Small Group Guide: "Sana Nuestra Tierra" (Heal Our Land)

2 Chronicles 7:13-15

Overview

This sermon calls believers to seek God's healing - for their personal lives, families, marriages, communities, and the world - by following the conditions God laid out in His response to Solomon's prayer at the dedication of the temple. Healing begins not with circumstances changing, but with God's people changing.

Key Takeaways

1. Becoming God's People Healing starts with a genuine relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ. Not everyone is automatically a child of God - there is a step of faith and repentance required. Once we are His, a special focus and more than seven thousand promises are activated in our lives.

2. Humbling Ourselves Before God Humility is not poverty, timidity, or being a doormat. It means recognizing that everything we are and have comes from God. It means seeing God as He truly is, serving Him sacrificially, treating others with respect and dignity, submitting to His commands even when it is hard, and learning to depend on Him daily.

3. Praying First Prayer should be our first response to difficulty, not our last resort. When we are humbled before God, what we ask for changes - our petitions shift from what we want to what God wills.

4. Seeking His Face This means desiring to know God more - not just for what He can do for us, but for who He is. We grow in this knowledge through His Word, worship, prayer, evangelism, and genuine fellowship with other believers.

5. Turning Away From Sin Confession alone is not enough. God calls us to abandon the sin we know is wrong. Iniquity - knowingly holding onto sin while still expecting God to answer - can block our prayers. God is patient and will wait for us to turn before He responds.

6. God's Promise When these conditions are met, God promises to hear from heaven, forgive sin, and heal the land. His eyes and ears will be open and attentive to our prayers.

Discussion Questions

Opening

1. When you hear the phrase "heal our land," what comes to mind first - a personal struggle, a family situation, your community, or something larger? Why?
2. Cesilio asked: "How many of us are taking advantage of the privilege of prayer?" Be honest with yourself and the group - how would you answer that question right now?

Going Deeper

3. The sermon described humility not as thinking less of yourself, but as thinking less about yourself. How does that definition challenge the way you think about humility?
4. Cesilio said that when we are truly humbled before God, our prayers change - we start asking for different things. Have you experienced that kind of shift in your own prayer life? What did it look like?
5. The sermon described a difference between confession and truly turning away from sin. It defined iniquity as knowingly holding onto sin and refusing to let it go. Is there a sin you have been confessing without truly turning away? What would it take to change?
6. Cesilio said, "The service starts when we leave through the doors." What does it mean to serve God rather than simply attend church? What is one specific way you could move from attending to serving?
3. God told Solomon that His eyes and ears would be open and attentive to the prayers of His people when these conditions were met. How does that promise change the way you approach prayer this week?

Reflection

8. The sermon listed several ways people respond to difficulty instead of praying - complaining, coveting, becoming depressed, isolating, or even cursing God. Which of these do you struggle with most? What would change if you prayed instead?
9. Cesilio shared that only God could restore his marriage, and that nothing is impossible for God. Is there a situation in your life - a relationship, a habit, a family struggle - where you have stopped believing God can intervene? How does this passage speak to that?
10. Seeking God's face means wanting to know who God is, not just what He can do. On a scale of one to ten, how much of your current relationship with God is about knowing Him versus asking things of Him? What would you like that to look like?

Practical Applications

Choose at least one of the following to put into practice before your group meets again:

- **Pray first.** This week, when a problem or stressful situation arises, stop before complaining or worrying and pray about it immediately. Keep a brief note of when you did this and what happened.
- **Do a personal inventory.** Set aside fifteen minutes in a quiet place and honestly ask yourself: Is there sin I am aware of that I have been confessing but not truly walking away from? Bring it before God with a sincere heart.
- **Seek His face.** Commit to reading a portion of Scripture each day this week - not to check a box, but to learn something new about who God is. Write down one attribute of God you discover each day.
- **Serve outside the walls.** Identify one practical way to serve someone outside of your church this week - a neighbor, coworker, or person in need. Remember that the image of God is reflected in every person.
- **Pray for your "land."** Make a specific prayer list for the areas in your life that need healing - your marriage, a family relationship, a personal struggle, your community. Pray over this list daily and share it with a trusted person in your group for accountability.

Closing Prayer Focus

As you close your group time, pray together using the four conditions from 2 Chronicles 7:14 as a guide:

- **Humility** — Ask God to reveal any pride or self-sufficiency in your heart.
- **Prayer** — Commit together to making prayer your first response this week.
- **Seeking His face** — Ask God to deepen your desire to know Him, not just His blessings.
- **Turning from sin** — Ask the Holy Spirit to bring to mind anything that needs to be confessed and abandoned.

Close by thanking God that His eyes are open and ears attentive to His people.

"Then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." — 2 Chronicles 7:14