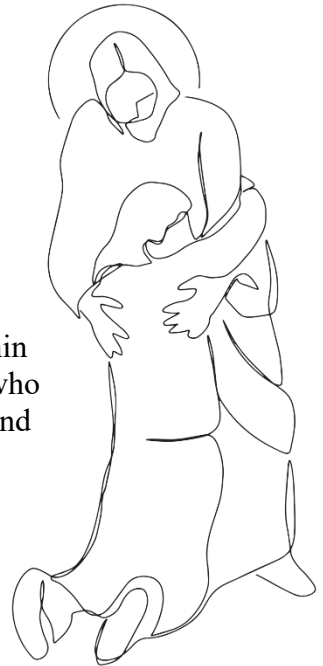


Healing and Wholeness

As we come to the end of our series, it's good to pause and reflect on what God has been teaching us about his heart for healing and wholeness. From the very beginning, we've been reminded that God's ultimate plan is to bring restoration to all of creation. God's rescue plan is made possible through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and made real in our lives through faith.

We've explored the vital role of the Holy Spirit, who brings healing and wholeness by manifesting his gifts among us and nurturing his fruit within us. We've also considered how God's wholeness touches every part of who we are (body, mind, and spirit) inviting us into a life of deeper balance and peace.

Finally, we've acknowledged the reality of the spiritual realm, the presence of evil and the work of the great deceiver, while remembering that not every sickness or hardship stems from spiritual attack. Instead, we place our trust in Christ's victory and the Holy Spirit's ongoing work to bring light and freedom into every area of life.



Open questions:

HEALING AND WHOLENESS

1. *As we've journeyed through this series on Healing and Wholeness, what has spoken to you the most or stayed with you personally?*
2. *Looking back over the themes we've explored: God's rescue plan, the work of the Holy Spirit, healing in body, mind, and spirit, and the reality of spiritual warfare — what have you taken on board that has shaped your understanding or experience of God's healing and wholeness?*

Read Isaiah 35:1–6

This beautiful passage paints a vivid picture of transformation. It's a transformation of a barren, desolate land bursting into life. *"The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus."* What was once lifeless now overflows with colour, beauty, and joy.

Ed reminded us that this image of the blossoming flower invites us to reflect on what stirs life within us.

Pause and share:

- what makes your heart leap for joy?
- What brings you deep satisfaction, joy, and a renewed sense of God's presence and goodness?

Turn your thoughts to an area of your life that may still feel dry, hard, or desolate.

Where are you longing for renewal, healing, or wholeness? How might this imagery of God bringing life to the desert become a source of *hope, faith, and trust* as you continue to pray and wait for his restoring touch?

Pause and let people's imagination take them to a place of need.

Then gently say: Let this vision from Isaiah remind us: **no wilderness is beyond God's reach, no dryness too deep for his living water to flow.**

Pause to allow people receive encouragement from God.

Jesus Mission

If you have time you might want to read together **Luke 4:16–21**

In these verses, Jesus declares that *He Himself* is the fulfilment of Isaiah's promise. Jesus is the One anointed to bring good news to the poor, freedom to the captives, sight to the blind, and healing to the broken. The hope and renewal pictured in Isaiah's blossoming desert find their reality in Jesus.

As we listen to his words, we're invited to trust that the same Spirit who rested on Jesus is at work among us today — bringing life, healing, and wholeness wherever we open our hearts to Him.

Reflection question:

Where might Jesus be inviting you to trust him for renewal and wholeness this week?

Service of Healing and Wholeness on **Sunday, 19th October at 7pm** at St James.

This is a time to encounter God's faithfulness and experience his promise to bring restoration, peace, and wholeness into every area of our lives. Everyone is welcome and you are encouraged to bring a friend who may be in need of healing or hope.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, you are the one who makes deserts bloom again.
Breathe your Spirit into the dry and weary places of our lives.
Open our eyes to see your restoring power at work.
Help us to trust you more deeply and to welcome the new life you bring.
Amen.

