



## Who Is This Man...Who Heals Us?

**Date:** 8th September 2019

**Speakers:** Abbi Wells and Becky Stamps

**Key Verses:** Mark 1:40-44

### **Talk Summary:**

In Mark's Gospel Jesus heals a lot! Healing is a sign that the Kingdom of God has come. Healing backs up Jesus' preaching that the Kingdom of God is near and it also shows what the Kingdom of God is like.

When we look at Revelation 21 we see the Kingdom of God is a place with no more pain, no more tears, no death or mourning. God wants his Kingdom to come on earth. He has a vision of healing for the whole world. God's healing extends beyond healing for ourselves and into healing for our communities and creation. Do we think of Jesus as someone who can bring healing to the pain and brokenness in our communities? What might happen if we as church started to pray for healing of creation?

Jesus healed a man with leprosy and he can heal us today! Jesus is moved when he sees the leper's pain. Compassion is what motivates Jesus to heal and it should be our motivation to pray for people too. Jesus heals us inside and out – he didn't just physically heal the man, but he healed him emotionally and spiritually too. There is a wholeness to the healing Jesus brings.

This wholeness, and the new life of the Kingdom, is what Jesus is inviting the whole world into. When we 'tell' people the gospel, we can also show them what it's like, by praying for healing for them (in all ways, physical, spiritual, emotional, and in their relationships and communities). These miraculous moments are signs of the Kingdom, of what Jesus will do in the future.

As a church, we regularly see people get healed or set free of different things, and we see some people begin to follow Jesus every year. However, we feel that God may have more of these for us! Over the next 12 months, we would love to start taking the gospel out of the church building and into our communities, our workplaces, playgrounds and neighbourhoods, both in words and actions. It's why we want to keep planting new sites, communities and small groups. What might this look like for your group/community?

## **Group Discussion Questions**

### **Welcome**

*If you don't eat together as a small group then you might want to start the group with some kind of ice breaker question. Remember to introduce yourselves when there are new people.*

### **Worship**

*Worship is not just singing, it is thanking God for who he is and what he has done and is lived out through a life of trusting obedience. Discussing this together is an act of worship.*

*(Small group worship resources can be found at [bvc.so/sgworship](http://bvc.so/sgworship))*

- What are you thankful for this week?
- Where has God been at work in your life?
- When have you taken risks in faith and obedience this week?

*If you have a time of singing you can skip the above questions but please do ask this question each week:*

- How is 'Read and Listen' going? What has God been speaking to you about this week? (*Go around the group quickly don't spend a long time on it*)

### **Word**

*We want our thoughts and lives to be shaped by what God says in the Bible. If most of your group weren't there on a Sunday base the discussion on the main passage rather than the talk.*

- What from this week's talk/Bible passage stood out to you, and/or you found challenging? Why?
- Follow Jesus: What does this passage teach me about God?
- Live life to the full: What does this passage teach me about myself?
- Make a difference: What is God inviting you to do or change as a result of what we have discussed? (You can give everyone a minute or so in silence to write it down) Spend some time praying for one another.

### **Witness**

*We want to be investing in authentic relationships with those who don't know Jesus yet and inviting them to anything where they might meet other Christians and Jesus. Pick one of the below each week:*

- How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?
- What church events coming up would your friends appreciate an invitation to?