

DISCIPLESHIP COURSE

An Invitation to Follow

PART 10 | CONTINUING | PRAYING FOR THE SICK

"To continue the ministry of Jesus is to make our first response to brokenness and sickness prayer - and trust God with the rest."

THE BIG IDEA

Everywhere Jesus went, he healed people. The blind received sight, the deaf could hear, the sick were made whole, the rejected were restored. And then he turned to his disciples and said: now it's your turn.

The disciples went out, came back amazed, and reported that it worked - people were healed. But somewhere along the way, many of us have come to believe that was for them, not for us. This session challenges that assumption. Jesus said we would do the same works he did. That includes praying for the sick.

KEY SCRIPTURE

John 14:12

"Anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done - and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father."

James 5:14-15

"Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well."

THREE THINGS TO HOLD ONTO

Before we talk about how to pray for the sick, we need to settle a few foundational truths:

01

We are not the healer

God is the healer. We are simply the vehicle through which his healing power flows. The pressure is not on us - it's on him.

02

Healing is God's responsibility

When we pray, some people are healed and some are not - but our responsibility is simply to step out in faith and pray. The outcome belongs to God.

03

This is our ministry too

The disciples prayed for the sick and saw healings. Jesus said we would do the same works. This is not just for a special few - it's for all his disciples.

HOW TO PRAY FOR THE SICK

1

Stay Connected With God Daily

The source of healing power is God - not us. As we cultivate that daily, abiding relationship with him through prayer and Scripture, we stay tapped into something far beyond our own ability. You can't give what you're not receiving. Stay connected.

2

Grow in Faith

Faith simply means to trust - to be fully persuaded. The more you know God's character and capability, the more your faith grows. Read the healing stories in the Gospels. Read the disciples' accounts in Acts. Explore the stories of others in church history who prayed and saw God move. Feed the fire and it will grow.

3

Be Bold and Obedient to God's Prompting

God will prompt you. That quiet sense of 'I should pray for that person' is worth acting on. Start each morning with a simple prayer: 'God, if you want me to pray for anyone today, I'm open.' Then - when someone is sick or struggling - make your first response an offer to pray, not just sympathy. Most people, even those who don't follow Jesus, welcome prayer. Step out.

4

Keep It Simple

Jesus' healing prayers were short and direct. He didn't perform. He didn't over-explain. He simply spoke with authority. You don't need to have the perfect words - just speak to the sickness with the authority Jesus has given you, and trust God with the outcome.

HOW JESUS PRAYED FOR THE SICK

Notice how brief and direct Jesus' prayers were. There was no formula - just faith and authority:

Reference	What Jesus said
Matthew 12:13	"Stretch out your hand."
John 5:8	"Get up, pick up your mat and walk."
John 11:43	"Lazarus, come forth."

You have that same authority. Don't complicate it. Speak to the sickness. Pray in Jesus' name. Trust God with the rest.

A TEMPLATE TO GET YOU STARTED

Here's a simple prayer you can use as a starting point - or adapt in your own words:

A SIMPLE PRAYER FOR HEALING

"God, you love [name].

I declare healing in [the area of need], in Jesus' name.

Amen."

You don't need to be dramatic or have the perfect words. Just believe, and pray.

A FINAL THOUGHT

The question at the end of every day isn't "did they get healed?" - that's God's department. The question is: did you step out? Did you offer to pray? Did you make brokenness an invitation for God to move?

"What if they do get healed? I have witnessed time and again that when we step out in those moments of faith and pray for healing, healings take place. Not because we are the healer - but because He is."

REFLECTION & DISCUSSION

1. What has held you back from praying for healing in the past - fear of nothing happening, not feeling qualified, or something else?
2. How does it change things to know that healing is God's responsibility, not yours - and your job is simply to step out in faith?
3. What would it look like to start each day this week with a simple prayer: "God, if you want me to pray for anyone today, I'm open"?
4. Think of someone in your life who is sick or struggling right now. What would it look like to offer to pray for them - this week?