

ENCOUNTERING HEALING (LIFE GROUP LESSON) CLAIMING YOUR HEALING BREAKTHROUGH

Introduction:

Today's lesson on *Encounters of the Most Amazing Kind* deals with receiving healing from the story in Luke 5:17-26. In this lesson we discuss the importance of healing in the ministry of Jesus, how healing involves the whole person and is a continuous process God wants us to go through in our lives. A special emphasis is on pressing through and passionately claiming all of the healing Jesus has for our lives.

1. One of the beautiful verses in this passage says that "the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick" (vs. 17). Can you share an experience where you could sense the Lord near, inviting you to give Him something in your life that needed healing?

2. We made the point that one fifth of the gospels is focused around Jesus' healing ministry (that is 41 stories and 727 verses). What do you think the Lord was wanting to communicate through this? Why do you think the healing ministry is so often ignored and has such a small place in many churches today?

What were some barriers that could especially deter you and I from pursuing healing today?

- a. We have to be persistent in asking, seeking; it isn't automatic.
 - b. People, like the Pharisees, bring attitudes of doubt and opposition through their attitudes.
 - c. It means some deeper issues of sin might get exposed in our lives.
 - d. We have to face the fear of it not happening.
 - e. Hopelessness can make us passive.
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3. We discussed how healing is more than just the removal of symptoms; it's God restoring us into wholeness at every level of our being. Isaiah 61:1-4 gives us a beautiful description of the scope of the healing God wants us to experience.

"The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the (oppressed) poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and to provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations."

What is an area of brokenness you've had in your life? How did the Holy Spirit reveal it to you? For example, Dale talked about the "hardening of the attitudes." How does

inviting light and friends to help you see these things bring opportunity for more freedom and healing from God?

4. Why was it especially important for Jesus to begin the healing encounter with the words, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” Why is healing our relationship with the Father the beginning of all restoration?

5. What does this story teach about the importance of friends in our healing? Do you have friends who would tear down a roof to get you to Jesus? How about 3 a.m. friends who would gladly be available to you? How could our life group provide more support to each other for the healings God wants to bring each of us?