with him; the way he intended for us to be.

**14. Sometimes we can be disappointed if we pray for physical healing from God and it doesn't seem to come. Can you share a time God has restored more than just your physical health.**



**LIVE** purposefully

**Have a look at Luke 9:1-6**

Jesus' gave his disciples the authority to heal in his name. Jesus healing can come to others through us when we live in a restored relationship with him. While we may not see miraculous physical healing as frequently today, many people are suffering from loneliness, confusion, broken hearts and broken relationships. When we live in step with Jesus, we can be both a place where people reach out to touch Jesus, and the hands and feet that Jesus uses to reach out to others.

**15. Who is someone that you know who might be reaching out to Jesus at the moment? How could you help them encounter him?**

**16. What is one way you could reach out as Jesus hands and feet into your community this week?**



**PRAY** intentionally

- Praise God for his plan of restoration and healing through Jesus.
- Thank Jesus for restoring your relationship with the Heavenly Father.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you bring the healing love and life of Jesus to others in your life.



**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], receive the healing touch of Jesus. Amen.**