

CONCORDIA CHURCH GROWTH GROUPS

Fixer-Upper:

How Jesus launches His big restoration project

Week 3– Jesus heals broken patterns and helps us overcome our self-limiting expectations

Introduction to Growth Groups

In growth groups you can meet new friends, and continue talking about what God is teaching you through the current message series this week. Please note:

- **Start** each GROWTH GROUP session by ASKING GOD to bless your time together, and to speak to you through His Word, the Bible. And...expect that He will.
- There may be more material here than you can cover in the time allotted for your group. It is more important to spend time discussing the questions people have than to get through every Bible passage on the sheet. Page references are for the GOD'S WORD translation that is used in church on Sunday.
- Reserve time for PRAYER at the end of the session.
- Make it a PRIORITY to be in church at Concordia on Sunday. The Sunday message is the starting point for the GROUP DISCUSSION.

REVIEW - Choose one of the following to discuss.

a) When Jesus healed the man's son from a distance (John 4:43-54) He demonstrated His power over time and space. As you've thought about that this week, how does it make you feel about Jesus? How has that impacted your prayer life?

b) In John 4:43-54, the official showed effort and humility in getting into Jesus presence, and persistence in asking once he got there? Which of those is most challenging for you to do right now? What EFFORTS are you making to get into the presence of Jesus on a regular basis?

DIGGING IN – Read John 5:1-15 (p.1338)

What strikes you most about this event? Why?

The man Jesus healed had been an invalid for 38 years. Read Isaiah 20:28-31 (p906). How does that verse apply to the man's situation? How does it relate to your life right now?

Read Genesis 1:31 (p.2). Sickness and disease were not part of God's original creation or plan. How did it get here? Why has that become "normal" for us?

Is that the way it will always be? Read Isaiah 35:3-6 (p. 898); Romans 8:18-22 (p.1418); Matthew 11:2-5 (p.1223) and Revelation 21:1-5 (p.1561) What hope do these Bible passages give us?

How do you think the man felt when Jesus asked him, "Would you like to get well?" What do you think was Jesus' purpose in asking it? How could that apply to situations in your life?

After 38 years, the man may have accepted his illness as “normal.”

- What patterns in your life have you accepted as normal, even though they’re not part of God’s plan or design for your life?
- How can Jesus break that pattern, so the healing can begin, and you can get back to normal as God defines it?
- Read Matthew 11:28-30 (p. 1224) What is your part in the healing process?

Medical research has revealed that changes in 5 areas – eating, drinking, smoking, stress, and exercise – could help reduce up to 80% of our health problems.

- Right now WHAT PHYSICAL PATTERN in your life do you want to change? Why?
- How would that change make you healthier?
- What step can you take THIS WEEK to move in that direction?
- How can this group help you to stay on that path?

The Bible clearly tells us that we are put right with God by GRACE. So why do you think that even in the church, we keep drifting back toward legalism (i.e. keeping rules as a way to make our relationship with God work right) as a normal pattern?

Legalism ends up leaving us either judgmental toward others, frustrated with ourselves, or uncertain about our relationship with God. Which of those is the greatest struggle for you? Why? What can you do to break that pattern, or keep from drifting back to it?

How do the following passages relate to your discussion?

- Galatians 2:16 (p.1460)
- Ephesians 1:7-9 (p.1466)
- Titus 3:4-9 (p. 1501)

PRAYERS
