

The Way of the Cross

The Lord Who Heals

Jesus came to show us that God is our healer (Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 8:17). Through the prophet Isaiah in the Old Testament, the Messiah – who we now know is Jesus – would be a *suffering servant*. The prophet predicted that His pain would bring healing. Jesus indeed experienced physical pain through scourging, wearing a crown of thorns, and being hit by Roman soldiers. He also experienced emotional pain through repeated mockery. Yet what Jesus endured fulfills prophecy and powerfully transforms our present reality. The God who did still does! God still works miraculously today to bring spiritual, physical, emotional, and relational healing. We can begin to encounter that healing when we run first to the one who heals, when we pray boldly (even in our unbelief), when we lean on the people God provides, and when we trust God as healer (not just the healing). Our faith is not in outcomes, in whether we see healing like we want. Our faith is in God, and the cross proves why He is worthy of our trust.

VISION FOR THIS WEEK

To fully believe and embrace God as our healer today.

GET THINGS STARTED

Do you believe God heals spiritually, physically, emotionally, and relationally today like He did in Scripture? Why or why not? How have you experienced healing personally or seen someone you know be healed? How do you think we should respond when God does not bring healing in a way we wanted or hoped for?

GO DEEPER WITH SCRIPTURE

1. From Isaiah 53:4-5, what does it mean that Jesus (the Messiah) was pierced for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities? How does His suffering and wounds provide a way for us to experience healing? In what ways did Jesus experience pain, according to Matthew 27:27-30 and John 19:1-3?
2. What does Matthew 8:16-17 confirm about Jesus? From these verses, how does Jesus provide healing? In what other ways from Scripture does Jesus heal?
3. How is it possible to have both belief and unbelief, from Mark 9:23-27, and how should we navigate our struggle to believe and trust God for healing? What is the relationship of our faith to God's healing, and is faith necessary for healing? Does more faith lead to more healing? Why or why not?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. Where do you need to see God's healing right now, and to what level do you believe God is both *able* and *willing* to provide that healing?
2. How have you experienced disappointment or frustration in not seeing healing at all or healing looking different from what you expected or wanted? What have you done with those specific emotions, and what do you think you should do?
3. What does it look like for you to run *first* to the one who heals? What are some steps you can take to bring your pain, suffering, broken relationships, or sickness to God? What might it look like for you to trust the healer, not just the healing?
4. Who are the key people you can lean on in this season to journey with you towards healing?

PRAYER AS A GROUP

As a group, take time together in prayer to invite God to come and bring healing. Pray for and over those who need specific healing spiritually, physically, emotionally, mentally, or relationally. Verbally declare your belief and trust in God as healer and ask him to help you in any measure of unbelief you may have. Ask God to help you and encourage you in those areas where He has not healed, or where the healing came in a different way than you had hoped for.