

**A  
DEVOTIONAL  
OF HEALING  
AND LOVE**

# A DEVOTIONAL OF HEALING AND LOVE

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Designed by Marathon Youth Ministry, Inc.

Why we created this:

*The Italian government has decided to close all schools and universities across the entire country for at least two weeks to try to stem the spread of coronavirus, according to Italian media. More than 2,500 people have tested positive in less than two weeks in Italy and at least 80 people have died with the deadly virus in the country. Most of the infections are centered in the Lombardy and Veneto regions, which are on lock down, but nearly every province across the country has reported at least one case. The Italian government is also weighing a series of additional measures to limit person-to-person contact, including holding sporting events in empty stadiums, cancelling cultural events and limiting some travel. People over the age of 65 have been told to stay indoors and all Italians have been told not to shake hands, air kiss or be within a meter of another person when possible. (Source - <https://www.thedailybeast.com/italy-closes-all-schools-and-universities-across-country-for-two-weeks-to-stop-spread-of-coronavirus?ref=home>)*

I have always been intrigued towards developing “non-gathered” resources for Christian youth ministry – Materials and programs which serve the young church without the need to gather in one space. With our current circumstances it only seemed appropriate to develop a simple devotional to remind us that we are not alone during this season. Feel free to journal your thoughts after each devotional. Please know that as you journey through this season you are in our thoughts and prayers. - D. Scott Miller

The prayer is an excerpt from Kerry Weber, *Executive Editor for America Magazine*, prayer entitled A Coronavirus Prayer:  
<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2020/03/02/coronavirus-prayer>

*Day 1*

# **FEAR NOT**

*READ: Psalm 23: 4*

**CONSIDER:** God remains with us. God remains with us in good times. God remains with us in challenging times. Despite whatever you see happening around you, where might you be seeing the works of the Lord around you?

**HOPE:** God remains with us. The generosity of the Lord is never-ending. God continually seeks to be with us - - He sent Jesus, son of God, to be with us, walk in the paths we walk, share in the joys we experience, and to suffer the pains and hurts that with which we suffer. Healing does not always come in the form of fixing or repair, but we always pray for healing, nonetheless, allowing ourselves to imagine and envision the full power and majesty of God.

**PRAY:** Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, that we may experience your healing love. Heal those who are sick. Heal us from our fear and uncertainty. Send forth your Spirit to be with those doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected. Send forth your peace into this experience of sickness that we now face.

**APPLY:** There was a children’s television show known as Mr. Roger’s Neighborhood. In times of crisis or emergency, Fred Rogers always advocated to seek out the helpers. Find the helpers around you and thank them for their selflessness. List those people below and say a prayer for them:

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*Day 2*  
**SAY THE WORD**

*READ: Matthew 8: 5 - 13*

**CONSIDER:** God remains with us. The centurion came to Jesus asking for a healing of one of his servants. Jesus offered to come and be alongside the ailing servant. But, the centurion understood the power of authority. He knew that if Jesus commanded a healing that it would occur. He trusted that a healing would occur in Jesus sought it

**HOPE:** God remains with us. Healing does not always come in the form of fixing or repair, but we always pray for healing, nonetheless, allowing ourselves to imagine and envision the full power and majesty of God. We seek to trust in the authority of God over all things and remain in hope.

**PRAY:** Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, that we may experience your healing love. Heal those who are sick. Heal us from our fear and uncertainty. Send forth your Spirit to be with those doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected. Send forth your peace into this experience of sickness that we now face.

**APPLY:** Jesus sent the centurion home. “Go. Let it be done just as you believed it would.” How might you spend this day believing in God and speaking and acting in a way that suggests that you have faith in the power of God?

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*Day 3*

# **DRIVING OUT DEMONS**

*READ: Matthew 8: 28 - 34*

**CONSIDER:** God remains with us. But, evil and confusion remain around us as well. It can all be overwhelming trying to determine which voices outside of ourselves as well as inside us are the voices to which we need to listen. If we suffer uncertainty in the differences between goodness and evil, we might consider acknowledging the power and authority of God, the author of all.

**HOPE:** God remains with us. Jesus was sent into this world to help repair the damages of sin. Healing does not always come in the form of fixing or repair, but we always pray for healing, nonetheless, allowing ourselves to imagine and envision the full power and majesty of God. We acknowledge that even in the darkest of places around us, the smallest and tiniest light always will overcome the dark. Light wins! Good wins! We seek to trust in the light of God over all things and remain in hope.

**PRAY:** Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, that we may experience your healing love. Heal those who are sick. Heal us from our fear and uncertainty. Send forth your Spirit to be with those doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected. Send forth your peace into this experience of sickness that we now face.

**APPLY:** Spend this day being a reflection of the light of God in the lives of those around you!

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*Day 4*  
**JESUS WEPT**

*READ: John 11*

**CONSIDER:** God remains with us. God loves each and every one of us. When the Gospel message recounts that the one that Jesus loved is sick, it includes those in need of healing around us, and even us! God is God! Jesus is God! But Jesus was both fully God and fully human. At the news of his friend's death, Jesus had a very human reaction. It is reported in the shortest verse in the entirety of the Bible; Jesus wept.

**HOPE:** God remains with us. Jesus was one of us. He understands pain and suffering. As both fully God and Human, he did not choose to avoid the challenges of living with us and as us. The miracles of Jesus might suggests that healing comes in the form of fixing or repair. The raising of Lazarus shows that Jesus had power of death. It was a hint towards Jesus' own resurrection. With death, as believers, we remain confident in the Lord's promise of new life.

**PRAY:** Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages "curing every disease and illness." At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, that we may experience your healing love. Heal those who are sick. Heal us from our fear and uncertainty. Send forth your Spirit to be with those doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected. Send forth your peace into this experience of sickness that we now face.

