

## Discussion Questions Set #1

“Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people”. (Matthew 4:23)

“[The disciples] went from village to village, proclaiming the good news and healing people everywhere” (Luke 9:6)

1. What do you think people generally believe about the church’s interaction with illness and infirmity? Do you think there are any differences in attitudes between those who are a part of the church and those outside of the church in this regard?
2. What place does illness, infirmity and healing play within the life of the follower of Jesus?
3. How might issues of illness, infirmity or healing help or hinder one coming to faith in Jesus?
4. How might issues of illness, infirmity or healing help or hinder one maintaining faith in Jesus?

## Discussion Questions Set #2

In sermon, a distinction was drawn between cure and healing, suggesting that cures tend to be very targeted, aiming to rectify a specific ailment and often key in on the removal of something, while healing is a much larger and wider topic, covering a greater scope and is often about the addition of something that promotes greater health and involving concepts of wholeness, the Hebrew idea of shalom, peace and completeness. The point is that cure is not an end in itself; the goal is always that full shalom healing is ultimately experienced. Fullness of healing – sometimes involving cure too – is only found in the invitational, relational and restorative presence of Jesus.

1. Do you find this distinction to be helpful? If so, in what way? If not, in what way?
2. How might an awareness of the healing available in Christ, even in the absence of cure, help one to cope with the various difficulties that illness and infirmity bring? How might the pursuit of healing, rather than pursuit of cure, assist the faith of those struggling with illness or infirmity?
3. In sermon, it was stated that a pursuit only of cure leaves us in a position of eternal peril. Why is a focus on spiritual healing so important?

## Discussion Questions Set #3

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze ... Do not be afraid, for I am with you”. (Isaiah 43:1-2, and 5)

“[Christ] was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed”. (Isaiah 53:5)

In sermon we examined Christ’s approach to the ill and infirm and noted the following:

- A. He noticed and acknowledged their infirmity.
  - B. He extended invitational relationship to them.
  - C. Beyond just offering a cure, He offered healing, full restoration possible only by faith and through continued relationship with Him.
1. Why do you think it is important to acknowledge Christ’s presence with the sick? Why is it important to acknowledge Jesus’ interest in the sick?
  2. As we seek to mimic Christ’s approach to the ill and infirm in our world, what difficulties or barriers might exist in us as we seek to fulfill each of the following?
    - a. We ought to be willing to acknowledge the struggle of those who are sick and not just avoid this conversation by thinking “good thoughts”.
    - b. We ought to be willing to actually engage in invitational relationship with others.
    - c. We ought always to point people to the incredible restorative healing available in Jesus.