

Luke the Physician:

Healing and Wholeness in Luke

Diocesan Conference Workshop Handout



Luke's Vision of Healing

Luke presents Jesus not simply as a miracle worker, but as one who restores people to wholeness.

Healing often involves:

- ✓ Physical restoration
- ✓ Spiritual renewal
- ✓ Emotional healing
- ✓ Restoration of dignity
- ✓ Reconnection with community
- ✓ Participation in God's kingdom

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me... he has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind." (Luke 4:18)

Four accounts of healing

I. The Man with Leprosy

Luke 5:12–16

What is restored?

- Physical health
- Human touch
- Social acceptance
- Religious inclusion

Jesus touches the man before healing him.

2. The Woman with the Haemorrhage

Luke 8:43–48

What is restored?

- Physical wellbeing
- Public dignity
- Personal identity

Jesus calls her “Daughter.”

3. The Bent-Over Woman

Luke 13:10–17

What is restored?

- Physical freedom
- Human flourishing
- Ability to worship

Healing enables her to stand upright and praise God.

4. The Lame Beggar

Acts 3:1–10

What is restored?

- Mobility
- Independence
- Participation in worship
- Joy

Healing draws attention to the saving power of Christ.

Four Principles for Healing Ministry

1. Healing Begins with Compassion

Before miracles comes mercy.

“When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her.” (Luke 7:13)

Questions:

- **Do we notice people’s pain?**
- **Are we willing to listen before speaking?**

2. Healing Reveals the Kingdom

Healing is a sign that God’s reign is breaking into the world.

Healing points beyond itself to Jesus.

Question:

- **How do we help people encounter Christ rather than merely seek a solution?**

3. Healing Involves the Whole Person

Biblical healing is broader than physical cure.

People may need healing from:

- Illness
- Grief
- Anxiety
- Loneliness
- Shame
- Broken relationships
- Spiritual burdens

Question:

- **What kinds of healing are most needed in our churches and communities?**

4. Healing Is the Work of the Whole Church

In Acts, Jesus' ministry continues through ordinary disciples empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Questions:

- How might our churches become places of healing and restoration?
- How can we grow in confidence in praying for others?

A Simple Pattern for Healing Prayer

Listen

What is the person asking for?

Love

Respond with compassion and respect.

Pray

Offer simple and confident prayer in Jesus' name.

Trust

Leave the outcome with God.

Remember:

- We are called to pray, not to heal.
- God is always at work, even when results are unseen.
- Healing may be immediate, gradual, unexpected, or still awaited. It may be death.

Prayer for Healing and Wholeness

Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of souls and bodies, bring your healing to all that is wounded, your peace to all that is troubled, your hope to all that is weary, and your life to all that is broken. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, that we may continue your ministry of compassion, restoration, and grace. **Amen.**

In Luke & Acts, healing is not simply the removal of illness. It is the restoring work of Jesus that makes people whole and draws them into the life of God, the fellowship of his people, and the mission of his kingdom.

“Your faith has made you well; go in peace.” (Luke 8:48)

Patristic & Early Church Voices

St John Chrysostom

“The Church is a hospital, and not a courtroom.”

St Augustine of Hippo

“The medicine of God is stronger than our wounds.”

St Irenaeus

“The glory of God is a human being fully alive.”

St Gregory Nazianzen

“What is not assumed is not healed.”

Medieval & Monastic Tradition

St Bernard of Clairvaux

“The wounds of Christ are powerful medicine.”

Julian of Norwich

“All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.”

St Thomas Aquinas

“Grace does not destroy nature but perfects it.”

Other writers

Henri Nouwen

“Nobody escapes being wounded. We are all wounded people... The great challenge is to make our wounds a source of healing.” From *The Wounded Healer*—a foundational text for modern pastoral care.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“The Church is only the Church when it exists for others.”

Jürgen Moltmann

“Hope is the power of resurrection in the midst of the world’s suffering.”

Michael Ramsey

“The Christian life is a life of healing, because it is a life of being drawn into the compassion of Christ.”

Rowan Williams

“Healing is not the removal of all pain, but the discovery that pain does not have the final word.”