



hope

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Restoring
Every Heart

WEEK 4 - FINDING HEALING IN COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

A final component of God's healing work to consider is that so much of it happens through the community of faith. Through prayer, service, and tangible support, God works in and through us to bring healing to others' minds, bodies, and spirits. This is a part of what it means to be Christ's representatives in a broken world!

In this message we will explore our responsibility to use our gifts, our presence, and our resources to help bring healing to others as representatives of Christ. We'll be reminded of the importance of listening and having compassion for the healing others desire instead of coming in with all the answers and healing what we think is broken (e.g. *My Body is Not a Prayer Request*). Finally, we will remember the importance of trusting our community to journey through pain together and not try to weather these challenging storms alone.

Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well.

James 5:14-15

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Milton said that pain is complicated. Explain what you think that means.
2. Read [2 Samuel 9:1-11](#).
 - a. How did David give healing to Mephibosheth?
 - b. Why did David offer this healing?
 - c. What is Lodebar, and why was Mephibosheth there? (see also [2 Samuel 4:4](#))
 - d. Why might people today be "stuck in Lodebar" like Mephibosheth?
3. Have you experienced healing in community? If so, in what way?
4. Why do you think people assume how someone needs to be healed? Or prayed for? How could you avoid making assumptions about the needs of others?
5. Read [1 Peter 2:21](#).
 - a. What is our responsibility to use our gifts, our presence, and our resources to help bring healing to others as representatives of Christ?
 - b. What are some practical ways to bring healing?
 - c. Give some examples of "suffering" that might make it difficult to bring healing to others.

RESOURCES

My Body Is Not a Prayer Request: Disability Justice in the Church, by Amy Kenny