



**Thanks for checking out our sermon-based Study Guides!** If you've never used our Study Guides before, you'll find some basic instructions at the end of page 2.

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**SERMON-BASED STUDY GUIDE**  
for the sermon preached on May 23, 2021  
Finding Our Way Forward Week 6: "The Way of Healing"  
Acts 3:1-11



This spring, we're going back to the earliest community of Jesus followers, observing as they launched the spiritual movement they called "The Way," and seeing what we can pick up from them about the way forward for us, as we relaunch our own church community and begin returning to life in person. So far we've learned that the way forward for us needs to be The Way of Jesus, The Way of Discovery, The Way of the Spirit, The Way of Togetherness, and The Way of Welcome. And this week, Pastor Bryan is preaching on The Way of Healing.

**Group Discussion Questions**

- Pastor Bryan began by sharing about a dinner party he recently attended with two Grace Chapel couples. The conversation eventually turned to church, and people who have become disengaged from the church, and the question of how to bring them back. Pastor Bryan's response was, "We're going to have to earn the right to be heard. We're going to have to regain people's trust and attention, not just by the quality of our services and programs, but by the quality of our lives and relationships[,] . . . by having a positive, winsome, and even healing presence in [people's] lives and in society."
  - Think of a time in your life when a Christian or group of Christians earned your trust or attention, either by the way they lived or by the way they cared for you. What was that experience like? What impact did it have on you?
- Invite someone from your group to read Acts 3:1-11 aloud.
  - What do we learn from verse 2 about the man at the center of this story?
  - What specifically does he ask for?
  - Look at verse 4. How do Peter and John interact with the man? What did their approach communicate to him?

- What does Peter do to heal the man? Why does this matter?
- How does the healed man respond to Peter and John? To God?
- In verses 9-11, how do others react to the man's healing?
- Some of us may be able to identify with the lame man's physical limitations, financial need, or spiritual isolation. But we can all relate to his need for help and healing.
  - In what area of your life do you most hope for healing? Is there some way you want to be healed emotionally, spiritually, physically, or relationally? Have you brought your need before the Lord?
- The heart of this week's message is that the Gospel calls us to minister to *all* of people's needs, including their physical, social, emotional, and financial needs, as well as their spiritual needs. Pastor Bryan reminded us that "Jesus addressed people's physical or social needs before he addressed their spiritual needs. . . Now, he didn't do those things just to gain a hearing. In fact, sometimes he never got around to sharing his message. He did those things because they were central to his mission; because healing and justice are the work of the Kingdom. But because he did these things, and because he did them so beautifully, it opened people's hearts to his message of repentance and faith, to forgiveness and eternal life."
  - Do you find it easier to minister to people's physical needs or spiritual needs? How might God be calling you to grow in an area you're less comfortable with?
  - How might Jesus use your hands or feet, or eyes or ears or voice, to bring healing to someone's life, or to contribute to the well-being of a community, near or far?

### Prayer Suggestion

Let's pray for the gift of healing—for ourselves, for one another, for our loved ones, for those who don't yet know God. And let's pray that God will use each of us as instruments of healing, in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Amen.

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### How to Use These Study Guides:

- Consider sending out the Scripture passage to your group members ahead of time.
- Begin each meeting with a short time of checking in with one another.
- 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.
- 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.
- If your group meets over Zoom:
  - You may need to do more overt facilitating over Zoom than you would in person. Feel free to call on people to invite them to share.
  - Try to be sensitive to attention spans over Zoom—keep the meetings shorter than they would be in person.
- Be sure to set aside time for sharing prayer requests and praying together.

**Group Leader Support:** Please reach out to your Coach or Campus Pastor with questions about leading your group or concerns about your group dynamic. Please reach out to Pastor Tim or Pastor Rachel from the Group Life team with questions about or feedback on the Study Guides.

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