

Unit 26, Session 3: Jesus Healed Peter's Mother-in-Law

Matthew 8:14-17; Mark 1:29-31; Luke 4:38-39

Christ Connection:

Preschool: Peter's mother-in-law showed she was thankful to Jesus by serving Him. When God created the world, He did not make sickness. Sickness came when sin entered the world, but Jesus came to take away sin. We can thank Jesus for saving us from sin. We can love Jesus and obey Him.

Kids: The prophet Isaiah wrote that the promised Messiah would bear our sickness and carry our pain. Jesus fulfilled this prophecy as He healed people. Sickness exists because the world is broken by sin. One day, when Jesus returns, there will be no more sickness because Jesus dealt with sin on the cross.

Adult Connection Point: Much like the Israelites we sometimes want a king who wins the big battles for us, but in our perhaps mistaken estimation of what constitutes as the "big battles," we lose sight that Jesus not only came to rescue us from sin but that He also relieves us of the ongoing symptoms of sin such as sickness and fever (see Matt. 8:17). As David did not meet worldly expectations for a conquering king (see 1 Sam. 6:6-13), sometimes neither do the Gospels' portrayal of Jesus' healings match what we think is fitting for the coming of a messianic King. Nonetheless, the Gospels' writers included accounts such as the healing of Peter's mother-in-law to highlight Jesus' compassion for those who suffer from sin's effects on the world. Jesus' authority over the woman's fever—Luke 4:39 says that He rebuked it—portrays the all-encompassing nature of His mission to conquer sin. In light of Jesus' authority over our sicknesses and His willingness to heal us, we like Peter's mother ought to respond by rising and serving Him (Luke 4:39). Consider the following Voices quote.

Voices from the Church:

"It is often in our weaknesses that God's strength is most clearly perceived, and it is often in doing something the world sees as backwards that we are taking spiritual steps forward."

—Trevin Wax, *Holy Subversion* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2010), 127.

Family Devotion:

Play a game of charades where each family member acts out a different illness. Some ideas could be a broken limb, fever, stomachache, cold, earache, etc. The family should guess each illness acted out.

Review the Bible story about the healing of Peter's mother-in-law.

Ask: "What happened after Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law?"

Remark how after Jesus touched Peter's mother-in-law she was completely healed, got up, and served Jesus and the others. That evening many more lined up at the door for healing. Some came to be free of evil spirits, and some who were sick hoped to be healed.

Read Isaiah 53:4. Connect this verse with what is happening in the Bible story.

Explain that Jesus was fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy. Jesus performed these healings so that Isaiah's words would come true and people would know He was the promised Messiah. Remind your kids that sickness exists today because the world is broken by sin. One day, when Jesus returns, there will be no more illness because Jesus dealt with it on the cross.

Ask: "Who are some people you know who are sick and need Jesus' healing?"

Pray, thanking God for the times He has healed your family members. Pray for any family member or friends who are ill and need His healing.