

Session 3 : What does the Bible say?

Learning Objectives

- 1 To explore the Biblical material of the healing ministry of Jesus and the Early Church.**
- 2 To develop an understanding of the integral nature of healing in the proclamation of the Kingdom of God in Biblical times and in the present day.**
- 3 To explore Biblical terms relating to health, healing and wholeness.**

What the facilitator needs

Essential for each group member:

Post-it notes

Exercise Sheets 1 and 2 for Session 4 to be distributed at end of Session 3.

Handout 4 : summary of teaching material

Handout 5 : The Authority of Jesus and of the Church

Also : copy of The Healing Touch of God, if you have access to it.

Download of transcript for teaching material (for reference)

Powerpoints

There are powerpoints for each of the six sessions. Some of the slides have notes for the facilitator beneath the slide.

Start-time/Slides	Activity	Facilitator's Notes
<p>0.00 Slides: Title/Welcome and recap on Session 2.</p> <p>Slide : What does the Bible say?</p>	<p>Welcome and re-cap on Session 2.</p>	<p>In this session worship is at the end of the session, so feel free to open with a short prayer. Ask for any questions or reflections on the last session. Distribute Handout 4 for use with the teaching video.</p>
<p>0.10 Slide: definitions from Session 1 Slide : Refer back to word shower activity Session 1 (Health, healing and wholeness; shalom and 'soteria').</p> <p>Slide : definitions of "shalom" and "soteria"</p>	<p>Refer back to Session 1 and the definitions of health, healing and wholeness.</p> <p>Look at the Biblical definitions of shalom and soteria.</p> <p>Share in 2s or 3s what shalom means for you.</p>	<p>Refer to chapter 1 of The Healing Touch of God, P Edwards.</p> <p>Also refer back to word shower activity from Session 1.</p>
<p>0.25 Slide: Video – the Biblical material. Part 1</p>	<p>A 15-minute teaching video presenting the Biblical material for healing, particularly in the Gospels and Acts. Healing in the ministry of Jesus is integral to the proclamation of the Kingdom of</p>	<p>Refer to chapters 2 and 3 of The Healing Touch of God, Peter Edwards.</p> <p>One of the key issues in this material is the</p>

	<p>God, which takes place in both word and deed.</p> <p>Handout 4 : summary of teaching material</p>	<p>question of the authority Jesus gave his disciples to heal (Luke 9 & 10; John 14:12). Is this authority given to disciples and the Church today?</p> <p>Transcript of teaching material, in addition to the handout, available as a download for any who require it, e.g. the hard of hearing.</p>
<p>0.45 Slide: 'Over to you'.</p>	<p>General group reflection on the teaching video.</p>	<p>Plenary feedback, or in 2s and 3s, if felt to be more productive.</p>
<p>0.55 Slide: Jo and Abi ---Part 2</p> <p>Testimony video</p>	<p>Testimony video.</p> <p><i>Comments/reactions.</i></p>	<p>Guided Question : Having heard Jo's and Abi's further experiences with healing prayer, what Biblical perspectives come to mind for you?</p>
<p>1.05 Slide: Questions/Exercise A</p>	<p>A Handout 5 containing the following:</p> <p><u>The Authority of Jesus</u> Was the authority of Jesus to heal (see Luke 9:1-2; 10:1-9; John 14:12) given just for the apostolic age or for every time and place? Compare the above texts with Matthew 28:19-20, the Great Commission, widely taken to apply to all future times and situations.</p> <p>Energiser Exercise</p>	<p>Distribute Handout 5</p> <p>Facilitate discussion in small groups.</p> <p>Facilitate exercise.</p>

	<p>Clear a space in the room. People stand across the room in a line. One end of the line is designated as the “strongly agree” end whilst the opposite end is “strongly disagree”. The area in between represents the shades of opinion along a spectrum. As the following statements are read out, people are asked to move to the place on the line which represents their response to the statement. As time permits, one or two people are invited to share or explain their view, especially if they have taken up different positions.</p> <p>The value of the exercise is to tease out some ideas and myths about the role of the Holy Spirit in healing ministry. Physical movement in a session is helpful to re-energise the group. People may adopt different positions and this can encourage an exchange of views.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It’s only the Charismatic Churches that exercise a healing ministry.(1) • The Holy Spirit works only through specifically ordained or gifted individuals.(2) • It is important to be called by God’s Holy Spirit to healing ministry.(3) • The Holy Spirit is to be found more at work in healing ministry in large gatherings than in a local church context.(4) • The Holy Spirit can use anyone’s prayers as a channel for God’s healing grace.(5) • The Holy Spirit finds the Church as the Body of Christ more conducive to healing ministry than international celebrities.(6) 	<p>Guidance for facilitators in the reasons for true/false answers.</p> <p>(1) False. The Holy Spirit will do works of healing in all kinds of individuals and churches; not confined to one particular tradition.</p> <p>(2) False. The Holy Spirit works through those who are open to the Spirit’s power and influence, whether ordained, gifted or otherwise.</p> <p>(3) True. It is important to feel a call of God to this ministry as to many others in the Church, e.g. children’s worker, Local Preacher.</p> <p>(4)False. Often in large gatherings the effects may seem more dramatic but the Spirit can work equally powerfully in a local context and in a more quiet way.</p> <p>(5) True. The Spirit doesn’t wait for us to respond to a call to healing ministry before God can use our prayers. Indeed the Spirit may prompt us to pray.</p> <p>(6) True. The Body of Christ is the way revealed in Scripture that God chooses to exercise ministry through us and to the world.</p>
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		Facilitator reinforces these statements during or after the activity.
<p>1.25 Teaching Video – Part 2</p> <p>1.40 Slide: Question/Discussion – expressions of healing ministry Exercise B</p>	<p>B Handout 5 <u>The Authority of the Church</u> The authority of the Church is needed for individuals and groups and churches to exercise a healing ministry. Do you agree or disagree? Say why.</p> <p>Read the following descriptions of opportunities for healing ministry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healing Services • Prayer teams • Healing groups • Healing on the streets • Pastoral visiting • Prayers in other church groups and meetings • In the sacrament of Holy Communion • At major Christian events or conventions. <p>What do you see are the advantages and disadvantages of each and say why?</p>	<p>Healing ministry is best exercised within the Body of Christ (refer to Session 1 and Conference statements). Importance of calling but commissioning done by the Church as with other forms of preaching, pastoral and teaching ministry.</p> <p>Work of the Holy Spirit is expressed through a diverse range of opportunities and contexts and also through a theological diversity of expression.</p> <p>Healing on the Streets: an organisation committed to taking healing ministry out of the church and onto the streets. Healing is offered on street corners, in market places, wherever people gather. (cf. Wesley and preaching in the fields from 1739 onwards)</p> <p><i>See notes to Exercise Sheet 2 in Session 4.</i></p>
<p>1.55 Slide: Worship</p> <p>Visual on a slide (stained glass window at Burley)</p>	<p>Prayers of Intercession in whole group or 2s and 3s: for healing of individuals, groups, communities and nations; healing ministry of Church in its varied forms.</p>	<p>Enable time of open prayer: through participants mentioning names, situations or writing on post-it notes. Give out exercise sheets for Session 4 and ask the group to read them before the next session.</p>