

2023-24 Aim Check-in

- Becoming disciples who make disciples, who make disciples.
 - Creating a community of faith that meaningfully engages our community of residence.
1. Since you last met as a H2H group, have you made any movement towards the aims we've set?
 2. How might we as a H2H group help support or encourage you towards these aims?

Discussion Questions Set #1

"Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he 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 53:4-5)

In sermon, it was suggested that our understandings of faith and illness can result in a juggling act experience of sorts.

1. Have you ever experienced this tension? How would you explain what the tension between faith and illness amount to in your experience?
2. How have you resolved this tension? Have you resolved this tension?
3. Describe your own personal convictions around the issue of illness and healing.
4. What tangible issues might our tendency to separate Jesus' personal work and power to the sick from His teaching/Kingdom proclamation result in? How might joining these realities help us in our understanding of faith and illness?

Discussion Questions Set #2

Jesus "was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel." (Luke 7:9)

"If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you" (Matthew 17:20)

In sermon, we examined the healings recorded in Luke 7, one of which (the centurion's servant) featured faith prominently and the other (the widow of Nain) in which faith seemed virtually absent.

1. Have you ever encountered the connection between healing and one's faith that sounds like "if you want to be healed, you just need more faith"? Discuss the resulting idea that healing, or a lack thereof, is directly related to one's expressed faith in Jesus according to this line of thought.
2. Discuss what problems might be presented if we understand a tightly dependant relationship between faith and healing.
3. What place does faith play in healing?

Discussion Questions Set #3

"Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." (James 5:14-16)

In sermon, we discussed the practice of intercessory prayer, sometimes called "standing in the gap", which is simply lifting up the needs and concerns of others to God.

1. Why do you think followers of Jesus are sometimes reluctant to ask others to pray for them?
2. Note that James packages together healing, prayer, confession and forgiveness in this passage. Why do you think he does this? How might confession and healing be related?
3. Might unconfessed and ongoing sin create a barrier to experienced healing? Why or why not?
4. James – and the tangible ministry of Jesus – seems to indicate that ministry to the sick ought to be a part of the church's ministry. What might a ministry to the sick look like in 2024? What might prevent such a ministry from functioning within the church? How might we deal with a reluctance to pursue such ministry?