



Week 5 Session Guide

Jehovah-Rapha “The Lord your Healer”

Introduction:

All the love, wisdom, and care that went into designing a perfect universe had suddenly been thrown into chaos when Adam and Eve, created in the Likeness of God, wanted to be even greater than God. They had eaten the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. In an instant, they had surrendered their domain to the enemy and quickly discovered new unwelcome “guests” in their world: Death and Disease. Perfect health and eternal life had been theirs as they had daily walked with God. Now He seemed distant, warning them of the futility of their lives, along with the labor and pain with which would become all too familiar. The man and the woman, their offspring, and all creation would groan because of their disobedience. Sickness, weakness, discord, confusion, war, and destruction would be just some of the devastating consequences of their ill fated decision.

However, God was not surprised by or unprepared for what they had unleashed. He would take what the enemy had meant for evil and redeem it. While all the perfectly executed plans of God were now being corrupted by the rebellion of men, He was preparing to reveal His nature, wisdom and power to heal, restore, and reclaim them as “Jehovah Rapha”, “The LORD Who Heals”. Healing had been designed into creation. Every living thing has the ability to try to defend itself against disease and to try to repair itself after an injury. But as man’s rebellion increased, violence, greed and bloodshed ravaged the planet and disease spread.

Old Testament:

After God powerfully delivered the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, miraculously parting the Red Sea, he brought Israel to the wilderness of Shur where for three days they wandered without water. As the sun beat down on them with parched lips they began to wonder if they would end up dying in the desert. Just when things were reaching a breaking point they saw water. There was only one problem ... the water was bitter. It had somehow become polluted and diseased. It was undrinkable.

As the people grumbled and complained, Moses cried out before the Lord. The Lord gave Moses specific and curious instructions. The Lord showed Moses a tree and told him to throw it into the water and the water became sweet and they drank. He then gave them this very important command

“If you will diligently listen to the voice of the Lord your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, your healer.” (Exodus 15:26)

The Lord revealed his name “Jehovah Rapha” – “The LORD Who Heals”, demonstrating both His heart and His ability to restore and to heal all parts of our being, physical, mental, relational, and spiritual.

New Testament: Jesus Heals

As Jesus established the Kingdom of God and began the process of reconciling ALL things back to God (Col 1:20), He restored every sick person who came to Him in faith regardless of how chronic, disfiguring, or debilitating their disease might have been. He even reversed the curse of death. Jesus never turned down a request for healing, even when He and his disciples were exhausted from ministry. But Jesus didn't come just to heal people. He came to establish His Father's Kingdom; a Kingdom that would consist of individuals empowered by God's Spirit to do the work that Jesus began! Jesus first commissioned the twelve disciples and ultimately ALL believers to preach the Good News of the Gospel, to cast out demons and to HEAL THE SICK! After the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, the entire Church participated in the ministry of Jesus as it continues to do so to this day.

God's heart is always to heal, to restore His creation to its original, good and perfect purpose. We do not yet know exactly how (or when) God will accomplish it, but we do know that His plan to use us (the Church) will continue until ALL is complete!

What is the basis for our healing?

**He himself bore our sins in his body on a tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.
By his wounds you have been healed. 1 Peter 2:24**

I want you to see the connection here. Remember back in Exodus with the healing tree that sweetened the bitter waters of Mara. Here Jesus was crucified on that tree and brought healing to the bitter undrinkable waters tainted by our sin and made them sweet. Because of the cross of Christ healing is available to us. It has been paid for. May we walk in its power and its completeness. What an amazing promise we have in Jehovah Rapha and what an amazing privilege to bring his healing power to the world around us.

Discussion Questions:

1. Some of the English meanings of the Hebrew word "Rapha" are "become fresh", "completely healed", "physician", "purified", "repaired". Discuss some of the ways God may have demonstrated some of these definitions in your life.
2. Read Exodus 15:26. What are the conditions God places on the Israelites to be protected from disease? How can our decisions affect our state of health?
3. When given the choice, many people (including Christians) will put their trust in Medicine and Science above their trust in "Jehovah Rapha" for restoration of their health. What do you think are the reasons for this? What are sound biblical principles we should walk in when pursuing healing?
4. Healing is all throughout the Bible. Share your favorite Scripture or story about healing to your group.