

Thornbury Baptist Church
Small Group Discussion Questions

Talk Date: November 16th 2025

Talk title: Jesus heals a man with Leprosy

Passage: Matthew 8:1-4

Speaker: Charlotte Royal

Discussion Questions:

1) Healing in the Kingdom of God: Bigger picture 1

In the passage Jesus demonstrates his authority and compassion to heal people. This coincides with the arrival of the Kingdom of God in the book of Matthew.

Charlotte reminded us that healing is part of the inbreaking of God's Kingdom in a fallen/broken world. Healing is a sign of the promise that one day when Jesus returns and all is made new, all of creation will be renewed, and we will experience the 'fullness' of healing. (This can be called the now and the not yet of the Kingdom of God).

- How does thinking about this bigger picture impact how you live as a disciple now? Are there specific places/people/situations that God has placed on your heart to pray for? To see His Kingdom come and break in? (this might be a good moment to pray for these things)

Charlotte reminded us that Jesus demonstrated his authority to heal people! Throughout the gospels Jesus heals many people in many different ways! (and this is just a glimpse of the healings that took place in his ministry) The New Testament gives evidence of the role of healing in the lives of those who follow Jesus & in church life. (Acts & Paul's letters)

- As a follower of Jesus do you find it easy to pray for healing? You might like to share testimonies of healings you have witnessed and ways you have seen God encounter people through healing. This might also be a good moment to pray for people in our community in need of a touch from Jesus.

2) Healing the Leper: Bigger picture 2

Jesus' healing of the leper was radical! Jesus demonstrated his authority to heal and cleanse, his inability to be made 'unclean' and his compassion towards those who were outcasts. As a result the leper is healed of his disease, he is no longer 'unclean' and he is no longer separate from his community.

Jesus' authority to heal and his compassion towards the leper remind us of the bigger picture of God's love for humanity.

- How does Jesus healing the leper point towards a bigger picture of God and humanity? How does it reveal a God of love and compassion? How might this impact how we live our lives as disciples and how we see the world around us?

The cleansing of the leper reminds us of God's mercy and grace towards us as sinners, and the forgiveness we receive. It also reminds us of our constant need for God to cleanse, heal and purify the parts of us that keep us separate from Him. You might like to reflect on the following two verses together:

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

1 John 1:9

- What might stop us from coming to God with the parts of us that feel like a 'mess' or need healing? Are there practical things that help you to keep coming to God and allowing him to continue his gracious work within you? Eg Bible, praying, worship, friends, journalling

Volcano picture:

Charlotte shared a picture of a dormant volcano. Dormant volcanos aren't extinct, they are volcanos which haven't erupted in a long time but are expected to erupt again in the future, and they stay connected to the magma supply. Charlotte shared that this might be a picture for some of us who feel connected to God but sense that some areas of us might have become a bit dormant? Maybe this relates to our belief in healing?

- You might like to reflect on and pray about this together.