**Learn in Community**

Small Group Study

**Volume Overview**

**How can I experience God’s power?**

“I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.” ([John 14:12](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn14.12))

*When we think of power, we might think of physical strength or mental toughness. While God surely wants us to experience physical health and clarity of mind, He desires that we experience His supernatural power too.*

*In the Bible, it’s clear that our God—revealed through the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit—is powerful. He spoke the world into existence and sustains the universe by the power of His Word (*[*Hebrews 1:3*](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Heb1.3)*). God displayed His power in many ways in the Old Testament for His people. In the New Testament, Jesus’ life and works revealed His power over sickness, spiritual forces, and even the grave. After Jesus’ resurrection God sent the Holy Spirit, so we could have the power to do kingdom work today (*[*Acts 1:8*](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac1.8)*). Clearly, God is powerful! But how do you and I experience His power? That’s the question we’ll explore in this volume.*

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| First time leading *Learn* for Adults? Check out the [Facilitator Guide](https://0b769b0ed3569ef9d18b-f88d8272f61086866d50d048b43ef630.ssl.cf2.rackcdn.com/sites/biblengagementproject/Listen_Facilitator_Guide.pdf). |

To access session content and videos from a computer, visit: [BibleEngagementProject.com/downloads](https://bibleengagementproject.com/downloads)

**Engage**

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| **QUESTION**When you need advice, who do you turn to and why? |

We all need people we can go to when we need advice or help. The more friends you have, the more options you have for advice and help in different areas of life. You might have one friend you go to for a suggestion on a local restaurant, but you might never go to that friend for help with a home project. Similarly you might have a friend who’s great to talk to when your car is making a funny noise, but you would never go to them for advice on parenting a teenager.

When we need healing, we should run to God first. While we can get wonderful care from medical professionals, the ultimate source of all healing is God. The helpful knowledge, wisdom, and skill of doctors and nurses are all gifts from God. We can be thankful for those in the health care profession and all they do! But sometimes the sickness, disease, or condition is beyond medical intervention, and our only option is a miraculous healing. In those times, or any time we need any kind of healing, we are never hopeless.

**Watch**

As we watch this video, think about your answer to this question: Have you or someone you love faced a health scare? What role did prayer play in your experience?



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**Consider What the Bible Says**

The Bible instructs us that we can go to God at all times and for all matters. Peter encouraged the early Christians to give their worries to God ([1 Peter 5:7](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.1Pe5.7)). We don’t just go to God in a crisis. We should turn to God every day for every need we have. But we can’t deny that big challenges make us more aware of our need to go to God.

Sometimes when we’re desperate, we choose desperate measures to get results. In some cases the normal, routine efforts simply won’t do. Sometimes we need the miraculous because we’re facing the impossible. We believe in a God who can supernaturally intervene in those moments.

**Go to God, Believing for Others**

Read [2 Kings 5:1–3](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Ki5.1-3).

In these opening verses, we’re introduced to Naaman, a man with great power. But it’s a nameless Jewish servant girl who helped this influential commander. Leprosy was a terrible disease physically, emotionally, and socially. In Jewish culture, lepers were outcasts, destined to die a terrible death away from their families and friends. In fact, leprosy was often considered divine judgment.

In his homeland, Naaman still had contact with family and his role as general. But this high-ranking man had no hope for a full life and future.

The servant girl had every reason not to help Naaman. She had been taken captive during an invasion of Israel. Naaman may have even led the army that invaded her homeland. And yet, somehow, she wanted the best for Naaman, and she believed God’s healing was possible for him. What amazing faith and compassion!

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| **QUESTION**What does it look like to go to God, believing for others? |

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| **QUESTION**What excuses keep people from believing for others to be healed? |

**Go to God, Surrendering Lesser Hopes**

Read [2 Kings 5:4–8](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Ki5.4-8).

Naaman was given a plan by his king. He lived in a world where titles and positions mattered. So, as instructed, he went straight to the seemingly most important person in Israel with a letter of recommendation from the most important person in Aram (part of present-day Syria). Appearing intent on purchasing his healing, Naaman loaded up his caravan with silver, gold, and clothes.

Naaman seemed to be confused, thinking he could obtain something as great as a miracle of God with lesser things. Neither his status as a Syrian general nor the commendation of his king could leverage God’s response. Even the riches he traveled with couldn’t buy his healing. Naaman, a man whose army had oppressed God’s people, likely had no understanding about how that true God operated.

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| **QUESTION**What are some examples of things people trust in more than they trust God? |

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| **QUESTION**How have you found Jesus to be more than all other hopes? |

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| **QUESTION**How would you explain the hope you have in Jesus to someone who doesn’t know Him? |

**Go to God, Trusting His Will and His Ways**

Read [2 Kings 5:9–14](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Ki5.9-14).

