

LIFE GROUP GUIDE
Good News Shoes #5: “Cowboy Boots”

Tips for Leaders

Today we’re talking about healing. This can be a tricky subject to discuss as many of us are carrying disappointment that we’ve not yet been healed or that we’ve prayed for people who have not yet been healed. So be sensitive with those in your group who may be struggling with this. Seek to stir faith amongst your group that God does long to heal, and he will ultimately do so when Jesus comes again. A great book exploring these themes is *God on Mute* by Pete Greig. Do plug it to members of your Life Group for whom this is an ongoing and pressing issue.

CONNECT UP: give God an opportunity to speak to you through his Word

Last Sunday we looked at the source of Jesus’s authority and power to heal the sick and to cast out demons. We also looked at how he has now entrusted that authority and power to us.

- Why can Jesus heal?
 - **Please read Matthew 9:1-8.** What does Matthew teach us is the source of Jesus’s authority and power over sickness? [*Leaders’ note: Matthew points us towards Jesus’ identity. The title Jesus uses for himself in these verses “Son of Man” (v6) is a claim of divinity (see Daniel 7:13-14).*]
- How does Jesus defeat Satan?
 - **Please read Colossians 2:13-15.** In these verses Paul is looking at what happened when Jesus died on the cross. Can anyone summarise this passage in their own words? Are there any phrases used in these verses which people don’t understand? [*Leaders’ note: You might need to explain the importance of circumcision, the Law and who the “powers and authorities” are.*]
 - How do these verses help us understand what happened on the cross as Jesus died? [*Leaders’ note: They describe Jesus as our substitute. Meaning there is now no guilty verdict on our lives for the wrong that we have done, Jesus took that punishment on himself (v14). It means Satan has lost. Because we are declared righteous before God and are forgiven the Devil now has no means to condemn or accuse us.*]
 - Death by crucifixion was deeply humiliating. Hanging naked and dying slowly, a victim of crucifixion is themselves a public spectacle. But in these verse Paul says it was Jesus who made a spectacle of Satan. How can he say this?
 - Can anyone explain the significance of a triumph in Paul’s day? [*Leaders’ note: A Roman Triumph was a parade of a victorious general through the streets of ancient Rome.*] What does Paul want us to understand about the cross through using such language?
- What does this mean for Christians now?
 - **Please read James 4:13-16.** In these few verses James talks about healing, what does he encourage us to do? [*Leaders’ note: both to ask the elders to pray for us (v14) and to pray for one another (v16).*]
 - Drawing together all the lessons from these three verses, what should we do? [*Leaders’ note: We should step out in faith expectantly and pray for healing. We should lay hands on each other and pray “be healed in the name of Jesus” and allow God to heal them or not. Jesus can do it!*]

CONNECT IN: discuss the implications of what God says to you as a Life Group

- Spend time worshipping Jesus for his total victory on the cross, that he completely broke the Devil’s power and that all authority and power now belongs to him (cf Matthew 28:18).
- After spending time worshipping, pray for those in your Life Group who need to receive physical healing, emotional healing or spiritual deliverance. [*Leaders’ note: See your Life Group meeting this week as a training workshop for those you lead. Some may not believe that evil spirits are real, so you may need to teach into Acts 10:38 & 16:16-18. Others may never have experienced the power of God to heal through the laying on of our hands, so you may need to teach into Mark 16:18, Acts 9:17-18 & 28:8-9, etc.*]

CONNECT OUT: discuss the implications for your interactions with the world around you

The “Good News Shoes” series (based on Ephesians 6:15) has its emphasis on sharing the gospel with those that don’t yet know Jesus.

- End with a time of commissioning prayer, sending people out to proclaim healing and deliverance to the people in their daily world through the mighty name of Jesus.