

SCRIPTURE CARD GUIDE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

"WHY AM I NOT HEALED?" JANUARY 14

SERIES OVERVIEW:

Biblical truth matters for a myriad of reasons... it is certainly for the power of the Gospel to save souls, but as well biblical doctrine reaches into the health of mind and spirit in faith communities. Mental spiritual health and Christian care and concern can be shaken and experience deep harm when biblical doctrines are erroneous. In this series we will address how often in American Christianity a buffet of doctrines suiting our desires are selected, resulting in confusion and pain, and can even distance us from Jesus Christ. However, true biblical teaching that takes in the whole counsel of God's Word, comforts, strengthens, and reassures us of the goodness and faithfulness of Jesus Christ.

Follow the directions below for a guided group discussion with a friend, in a family, small group, etc. Grab a Scripture Card (printed or electronic) and simply follow steps from 1 to 6 on this page and the next.

1

PRAY

About 1 minute

Open in prayer.

2

BIG IDEA

A minute to read

We want God to heal our physical bodies and minds. But what if it doesn't happen though we beg God for healing? Are we deficient in faith? Is God not listening? Did I do something wrong? These questions can unravel us when we don't see healing come. In this message we find that we can deepen our relationship with the Lord gaining hope, comfort, and reassurance in His promises to never leave us or forsake us.

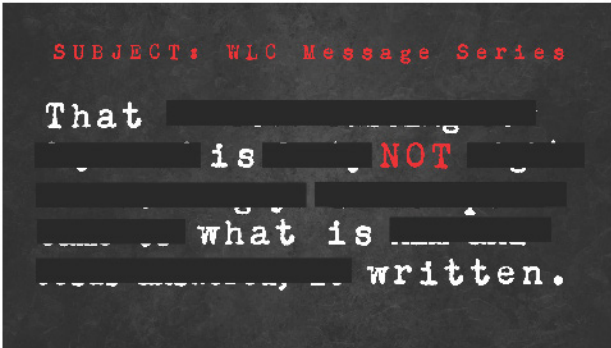
3

CONNECT

About 10 minutes

Share a high and a low since the group last met.

How have you seen God in these moments?



January 14, 2024

⁸Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. ⁹Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. - 2 Corinthians 12:8-9

Reflect
Read the full passage in your Bible - 2 Corinthians 12:6-10.
What is something that is grabbing your attention from the passage and why?
Put yourself in Paul's shoes for a moment. Imagine what is happening. How would you respond?
Have you ever experienced a time when you were crying out for healing or for answers and instead God met you with his presence?

4

DISCIPLE LIFE DISCUSSION

About 45-50 minutes. Read the Scripture above and discuss the questions there. Additional questions below.

Read 2 Cor 11:22-30. Here Paul boasts about his weaknesses, and trials he has suffered. Our trials and suffering on this earth don't always make sense to us, nor can we fully understand the mind of God. God does not promise us healing or a perfect life this side of heaven, but He does promise us His presence and provided the gift of His Son. What healing, love, and care from God is evident for us in Christ on the cross and in His resurrection? How does this give you hope and comfort in the midst of illness or suffering?

Read 2 Cor 4:7-11. How has the the light of Jesus shone through someone you know in the midst of their illness?



DISCUSSION HELP:

Use follow-up questions to take the discussion deeper. Guide answers to be honest and real.

Can you say more about that?

How have you seen that play out in your life?

What does that stir up in you?

Has anyone else had a similar thought or experience?

What might God be inviting you to do?

5 PRAY:

About 15 minutes

Read the prayer prompts and allow for a time of reflection.

Pair up. Share prayer requests with your partner based on the prayer prompts below. Pray now for your partner and the prayer requests shared.

THE [DISCIPLE] LIFE

Pray

Talk to God about the last question under Reflect. Share any area of your life where you need extra grace or extra strength today.

God doesn't always promise answers, but he always promises his presence. Express your heart to God about this.

Thank God for times when he has given you his grace and power in your weakness.

Live It Out

INVITATION: Stop and identify someone you know who needs God's presence in the midst of their circumstances this week. Pray for them.

CHALLENGE: In addition to this, reach out to them with kindness and compassion, offering to pray with them.

**Jesus, thank you for inviting me
into this LIFE of following you today!**

6**LIVE IT OUT:**

About 2 minutes

Read the "Live It Out" section and invite the group to take the steps noted. For additional resources check out lcsm.org and search "Theology of the cross".