



WEEKLY DISCUSSION GUIDE

October 9, 2022

Week 3 Jehovah Rapha

Welcome to our Discussion Guide - designed to help you think more deeply about the sermon topic as you engage with others through thoughtful conversation, biblical exploration and real-life application.

➤ KEY PASSAGES

Exodus 15:26, Daniel 3:17-18, Matthew 10:7-8, John 14:12, Acts 3:6-10, James 5:13-17, 2 Corinthians 12:8-9

➤ CONVERSATION STARTER

What did you do for fun and relaxation this past week?

➤ QUICK REVIEW

This week we focus on God as our Healer. We first see God referred to as healer in Exodus 15. The Israelites are wandering in the wilderness and in desperate need of water. Through Moses, God tells the people, "I am the LORD who heals you."

➤ EXPLORATION

Exodus 15:26

In this instance we see that obedience to God's commands is needed in order to know God as healer.

What is your experience with or understanding of healing?

The Bible talks about healing as something that our God simply does... *sometimes*. At other times he doesn't. Sometimes there is sin involved and when that's the case that is always the first thing to be addressed. However, sometimes life is just hard, bad things just happen, this world has trouble.

Examples of Healing in the Old Testament:

- Trouble: Psalm 6:2 heal me LORD, I'm in agony
- Soul: Psalm 41:4 Heal my soul, for I have sinned
- Emotional Suffering: Psalm 147:3 He heals the brokenhearted
- Sins & Sickness: Psalm 103:3 He forgives your sins & heals your diseases
- National Sin: 2 Chronicles 7:14 if God's people humble themselves & pray

A powerful story in the Old Testament is found in Daniel chapter 3. King Nebuchadnezzar declared that every person would be required to worship a huge statue made in his image. Anyone who refused to fall down and worship the idol would be immediately thrown into a furnace.

Three young, Jewish slaves openly refused to worship the idol and the king was furious. When faced with almost certain death they still refused to bow down.

Daniel 3:17-18

Pastor Aaron shared about a Pastor in Texas who was diagnosed with an aggressive form of brain cancer. That pastor found helpful guidance for how to pray from what he learned in the response of the 3 young men. Their faithful response to suffering helped shape his own prayers for healing:

- We believe God **can** heal
- We pray that God **will** heal
- Even if he doesn't, we'll still **trust** that God is good

Share about a time you decided to stand up for your principles even though it meant that you would face ridicule or persecution.

We Believe God is Able to Heal

This is not only true in the Old Testament, but we see many examples of Jesus healing people in the New Testament.

- Matthew 8:1-4 - Healing a man with leprosy
- Matthew 9:27-31 - Restoring sight to the blind
- Luke 8:42-48 - Healing a woman who had been bleeding for 12 years
- Mark 2:5-12 - Forgiving & healing a paralyzed man
- Mark 9:21-29 - Healing a child of seizures
- John 11:41-44 - Raising Lazarus from the dead

As you continue to read the story of Scripture, you can see that Jesus was also preparing his disciples for the day that He would leave this world and entrust this ministry to them.

Matthew 10:7-8

John 14:12

The healing continued on in the book of Acts through the work of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 3:6-10

Imagine yourself in this scene, what would you be feeling and thinking?

Looking through the book of Acts we see that healing continues to be part of the ongoing story of God's work in the world:

- Acts 3:1-10 - Paralyzed beggar
- Acts 5:12-16 - Many healed
- Acts 8:4-8 - Evils spirits, paralyzed, lame
- Acts 9:17-19 - Healing and Conversion
- Acts 20:7-16 - Eutychus raised from the dead
- Acts 28:1-9 - Paul bitten by a viper

We Pray God Will Heal

It is clear that healing is an important part of the God story, but there is no formula to obtain healing. However, we do have some guidance as we look in the book of James.

James 5:13-16

Have you ever prayed for healing for yourself or someone else? If so, how did God answer that prayer?

How did God's answer influence your faith?

There are many reasons why people may be reluctant to pray or ask for healing:

- God doesn't love me enough, I'm not worthy to be healed.
- Why would God listen to me? I don't deserve it.

- My issue isn't big enough, other people have more important needs.
- I don't have enough faith, it would never happen for me.
- I have been disappointed in the past.
- I don't know if God really heals.

Can you relate to any of these reasons? If so, which ones.

We Trust God Even if

Read the following passage to learn how Paul interacted with God over his repeated request for healing.

2 Corinthians 12:8-9

Prayer 1= Nothing seemed to happen
 Prayer 2= Paul persisted and prayed again
 Prayer 3= Paul received God's answer

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

Paul was not healed in the way he asked, but he experienced an outpouring of the power of God beyond what we could imagine!

We see God answer in a similar way in Matthew 26:30 when Jesus was praying in the garden before his crucifixion.

“Going a little farther, he [Jesus] fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

Share about a time when you have received God's grace during a difficult struggle. How did that experience affect your faith?

➤ TAKE AWAY

HillsideChurches.com

3 Prayers For Healing:

1. God, we believe you are strong, powerful and able to heal.
2. We pray and ask that you will bring your healing now, in Jesus' name!
3. We trust you, even if you don't bring healing right now. We ask for faith to trust you no matter what.

Take some time to pray these simple prayers for each other. Remember, this is not a formula, it is a declaration of faith and surrender to God.

➤ SERVE OPPORTUNITY

One of our core values here at Hillside is that growing in our faith includes Serving with Compassion. There are many ways you can serve. Here are a few options available in the next few weeks.

Serve the Church

We are currently adding to our Guest Experience team. We are looking for people to help with greeting, ushering and parking during our 11AM service.

Serve the City

We will be sponsoring a much needed Blood Drive with LIFESTREAM BLOOD BANK on Saturday, October 15, 9AM to 2PM right here at Hillside in the Community Center. Register [HERE](#)

Serve the World

In November we will be partnering with Empowering Lives International to experience life in Kenya through a **virtual** serve trip.

For more information about any of these opportunities, email Serve@Hillsidechurches.com

