

## SERIES OVERVIEW

The world is broken in six distinct ways. One of those areas of brokenness, which affects every human at some point in their lives, is **pain**. Whether it is physical pain, mental pain, or emotional pain, we all struggle to find hope when we're facing it. For this year's Hope Month, we will explore how God is working to *heal* our bodies, minds, and spirits, and learn together what it means to both remain faithful in our own waiting and to join God in his healing work.

## WEEK 1 - A WORLD OF PAIN AND A GOD WHO HEALS

**OVERVIEW** 

For the first message of Hope Month, we will consider two fundamental propositions about our world. First, we'll discuss the universality of pain and the many forms it takes (body, mind, and spirit), from the grief we experience at the loss of a loved one, to the anxiety and depression so often clouding our minds, to the chronic illness and pain which besets our bodies.

Second, we will explore the character of our God as one in the business of *healing* that pain (a.k.a. *Jehova rapha* – "the God who heals," Exodus 15:26). In Psalm 147 the psalmist depicts God as being actively involved in healing our pain: rebuilding broken cities, bringing exiles home, healing the brokenhearted, bandaging wounds, supporting the humble, and blessing children. Luke 6:17-19 describes Jesus doing very much the same thing ("He healed everyone"). What might it look like for us to put our trust in a God who heals? And how might we join him in that healing work in the lives of others?

The Lord is rebuilding Jerusalem and bringing the exiles back to Israel. He heals the brokenhearted and bandages their wounds. Psalm 147:2-3

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- 1. Describe the Broken Place of pain. Why do we consider pain to be a Broken Place?
- 2. Read Exodus 15:26 and Psalm 147. In what ways does God heal?
- 3. Read Luke 6:17-19. What stands out to you as significant in this passage and why?
- 4. Explain how Jesus heals more than just physical pain and why that matters.
- 5. Why do we have hope that the pain in our world can be healed?
- 6. What impact has the Broken Place of *pain* had on your life? How have you seen God at work in this area (in your own life or in the life of someone close to you)?
- 7. What do you think is your personal role in healing the Broken Place of pain?
- **8.** What ideas do you have for how the people of Grace Church can join Jesus in healing the Broken Place of *pain*?