

Use this daily Transformation Journal to learn how to study the Bible for yourself. Pray before you begin and ask God to bless you with insight and discernment as you ponder and respond to the questions, which are tools for your spiritual growth.



Family Ties

John 5:1-9

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be made well?” The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.” Jesus said to him, “Stand up, take your mat and walk.” At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a sabbath.

Sermon Notes

Suggested Reading:

Making Room For Life by Randy Frazee
Boundaries by Dr. Henry Cloud & Dr. John Townsend
Death By Suburb by Dave L. Goetz

Monday, April 19

Healing is unquestionably one of the most powerful and compelling themes of the life of Jesus. This week, we will explore a variety of stories from the life of Jesus that involve healing. You will notice that one of the common characteristics of a healing encounter with Jesus is a relationship with him. Healing appears to require a willingness to come into closest proximity with Jesus, to call out to Jesus, and to name your need for healing on behalf of yourself or someone close to you.

Mark 10:46-52 & 2:1-12

- Bartimaeus (in Mark 10) was not shy about approaching Jesus. What did he specifically want Jesus to do for him?
- What would your response be to Jesus if he asked you, “What do you want me to do for you?”

Tuesday, April 20

Everyone carries issues (from childhood or later) into subsequent stages of life. Some are physical, as with the man at the pool of Bethesda in today’s reading, whereas others are relational, emotional, or psychological. The longer you carry your issues the more paralyzed, beaten down, and hopeless you become. The question is: Do you want to get well? Your answer opens or closes the door to Jesus’ healing power in your life.

John 5:1-15

- What excuse did the man give in response to Jesus’ question (verse 7)?
- What excuses do you need to set aside in order to take your first step toward healing difficult life issues?

Wednesday, April 21

A healing encounter with Jesus involves faith that Jesus is capable of healing and will act on your behalf. Jesus demonstrated on multiple occasions his personal authority and power over illness and death itself. Today's stories include two people who showed ultimate faith in Jesus, knowing that just a word or touch from Jesus would be enough.

Mark 5:21-43

- The synagogue ruler and the woman with the issue of blood waited until all other options had run out before they contacted Jesus. In what had they put their faith instead?
- Jesus told Jairus, "Don't be afraid; just believe" (verse 36). In what circumstance do you need to take these words to heart and place your faith in Jesus to act?

Thursday, April 22

Jesus told his followers in John 14:12 that following his departure from Earth they would do what he was doing and even greater things. The Holy Spirit, dwelling in the lives of all followers of Jesus, carries on Jesus' healing ministry within each follower to bring life transformation. The Spirit also uses believers to bring about physical, spiritual, and emotional healing for others in Jesus' name, especially those with the spiritual gift of healing.

Acts 3:1-16

- According to Acts 3:16, what brings about healing?
- As a follower of Jesus, with whom could you share what you have--the hope that comes with a relationship with Christ?

Friday, April 23

A healing encounter with Jesus includes trust that God's bigger plan is constantly at work on your behalf. God's primary desire for you is your spiritual healing through a relationship with God - and that may or may not include physical health and well-being. For some, physical healing is the pathway to a mature relationship with God and transformation into God's image. For others, physical infirmities might be the route. In any and all circumstances God is always at work with a greater purpose in mind.

2 Corinthians 12:1-10 & Romans 8:28-39

- What was God's purpose in not answering Paul's prayer to have his "thorn in the flesh" removed?
- When God appears to be silent concerning an urgent request from you, how do you normally react? How can you develop trust in God during those times?

Saturday, April 24

Jesus told the ten lepers in today's story to "go, show yourselves to the priests" and be certified as healed and clean according to the Old Testament law. They stepped out in obedience to Jesus, even before they could physically see their healing, and "as they went" they were healed. Your call is to walk in obedience to Jesus, trusting his work is being completed within you - and give thanks for it.

Luke 17:11-19 & Psalm 103:1-6

- What attitude are you to have as you ask God for healing?
- What do you find most challenging about the concept of healing? Why?