

SESSION 4: Does healing have a place in Methodism?

Learning Objectives

- 1 To gain an understanding of how healing ministry has been part of Methodism since Wesley's time**
- 2 To recognise the importance of spirituality and healing in contemporary society and to develop the church's response to that.**
- 3 To explore contexts for healing ministry and to recognise the potential of healing ministry for mission and evangelism.**

What the facilitator needs for this session

Essential for each group member:

Exercise Sheets 1 and 2 (distributed at end of Session 3) and Exercise Sheet 3 (to be given out in this session).

Handout 6 : Deliverance Ministry (distributed at the end of the session)

Handouts 7 and 8 on listening and praying (to be distributed at the end of this session for use in Session 5).

Handout 8A Principles of Praying is also available in this session's material for those wanting a fuller version of the Guidelines for Praying given in Handout 8.

Downloadable leaf shapes for use in the worship time

Also : downloadable tree shape for use on flip chart

The facilitator may wish to be selective with the material in this session if the group is mainly or wholly non-Methodist

Powerpoints

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

Slide: Course Title		
Start-time/Slides	Activity	Facilitator's Notes
0.00 Slides: Course Title, Welcome and Session Title	Recap on Session3.	Open with a short prayer. Pick up any comments/questions from Session 3
Slide: Session Title Slide: Cartoon 0.05 Slide: Interview with Revd Martin Turner. DVD clip	Watch DVD clip of first part of interview with Revd Martin Turner.	Points from the interview: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martin's approach to healing ministry; • how healing is part of our Methodist heritage; • reasons why healing is not practised in all Methodist Churches. Allow a few minutes for any responses from the group.
	Refer to the book extract and statements given on	

<p>0.25 Slide: Group Discussion based on Exercise Sheet No.1.</p>	<p>Exercise Sheet 1 and then discuss them using the questions given on the Exercise Sheet.</p>	<p>Refer to 'The Healing Touch of God', Chapter 5: 'Healing in Early Methodism.'</p> <p>It may save time if the group is divided to take just one or two of the statements on the Exercise Sheet. The group as a whole may be encouraged, following their discussion, to consider the following points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The physical is as important to God as the spiritual. • Holiness and wholeness of body, mind and spirit are related. • Our Methodist tradition affirms both the advances of secular medicine and the power of prayer.
<p>0.55 Slide: Interview with Dr. Cassy Henderson</p> <p>DVD clip</p> <p>Slide : second part of interview with Revd. Martin Turner</p> <p>DVD clip</p> <p>Slide : responses to the interviews</p>	<p>Watch the DVD clips of the interviews with Dr. Cassy Henderson and Revd. Martin Turner.</p>	<p>The interview with Dr. Cassy Henderson may raise the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why as a doctor are you part of a healing team offering prayer and the laying-on of hands? • What does prayer offer that medicine cannot provide? • What do you believe happens when we pray with people? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you share an experience where prayer, with or without medical intervention, played a significant part in bringing about healing? <p>Allow a few minutes for responses from the group to the interview</p>

<p>1.15 Slide: Group Discussion on exercising healing ministry today.</p>	<p>Group Discussion based on Exercise Sheet 2.</p>	<p>Points that may be raised or need to be put forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just as the Holy Spirit prompted Wesley to ‘preach in the fields’, might the same Spirit be wanting the Church to take healing out into the community? • The Church is a relatively safe space in which to offer healing. Is that where we should begin but not end? • It is important to recognise that God may be calling the Church to explore ways to offer healing ‘beyond its walls.’ <p>Draw out what these could be in your situation.</p> <p>Note : One of the opportunities listed on the Exercise Sheet refers to the paranormal and the possibility of engaging in deliverance ministry. This is too large a topic to be properly addressed within the scope of this course but it would be a serious omission not to refer to it. A downloadable handout (Handout 6) is available on deliverance ministry offering help and guidance if churches are faced with requests such as those mentioned on the Exercise Sheet. It may be given out at the end of the session.</p>
<p>1.25 Slide: Small Group Discussion Scenarios about healing.</p>	<p>Small group discussion on a number of scenarios around healing ministry.</p> <p>Refer to Exercise Sheet 3.</p>	<p>Break group down into twos and threes. Each small group should be given a scenario from the Exercise Sheet to consider (Ideally four small groups).</p>

Allow five minutes for discussion in small groups and then ask each small group to feed back to the whole group.

Scenario 1: touches on the authority Jesus gives as well as the Church and on the equipping of the Holy Spirit for enabling ministry. All pastoral visitors can use a short written prayer as a first step in developing confidence in praying with others.

Scenario 2: related to the exercise of healing ministry across the theological spectrum and in a variety of churches. It also highlights how healing ministry is part of the Wesleyan tradition, and not just for evangelicals or charismatics.

Scenario 3: highlights the sacred/secular or body/spirit divide that sadly is found in many different churches – healing is about both medicine and faith, both science and prayer, and leads to wholeness of life in body, mind and spirit.

Scenario 4: whilst the Holy Spirit's role is crucial in all healing ministry, its expression is not always evidenced in dramatic ways. 'Getting slain in the Spirit' is not necessarily a sign of powerful healing, just as its absence does not imply that healing hasn't taken place.

You may need to draw out the above points in the feedback time.

Distribute hand-out on listening/praying for use in Session 5. It is to be read in preparation for Session 5.

<p>1.40 Slide: Worship</p> <p>Slide: Verse 4 of STF 278</p> <p>Slide: extract for 10 May 1741 from Wesley's Journal</p> <p>Slide: 'The leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations' (Rev. 22:2)</p> <p>Slide: Prayer</p>	<p>Worship. Read or sing verse 4 of Singing the Faith 278.</p> <p>Extract read from Wesley's Journal 10 May 1741.</p> <p>Write on the leaf shape a word, phrase or sentence giving thanks to God for healing mercies and blessings, and/or a local or world situation that you want to pray for. Leaf shapes are gathered and displayed on a flip chart.</p>	<p>Download tree shape for flip chart and leaf shapes for each member of the group. Ask a group member to read or lead in singing verse 4 from the hymn (STF 278). Ask a group member to read the extract from Wesley's Journal.</p> <p>Have the leaf shapes, pens and blu-tack available for the prayers of thanksgiving/intercession.</p> <p>Make a prayer board on a page of the flip chart, downloading the tree image which is blu-tacked to the flip chart sheet. After the leaf shapes are gathered and displayed, close with the following prayer which all may say together:</p> <p>'In gratitude for all you have given to us and done for us, we praise you, God. Grant that our thanksgiving may be turned into healing love for all the world. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.</p>
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