

# WEEK 2 - How does Jesus interact with the hurting?

Spring Emphasis 2024 // Canopy Guide

## Love Your Neighbor

### CONVERSATION STARTERS

Use the questions below to kickstart a community building, all-play conversation that connects to our weekly topic. If your group meets for dinner, these might be great questions to share around a table.

- What causes us to hurt?
- What is your gut feeling when you see others who are hurting?
- What moves you most quickly toward compassion and mercy? Hurt that stems from physical illness, mental illness, tragedy, grief, social isolation, emotional trauma, financial despair, systemic injustice, or something else?
- How can we work toward wellness and healing in the midst of hurt and help our neighbors do likewise?

### STUDY GUIDE

Many of the Gospel stories we read focus on Jesus interacting with people who are hurting in some way. Jesus often heals the sick, injured or dying, relieves them of demon possession, or even raises the dead. Jesus calls us to notice and aid the hurting in our communities just like he did, but there's one big difference - we can't heal people the same way Jesus did.

We have modern medicine and counseling, which are arguably two of the ways that Jesus has enabled us to heal the hurting. But we can't just say, "Pick up your mat and walk," and "Your sins are forgiven." So what *can* we do?

As Jesus did, we can see them in their humanity, show compassion, and be moved to action. While this action will not often bring complete healing, it can bring comfort, peace, and help to those who are hurting. Hurt is multidimensional. Often Jesus' actions went against the grain, angering the Pharisees and Sadducees. The ways we help people will sometimes require us to give up our time, our finances, our comfort, or more. It will often fly in the face of what the world says we should or shouldn't do. There is often a fine line between discerning a real need and pushing unwanted or undesired assistance that suits us more than the needy person. Christian love still needs careful consideration

of what is most helpful and beneficial.

Those Jesus healed or helped would often go and spread the news about him and what He had done. The same is true of the neighbors we help. People will ask them what we did or how we helped, and that should point them to Jesus rather than to us. We extend mercy and compassion because we have received it first from Christ.

### **Scripture to Read**

- John 5:1-16
- Luke 6:6-8 (same story in Matthew 12:9-13/Mark 3:1-6)

### **Deeper Discussion Questions**

1. What is your first inclination when you see someone in the church who is hurting? What about someone who is outside of the community of faith?
2. Compare and contrast the stories of Jesus healing the physically ill (John 5 and Luke 6). How did Jesus approach these people? How did they respond?
3. How can we point people to Jesus in the ways that we interact with them when they are hurting?

## **PRAYER**

Make sure to claim some time as a group each week to pray specifically for each other.

## **EXTRA RESOURCES/ARTICLES/RESEARCH**

1. A large list of simple things you can do to help people:  
<https://ofhsoupkitchen.org/100-ways-to-help-others>
2. YouTube playlist from Life Church on helping without hurting:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a339VZRE3CM&list=PLXvTERTQ\\_HV943FtLVKf-AOBz7uY7u6-g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a339VZRE3CM&list=PLXvTERTQ_HV943FtLVKf-AOBz7uY7u6-g)
3. Podcast - When Helping Hurts: Establishing Boundaries When Caring for Others with Counselor Nicole Fryling  
<https://lovedoesthat.org/when-helping-hurts-establishing-boundaries-when-caring-for-others-with-counselor-nicole-fryling/>