Elisha didn’t even come out to greet Naaman! Didn’t he know how important Naaman was? Elisha didn’t offer a mighty feat to complete or a price to pay. Didn’t he know what Naaman could do and give?

Naaman was so offended by Elisha’s apparent disregard that he almost walked away from his healing. Naaman’s response exposed his arrogance and confusion. Rather than humbly submitting to God’s plan, his pride motivated his response. In his complex life of wealth and power, Naaman didn’t understand simplicity.

Ultimately, through his obedience Naaman was healed, but not in a way he could have ever imagined or would have ever chosen. Naaman’s desire to have things his way almost kept him from a miracle. This is a good reminder for us when we go to God for healing. We shouldn’t go with demands and deadlines. We should go trusting that God’s kingdom will come and His will be done—in His perfect timing.

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| **QUESTION**Why is it so difficult to trust God’s will and ways? |

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| **QUESTION**What is the problem with approaching God with our demands and deadlines? |

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| **QUESTION**When you reflect on your life, what have you learned about trusting God’s timing? |

**Did You Know?**

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| *The Hebrew word used to describe the physical problem Naaman faced is tsara. This word was used in Old Testament times to describe various skin diseases and issues, including leprosy. So, it’s uncertain if Naaman had the disease called leprosy today or a different skin issue because his symptoms are not described in detail. What we do know is that his disease was bad enough to compel his king to send one of his great commanders to another land and before a foreign king for help.* |

**Reflect**

**I Go to God for Healing**

Let’s consider four ways God chooses to heal us. The first way God provides healing is through the manner in which He created our body. Most of us expect our immune system to fight off colds. We expect a scab to form over a cut. We may not think to thank God when our body heals naturally from an injury, but this type of healing is a result of how God created our body.

God can also work through the care of the medical profession. Just as God gave the Israelites practical wisdom for disinfecting and dealing with disease in their time, we can lean on good advice, medicine, or surgical intervention in our time as well. Then we can thank God if He chooses to bring healing through these means.

The third way God heals is supernatural intervention like He chose to do for Naaman. When God breaks in and heals our body, He gives us a glimpse of His coming kingdom. God still displays His power this way!

Last, God might choose to heal us when we get to heaven. There we will have no more pain, suffering, sickness, and sorrow. What a day that will be!

When we go to God for healing, we know He hears and He heals. We don’t always know (or understand) His method of healing or His timing, but we can trust that He knows best.

**Listen to God**

Let’s pause and listen to what God might want to say to us about what we have read and shared. Be silent for a few moments and reflect on the following questions. Respond to the one that most resonates with what God is saying to you now. Then complete the others during Day 1 of your devotion time this week.

**Personal Reflection Questions**

*Record your answers to the following questions in the space provided or in your personal journal.*

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| **QUESTION**What type of healing (physical, emotional, relational, or mental) are you going to God for in this season of your life? |

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| **QUESTION**What does going to God for healing look like in your daily prayer life? |

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| **QUESTION**How are you learning to trust in God’s will and ways as you seek healing for yourself or someone else? |

**Activate**

When we pray for God’s kingdom to come “on earth, as it is in heaven” ([Matthew 6:10](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt6.10)), we’re praying for His healing touch on every area of our life. While we don’t always see supernatural healing, we should continue to have faith and pray for the sick as Scripture instructs us to ([James 5:14](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jas5.14)). We all know people who need physical, emotional, mental, or relational healing. As believers, we can pray faith-filled prayers for their needs as well as our own.

**Challenge**

Make a list of people who need healing. Then use this list as part of your daily prayer time. Be sure to let those individuals know you’re praying for them. Consider sharing your list with other praying Christians too. Then make a second list to record answers to these prayers. As people you’re praying for recover from sickness, remember to give thanks and praise to God, our mighty Healer.

**Prayer Requests**

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| Note any requests from the group and remember to pray for them during the week. |

Before next time, continue to spend time in God’s Word with the personal devotions.

