



# Groups

## Thanks for checking out our sermon-based Study Guides!

If you've never used our Study Guides before, you'll find some basic instructions towards the end of the document.

- These study guides will be written by thoughtful and experienced Life Group Leaders.
- Use these guides as a head-start in your own preparation as the needs and culture is different from each group.

## NEW THIS YEAR:

As we enter this new season at Grace Chapel in search for the next Senior Pastor, we invite you to consider the significance of this moment and to incorporate a time of prayer for the search.

## Outline

- I. Introduction and Main Scripture Readings
- II. Group Discussion Questions
- III. Prayer for Senior Pastor Search
- IV. The Journey Resources
- V. Support for the Leader

## How to Use These Study Guides:

1. **Before the meeting:** Consider sending out the Scripture passage to your group members ahead of time.
2. **Check In:** Begin each meeting with a short time checking in with one another.
3. **Read Scripture:** You may want to begin the discussion by reading the Scripture passage together out loud, or by summarizing the passage if everyone has read it ahead of time.
4. **Ask Questions:** Don't feel like you need to discuss every question included in the Study Guide. Pick one or two to start with and see how the conversation flows.
5. **End with Prayer:** Be sure to set aside time for sharing prayer requests and praying together.

*If your group meets over Zoom:*

- Expect to do more overt facilitating over Zoom than you would in person. Feel free to call on people to invite them to share.
- Be sensitive to attention spans over zoom. Keep meetings shorter than they would be in person.

### Group Leader Support:

- Please reach out to your Campus Pastor if you have any questions about leading your group or concerns about your group dynamic.
- If you have questions about or feedback on the Study Guides, please reach out to Pastor [Tim Ghali](#) or [Grace Lee](#) from the Group Life team.

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## LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

for Sermon given on February 4, 2024  
by Pastor Tim Ghali

### HEALING: SEEN and UNSEEN – Mark 1:29-34



#### I. Introduction

Welcome to Part 2 of our Kingdom Come sermon series. Today we will look at the beginnings of Jesus' miraculous healing ministry, what it meant in the Gospel of Mark, and what meaning it holds for us today. Lent is coming up and begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. Over Lent, many of us lean in to focus on spiritual formation, creating more space to spend with the Lord. This year we are recommending a new resource from World Relief called "He Was There". We're also launching some short-term Lent groups. If you are interested in co-leading or joining one, please message us [groups@grace.org](mailto:groups@grace.org).

Questions: How does Jesus heal? How can we learn to heal each other?

Bottom Line: In the Kingdom of God, Jesus is healing in seen and unseen ways.

Let's begin in prayer before we begin reading and discussing our text.

**Main Scripture Readings:**Mark 1:29-45

<sup>29</sup> Jesus and those with him left the synagogue. Right away they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. <sup>30</sup> Simon's mother-in-law was lying in bed with a fever. They told Jesus about her right away. <sup>31</sup> So he went to her. He took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her. Then she began to serve them.

<sup>32</sup> That evening after sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who were sick. They also brought all who were controlled by demons. <sup>33</sup> All the people in town gathered at the door. <sup>34</sup> Jesus healed many of them. They had all kinds of sicknesses. He also drove out many demons. But he would not let the demons speak, because they knew who he was.

<sup>35</sup> It was very early in the morning and still dark. Jesus got up and left the house. He went to a place where he could be alone. There he prayed. <sup>36</sup> Simon and his friends went to look for Jesus. <sup>37</sup> When they found him, they called out, "Everyone is looking for you!"

<sup>38</sup> Jesus replied, "Let's go somewhere else. I want to go to the nearby towns. I must preach there also. That is why I have come." <sup>39</sup> So he traveled all around Galilee. He preached in their synagogues. He also drove out demons.

<sup>40</sup> A man who had a skin disease came to Jesus. On his knees he begged Jesus. He said, "If you are willing to make me 'clean,' you can do it."

<sup>41</sup> Jesus became angry. He reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing to do it," Jesus said. "Be 'clean'!" <sup>42</sup> Right away the disease left the man, and he was "clean."

<sup>43</sup> Jesus sent him away at once. He gave the man a strong warning. <sup>44</sup> "Don't tell this to anyone," he said. "Go and show yourself to the priest. Offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded. It will be a witness to the priest and the people that you are 'clean.' " <sup>45</sup> But the man went out and started talking right away. He spread the news to everyone. So Jesus could no longer enter a town openly. He stayed outside in lonely places. But people still came to him from everywhere.

## II. **Group Discussion Questions:**

1. Have you experienced or witnessed healing in person or on TV?  
What have you grown up believing about healing? How does it compare to your current views on healing?
2. We can never forget the importance of prayer and solitude. This is where Jesus models obedience, reveals where wisdom comes from, and where his empathy and power are renewed. It's where we need to spend more time.

