

### Introduction

“Jehovah-Rapha” – the Lord is My Healer, reminds us that God has an abundance of mercy to give. In this passage, we see all kinds of healing on display – spiritual, physical, emotional and social. How can we be instruments of His mercy even as we ourselves receive healing in our own lives?

### Luke 5:17-32

17One day as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law, who had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem, were sitting there. And the power of the Lord was present for him to heal the sick. 18Some men came carrying a paralytic on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. 19When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. 20When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven." 21The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" 22Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? 23Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? 24But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...." He said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." 25Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. 26Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today." 27After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him, 28and Levi got up, left everything and followed him. 29Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. 30But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" 31Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 32I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

### Questions

1. What does this passage speak to you about the relationship Jesus makes between physical and spiritual healing?
2. What is the connection between the actions of the group in verse 19 and Jesus' response in verse 20? What does this tell us about the community's role in healing? How have others been instrumental in bringing healing to your life?
3. In verse 27, Jesus reaches out to Levi, a socially-despised tax collector -- what are some equivalent groups in our modern society? How can knowing God as The Healer lead us to bring social healing, between groups that are alienated from each other?
4. How has God used art as an instrument of healing in your life? What are some films, books, music, etc. that have had a significant effect on you in this way?

#### Discussion Guidelines:

1. Allow everyone a chance to speak. If you are bursting with ideas and tend to share a lot – great – but occasionally pause a bit before you go, sometimes the quieter ones are just waiting for their chance and they need a little space before they go.
2. Respect the opinions of others, and refrain from giving advice.
3. Keep discussion focused on the material being studied.
4. Maintain the confidentiality of personal things shared within the group.