

## 4: Healing

### WELCOME

*Spend time relaxing & sharing together. If you want an ice-breaker, you could try this...*

Has anyone known someone who has been healed when they were prayed for? Share it!

### WORSHIP

*Use music, silence, prayer, meditation, reflection, songs, hymns, etc. or be creative with drawing, writing, symbols, poetry etc to help people to draw near to God. You could try this...*

Play a piece of restful music. Each imagine Jesus coming to you. Which areas of your life would he want to bring healing to? In the stillness, offer them to him & ask him to heal them.

### WORD Acts 3:1-10; 4:1-14

**Read** Acts 3:1-10. As it is read, picture yourself in the story –maybe as John or as one of the lame man's friends.

**Discuss** your initial reactions to the passage:

- Does anything in the passage jump out at you? Why?
- Does anything connect with something you've been doing, reading or thinking about?
- Is there anything you haven't noticed before?

Now use **some** of the questions below (*and set a time limit to leave yourselves time to pray!*)

- What do you think of the way Peter spoke to the man (v6) & what he said? Why do you think Peter spoke this way?
- Would you ever pray for (or command) someone to be healed? If so, how?
- Are there times when you wouldn't (don't) pray for someone to be healed –why not?
- Peter uses simple words. How simple is prayer for healing?
- Peter makes it very clear that the healing is from Jesus (v6 & 4:10, 12). If you pray for people, how easy do you find it to acknowledge Jesus?
- Do you think you need to have a special gift to pray for healing?
- Re-read people's reactions in this story (v8, v10, v12, 4:2, 4:4). If people saw healings such as this today in Alsager, what reactions do you think there would be?

### WHAT NEXT?

Share with one another the names of people you know who need God's healing –physically, mentally, emotionally or spiritually. Don't be afraid to ask for prayer for yourself!

- Be careful to maintain appropriate confidentiality –gossip is wrong (2 Cor 12:20)

Now pray for each of these that they would be healed.

- Include praying for those in the room, not just those outside!
- Make sure that you pray for all of the people mentioned.
- Keep the prayers simple –it makes it easier for those who struggle & Peter did!

## 5: It's a Miracle!

### WELCOME

*Spend time relaxing & sharing together. If you want an ice-breaker, you could try this...*

What sort of things do people today say: 'It's a miracle!' about?

### WORSHIP

*Use music, silence, prayer, meditation, reflection, songs, hymns, etc. or be creative with drawing, writing, symbols, poetry etc to help people to draw near to God. You could try this...*

If you don't normally sing, how about singing for once?! If you normally do sing, try a different musician this week or try without music or with a CD. You will need words!

### WORD Acts 8:4-25

Read Acts 8:4-25

Discuss your initial reactions to the passage:

- Does anything in the passage jump out at you? Why?
- Does anything connect with something you've been doing, reading or thinking about?
- Is there anything you haven't noticed before?

Now use **some** of the questions below (*and set a time limit to leave yourselves time to pray!*)

- Could verses 6-7 happen in Alsager today? Do you expect it to? Why or why not?
- If so, would the reaction be the same as v8?
- Simon had miraculous powers but used them to draw attention to himself (v9). Philip pointed people to Jesus (v12). How can gifts that God gives us be misused? Have you any experiences of this?
- Peter discerned Simon's heart (v23). How can we do the same?
- What do you think of Peter's response to Simon (v20-23)?
- In an age of increasing 'spiritual' and 'alternative' remedies, how do we discern between what is of God and what is not? How should we respond?

### WHAT NEXT?

Think about our society and your community in particular –where you live or work.

Where are things being done for the wrong motives that are damaging people or turning them away from God? Discuss how you can respond as individuals or as a group.

Pray for these situations. Then pray for one another.

## 6: Words from God and to God

### WELCOME

*Spend time relaxing & sharing together. If you want an ice-breaker, you could try this...*

When do you feel closest to God?

### WORSHIP

*Use music, silence, prayer, meditation, reflection, songs, hymns, etc. or be creative with drawing, writing, symbols, poetry etc to help people to draw near to God. You could try this...*

Start this week by sharing & praying (thanks & pleases) instead of at the end.

### WORD Acts 10:44-48:4-25

**Read** Acts 10:1-24, 34, 44-48 (hopefully this gives the story enough)

**Discuss** your initial reactions to the passage:

- Does anything in the passage jump out at you? Why?
- Does anything connect with something you've been doing, reading or thinking about?
- Is there anything you haven't noticed before?

Now use **some** of the questions below (*and set a time limit to leave yourselves time to pray!*)

- What was God up to in this story and how did he do it?
- God gave Peter a message via pictures in a vision, then words (v19). He sent Cornelius an angel. What do you make of this? Have you experienced anything similar? How does God speak to you?
- How did Peter and Cornelius respond to God's prompting? How would you respond?
- How do you think Peter felt when his talk was interrupted by the Holy Spirit (v44)?
- When Peter and his friends heard the listeners speaking in tongues and praising God, they recognised that the Holy Spirit had been 'poured out on them'. Share any experiences that you have of the gift of tongues. If you have this gift, share how you discovered you had it.
- In 1 Cor 14, Paul is grateful for his gift of tongues (v18) and wants to encourage the appropriate use of tongues and prophesy (v26 & 39). How can we do this in our day-to-day lives & as a church?
- Contrast the surprise of what happened in Acts 11:44-48 with Paul's advice in 1 Cor 14:26 & 39-40. What implications do these passages have for our gathered worship as a church or home group?!

### WHAT NEXT?

Re-think about the gifts that you have. Are there any others that you would like to ask God for? Pray for one another that God would fill you with his Holy Spirit, reveal your gifts and give you opportunities to use them.

Lastly, how do you feel this series has gone? Do let me have your feedback? *Toby*