Take a moment to think about where you are in your prayer life. How does this compare to where you were? How would you like to take the next step in deepening your prayer life?

Ask other members for their experience with spending time with God and their wisdom on deepening prayer.

3. Pastor Tim shared a poignant story of how he played a role in temporarily healing a friend with prostate cancer.

How has the Lord provided opportunities for you to be an agent of healing to others? How has the power of the Holy Spirit worked in your life in a way you were a channel of healing? Recall how you were thinking and feeling at that very moment. Recall how you felt afterwards and how this impacted your understanding of God.

Feel free to share one personal story of healing you witnessed or were able to be part of.

4. Pastor Tim said that part of his hesitation to preach on this message of healing, is that we often focus on the unanswered prayers, rather than the answered ones. Can you relate to this?  
How does unanswered prayers affect your faith?

5. Pastor Tim recounted a story of a mission trip to an AIDS camp in the Bahamas. During a group prayer, one passionate staff worker led the group in a prayer for healing a blind man, which failed.

Pastor Tim points out that healing does not always have to be as miraculous as cleansing a leper or curing cancer, but that healing begins with knowing someone out there still cares about you.

Discuss with your group some small, but tangible ways that you can help bring healing to people that you know in your own family, neighborhood, job or community.

6. As you close in prayer, ask your group if they, or someone they know, is in need of healing. These do not have to be directly related to medical problems, but also for healing relationships, undesirable habits or addictions. Pray that through the power of the Holy Spirit, you could help to bring healing to these situations, directly or indirectly, seen or unseen.

***Take Home Message:***

Jesus is healing in ways that cannot be seen with just the human eye. It takes faith to see that. Jesus is not just healing fevers and skin diseases, so much more is happening! Jesus is delivering us from evil, restoring our humanity, and healing us in ways that transcend merely the physical.

***Let's Pray***

### **III. Prayer for Senior Pastor Search**

During this next ministry year as we navigate transitions, we invite you to secure time during your life group to pray over the search process. Click [here](#) to access the full resource of the prayer guide.

**Prayers for Preparation of the heart**

- Pray for God to reveal to you the condition of your soul or the work of God's Spirit within you, as you consider your feelings about the Senior Pastor search process.
- Prayer is not just an opportunity to make requests from God, but to listen to what God might want for us during this season of transition. Pause and listen for any invitation from God that he is asking you to enter into.

**Prayers for the Purposes of God**

- Pray that God will use the people of Grace Chapel in the fulfilling of his mission to further the Gospel message and for us to be people of peace and healing in a broken world.

**Prayers for the People of Grace**

- Pray that Grace Chapel will to seek the Lord as we continue our vision to be a vibrant, growing, multicultural community of seekers and believers, discovering life with God for the good of the world. Pray that we will continue with our mission to make and mobilize more disciples for Jesus Christ in Greater Boston and beyond.

**Prayers for the Person God's calling**

- Pray that they will have a passion to continue the work the Lord is doing at Grace Chapel and that they will be excited about the opportunities here.
- Pray that the new pastor will have a clear vision for how to minister to the people of Grace Chapel and the surrounding community.

### Prayers for Discernment

- Pray for God's clear direction in how resumes are examined and interviews conducted.
- Ask God to bring the right person to the attention of the committee.
- Pray for the Search Committee to have God's wisdom in all the questions and information they share with the prospective pastor.

## IV. The Journey



*We're all on a journey. Where is yours taking you?*

The beauty of the way of Jesus is that it's not just good for us, it is good for the world around us. But that kind of beautiful life doesn't come from just hearing the words of Jesus. It comes from putting them into practice.

Three kinds of practice, actually:

- The **with-God life** of our personal habits and routines;
- The **with-others life** of our genuine and life-changing relationships; and
- The **for-the-world life** that makes an impact beyond our immediate homes and families, into our communities and beyond.

Growing as disciples of Jesus will make a Kingdom difference in our world and a transformative difference in our lives as believers and as a group. And these resources are helpful in identifying the next steps for our journeys.

We invite your group to [take the assessment](#) and to spend a session to share about the practice and perspective you chose to focus on for the next three months.

## V. **Support for the Leader**

These Teaching Points are provided to help the group leader make connections from the message to their group with both insights from the Biblical text and opportunities in the life of our church.

### ***Teaching Points:***

- That we and our loved ones can be miraculously healed is a collective hope for humanity
- The healings of Jesus are true, authentic and miraculous
- Serving is a Kingdom characteristic of true discipleship
- We can never forget the importance of prayer and solitude. This is where Jesus models obedience, reveals where wisdom comes from, and where his empathy and power are renewed
- Jesus is using miracles as a proclamation of the Kingdom coming. The healings demonstrate that the power in the Kingdom of God is greater than the powers of this world, and the key to eternal life