

## **“Jesus the Healer” New Sermon Theme and Devotional Guide July-October 3, 2021**

We are excited to begin a new theme for our Sunday sermons, **“Jesus the Healer”**, and devotional guide beginning Sunday **July 4-October 3**. As we are emerging from the ravages of the pandemic where many of us, our families, friends, loved ones, our nation and our world have experienced so much loss, grief, and suffering of all kinds we feel that focusing on the healing stories of Jesus from the four Gospels will help us all to experience our own healing through Jesus’ presence.

Each week the Scriptures and sermon will focus on a different instance of Jesus’ healing ministry. As we are doing so, we invite you to come prepared to hear the Gospel by spending some time with the passage of the week. Here are the weekly Scripture verses and some suggested ways of embracing the Scriptures more intimately and personally. James Wagner, in his book *The Spiritual Heart of Your Health* (Upper Room Books, 2002), offers us the Lectio Divina, *“a way of praying the Holy Scriptures and listening to God. A divine and human dialogue is desired. God speaks to us. We listen and respond. We speak to God, who listens and responds.”* We pray that you will make time to draw close to God in this way each week, asking God to love, guide, speak and heal the broken places in your life. What might God do in and through us if we come asking?

### **July                      Summer Sermon Series: “Jesus the Healer”**

4	<a href="#"><u>Matthew 4:23-25</u></a>
11	<a href="#"><u>Luke 10:1-2; 8-9; 17; John 14:12-14; Matthew 28:18-20</u></a>
18	<a href="#"><u>John 5:1-9; 14-15</u></a>
25	<a href="#"><u>Mark 7:24-30</u></a>

### **Getting Up Close and Personal with the Healing Stories of Jesus**

Exert from “The Spiritual Heart of Your Health: A Devotional Guide on the Healing Stories of Jesus” by J.K. Wagner, Upper Room, Feb. 1, 2002

#### **Step 1: Unpacking God’s Word (Lectio)**

Read the scripture slowly at least twice, silently or aloud.

Write out the specific illness or problem in this story.

List various factors that contributed to the healing. Where in this story do you find faith?

Write down any questions you may have about this story.

### **Step 2: Reflecting on God's Word (Meditatio)**

Can you identify with this story in any way?

How is God speaking to you through this story?

What are some possible challenges and changes being suggested for your personal situation?

Be specific. Write down whatever comes to you.

### **Step 3: Listening to God (Oratio)**

Continue quietly to center your thoughts on God in a trusting, receptive, expectant manner.

Be still and listen...listen...listen.

Reread the selected passage.

Record whatever comes to you.

Do not hurry God or cut short your listening.

### **Step 4: Resting in God (Contemplatio)**

Relax your efforts to pray and meditate actively. Put aside your personal agenda.

Simply enjoy being in God's presence. Allow God's love to hold you and enfold you.

### **Step 5: Naming Your Next Step**

When you are ready to move on, offer a prayer of thanks for these precious, special moments.

Ask for God's grace, guidance, and encouragement to help you act upon any direction that may have come to you during your time alone with God. Name possible next steps.

Depend on God's faithfulness to you.

Go now in peace for the peace of Christ goes with you!