**What We Believe**

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| **Official Doctrine**Divine healing from God is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided in the Atonement (Christ’s suffering and death for our reconciliation with God). Healing is a privilege of all believers ([Isaiah 53:4–5](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Is53.4-5); [Matthew 8:16–17](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt8.16-17); [James 5:14–16](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jas5.14-16)).**The Significance of This Doctrine**The spectacular spread of the Pentecostal message and the growth in the number of Spirit-filled believers can be attributed to a great degree to God’s miraculous intervention in the lives of hurting people, those suffering from emotional, spiritual, and physical pain. Many have personally experienced God’s healing touch. Some have been restored from near death to full health. However, in spite of this truth, we know that all are not healed. The Bible teaches divine healing but also declares that death is an appointed experience for everyone ([Hebrews 9:27](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Heb9.27)). Though we cannot explain why some are healed while others are not, God knows all and does all things well according to a purpose only He knows. The fact that some are not healed does not destroy the fact that God can and does heal. Every Pentecostal congregation includes those who have received God’s supernatural touch of healing. |

**Learn on Your Own**

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| *Before you begin each devotion, pray and ask God to speak to you through His Word. Record your answers to the following questions in the space provided or in your personal journal.* |

**Day 1: I Go to God for Healing**

Read [2 Kings 5:1–14](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Ki5.1-14).

Look back over Learn in Community and complete your responses to the Personal Reflection Questions. Plan how to complete the Activate component if you haven’t already done so. If time permits, reread the Scripture too.

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| **QUESTION**What is God saying to you about going to Him for healing? |

**Learn on Your Own**

**Day 2: God Wants Us to Pray for One Another**

Read [James 5:13–18](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jas5.13-18).

In this passage, James is teaching about the power of prayer. Verse [13](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jas5.13) is an important reminder: We should look to God in bad times and in good times. If we only turn to God when we need healing, then our true god might be our health and comfort rather than the one true God.

James gives us a pattern of how to pray for the sick: Gather spiritual leaders, anoint the sick with oil, and pray a prayer of faith. This is not a magical formula—God doesn’t work that way. It’s a biblical model for praying for healing and one we can follow in confidence. Do not suffer alone; go to other believers and receive prayer!

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| **QUESTION**Why is it important to go to God in bad times and in good times? |

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| **QUESTION**What does it mean to pray in faith? |

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| **QUESTION**Why should regular confession of sin be part of the life of a Christian? |

**Learn on Your Own**

**Day 3: God Comforts Us to Comfort Others**

Read [2 Corinthians 1:3–7](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Co1.3-7).

The apostle Paul opened this letter to the church in Corinth with some important words about the relationship between suffering and comfort. We go to God for healing from our suffering, and sometimes God heals how we ask. Other times we may not receive the healing we’re asking for, but we can be sure that God always provides comfort. Out of the comfort we’ve found in Christ, we’re able to comfort others. This means we don’t suffer alone and we won’t suffer in vain. In God’s kingdom, everything is useful—even our suffering.

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| **QUESTION**What phrase in today’s reading helps you most and why? |

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| **QUESTION**How have you experienced God’s comfort in a time of suffering? |

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| **QUESTION**How have you been able to comfort others as a result of the comfort you have received? |

**Learn on Your Own**

**Day 4: God Prays through Us When We Have No Words**

Read [Romans 8:26–30](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ro8.26-30).

Sometimes when we go to God for healing, we feel like we don’t have the right words, enough words, or new words. We don’t even know sometimes how to pray. This passage encourages us with the truth that the very Spirit of God is present in those moments. He helps us when we feel weak and unable to pray—when we want to quit and give up. When we’re wordless, He knows our heart and brings our desires to the Father. We can trust that God brings good things to those who love Him. We can trust His plans and purposes. While this doesn’t mean we always get what we ask for, it does mean we can trust that someday all things will be made right and new.

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| **QUESTION**How have you experienced the Holy Spirit helping you when you pray? |

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| **QUESTION**According to verse [29](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ro8.29), why did God choose us and save us? |

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| **QUESTION**How does it encourage you to know the Holy Spirit prays for you and through you when you’re weak? |

**Learn on Your Own**

**Day 5: God Sent His Son to Bring Healing**

Read [Matthew 4:23–25](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt4.23-25).

Much of Jesus’ ministry was marked by healing and miracles. He came to further the goals of the kingdom of God here on earth, and every single healing was a glimpse of the coming kingdom. In the new heaven and the new earth, there will be no more sickness or disease!

Jesus had the power and anointing to do these great works, but it didn’t end with Him. He sent His disciples out to do the same ([Luke 10:1–23](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk10.1-23)). Jesus even said that those who believe in Him will be able to do the works He did and even greater works ([John 14:12](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn14.12)). That’s us! But we must always remember that Jesus is the Healer—not us. We get to join in His work by praying in faith for His will to be done.

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| **QUESTION**What can we learn about Jesus from this passage? |

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| **QUESTION**Why is it important that we teach and proclaim the gospel (verse [23](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt4.23)) in addition to praying for people to be healed? |

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| **QUESTION**What miracle or healing are you asking God for? |