



Exploring Christian Healing

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LEADER'S NOTES

Session 3

What is prayer ministry?

AIM OF THIS SESSION

To think about what ought to go into any time of prayer ministry.

90 MINUTES



A SPACE TO MEET WITH THE LIVING GOD FOR
RELATIONSHIP • HEALING • TRANSFORMATION

Welcome and opening prayer.



Video 3.1

Play (or screen share) Video 3.1 which sets the theme for this session.



Group discussion

Thinking about the fatherhood of God

Encourage the group to reflect honestly on this question?



- Who do you usually pray to?
Is it Almighty God? Jesus? Lord? Father?
- Encourage them to think about why they pray as they do.

There is no right or wrong answer, but it is interesting that in Matthew 6:6 & Matthew 6:9, Jesus tells us to address our prayers to 'Father'.

- As the group thinks about the word 'Father', what images or associations come to mind – some may be positive and others negative?
- In what ways is there a tendency to build our image of Father God from the experience of our earthly fathers?



Sometimes we need to give some thought to rebuilding our image of God the Father – the following study is a starting point for doing this.



Study



Read these passages:

Colossians 1:15
Hebrews 1:3
John 1:14

- What do they say about the nature of Father God?
- If Jesus reflects God perfectly, does this affect your view of Father God's heart to heal?

Thinking about the presence of Jesus



Read the following verses:

Matthew 18:20 – “For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

Matthew 28:20 – “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Ephesians 4:10 – “He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens in order to fill the whole universe.”

- Ask the participants what it means for them that Jesus is actually with them?
- What experiences have they had of his presence?
- Do they think that there is anything people can do to heighten their experience of his presence?



Video 3.2

Play (or screen share) Video 3.2



This is the quote from Tom Wright’s book, *Surprised by Hope*:

Basically, heaven and earth, in biblical cosmology, are not two different locations within the same continuum of space or matter. They are two different dimensions of God’s good creation. And the point about heaven is twofold. First, heaven relates to earth tangentially, so that the one who is in heaven can be present simultaneously anywhere and everywhere on earth: the ascension therefore means that Jesus is available, accessible, without people having to travel to a particular spot on the earth to find him. Second, heaven is as it were the control room for earth; it is the CEO’s office, the place from which instructions are given. ‘All authority is given to me,’ said Jesus at the end of Matthew’s gospel, ‘in heaven and on earth.’

Surprised by Hope, N T Wright. Copyright ©Nicholas Thomas Wright 2007. Reproduced with permission of The Licensor through PLSclear.

We are now going to move on to look at the role of the Holy Spirit.



Study



Thinking about the power of the Holy Spirit

Encourage the group to ponder the concept of power. Begin by asking someone to read **Ephesians 1:18–23**,

and then, in the light of this passage, give some thought to these questions about the power of God:

- Is it right to pray for more power?
- What is the nature of this power and how does it apply to the situations the group members are facing.
- What sense do they have of power already with them?



Study



Read **1 Corinthians 6:19** – one of the phrases used by Paul to describe us is that we are ‘temples of the Holy Spirit’.

- What does the term ‘temple’ signify to the participants?
- How do they react to the sense that they are ‘temples of the Holy Spirit’?
- What are the implications of this?
- What possibilities does it raise in the ministry of healing?



Video 3.3

Play (or screen share) Video 3.3 as a summary of this session



Closing Prayer

After a time of discussion and reflection it’s good to be still, so invite the group to sit with their eyes closed while you slowly repeat these words from **Romans 8:11** a few times:

The Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you.

When you have finished, encourage each person to continue repeating the words quietly to themselves, but using the word ‘me’ instead of ‘you’.

The Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in me.



Don’t forget to circulate the Notes for Participants - Session 3 - to the group.