**APPLY:** Remember of those in and around your life that have already died. Remember to feel the loss of them no longer being around. Also remember the peace and end of suffering that might have come with their death. Offer prayers of gratitude for those who have gone on before us.

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Day 5  
**JUST IN TIME**

*READ: Luke 13: 10 - 17*

**CONSIDER:** God remains with us. In all places and in all time, God is with us. There is neither a restraint nor a calendar regarding God. But, we do have calendars, restraints, and expectations. Illness, in whatever manner it enters into our imperfect lives, is an inconvenience. It gets into the way. Yet, it really is not our place to place demands on when and how...we just seek healing, however it might come, whenever it might arrive.

**HOPE:** God remains with us. Consider the many surprises that have occurred in your life. Were that not surprises because they occurred beyond our control and schedule? God is the Lord of the surprised. Creation was a surprise no one expected because, well, no one existed up to that point. Jesus coming into the world being born in a barn? Surprise. Jesus dying a terrible death for our sins was not expected either. Healing does not always come in the form of fixing or repair but always seems to surprise the one that was healed. Because we believe, we always pray for healing.

**PRAY:** Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages "curing every disease and illness." At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, that we may experience your healing love. Heal those who are sick. Heal us from our fear and uncertainty. Send forth your Spirit to be with those doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected. Send forth your peace into this experience of sickness that we now face.

**APPLY:** Practice waiting. There are always things for which we must wait. The next big event. The bus. Waiting involves patience, keeping your spirits and mood in control while you wait. We can actively plan while we wait, imagining and preparing for what you are expecting. Waiting can involve celebration when the event comes to be. Wait for it.

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*Day 6*

# **YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN**

*READ: Matthew 9: 1 - 8*

**CONSIDER:** God remains with us. In the days when Jesus walked among humanity, there was a perception that if something was wrong with you, it was probably because you were somehow in a wrong relationship with God. It seemed as if you were ill it was the fault of a sin by you or your family. Jesus knows that God's generosity and mercy do not work this way. God always welcomes a repaired relationship and forgives those who seek to be forgiven.

**HOPE:** God remains with us. Illness is not a judgement from God. Jesus was sent into this world to help repair the damages of sin. We need to allow ourselves to imagine and envision the full power and majesty of a God who can forgive the smallest or worst of our failings. If we acknowledge that this is so, we can recognize that healing does not always come in the form of fixing or repair. Yet, because we believe, we always pray for healing.

**PRAY:** Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages "curing every disease and illness." At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, that we may experience your healing love. Heal those who are sick. Heal us from our fear and uncertainty. Send forth your Spirit to be with those doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected. Send forth your peace into this experience of sickness that we now face.

**APPLY:** Recognize the areas in our lives where we might need to seek forgiveness. Further, seek to understand the areas in our lives where our grudges and anger are keeping our own relationships in disrepair. Ask the Lord to forgive you your trespasses as much as we forgive others.

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Day 7  
**ONE OF THEM**

*READ: Luke 17: 11 - 18*

**CONSIDER:** God remains with us. Back in Jesus' day, Samaritan were considered the enemy of the Jewish people. Jesus, in telling the parable of The Good Samaritan, make the Samaritan surprisingly the hero. Here again, it's a Samaritan that ends up doing something right. The Samaritan was not alone is seeking a cure from leprosy. He and the other nine were sent on a task and were healed along the way. Of the ten, however, the Samaritan did return to thanks the Lord and offer praise to God.

**HOPE:** God remains with us. No matter if we recognize the Lord working in our lives or not, God remains with us. Even as the ten lepers walked away from the Lord as they were sent on a task, God was still with them. And one returned to be with Jesus. While healing does not always come in the form of fixing or repair, what is always occurring that God remains with us and desires that we remain with the Lord. In our time with the Lord, because we believe, we always pray for healing.

**PRAY:** Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages "curing every disease and illness." At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, that we may experience your healing love. Heal those who are sick. Heal us from our fear and uncertainty. Send forth your Spirit to be with those doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected. Send forth your peace into this experience of sickness that we now face.

**APPLY:** It is our faith what makes us well in our relationship with the Lord. We seek not to be only one, but to bring others along with us as we grow in faith. Are there others supporting you or supporting others in seeking healthiness? How are the ways that you can band together in prayer, support, or expressing concern regarding what is ailing you or those around you.

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*Day 8*  
**NO MORE OF THIS**

*READ: Luke 22: 50 - 51*

**CONSIDER:** God remains with us all. Even as he was being arrested before his crucifixion, violence had erupted and a servant of a high priest lost an ear when swords were raised. Just brought healing into a moment of forcefulness and tension. In some cases, violence may be the cause of our illness or discomfort. We know that in his crucifixion and death, Jesus also suffered the pains of violence. He knows the experience of unwanted pain and can remain with us in these moments

**HOPE:** God remains with us. Even as we feel as if we are under attack God remains at our side. Even as we want to lash out ourselves, God is at our side present to seek healing of body, spirit, and relationships. While healing does not always come in the form of fixing or repair, what is always is the possibility of something better soon to come. Crucifixion and death for Jesus lead to resurrection and new life.

**PRAY:** Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, that we may experience your healing love. Heal those who are sick. Heal us from our fear and uncertainty. Send forth your Spirit to be with those doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected. Send forth your peace into this experience of sickness that we now face.

**APPLY:** Many times in the Scripture, we hear the greeting, “Peace be with you.” We can provide a source of healing in this broken world by expressing our wishes (aloud to others or within our own hearts for others) for peace to one another. Throughout the next 24 hour periods, attempt to wish peace upon 24 people, settings, and situations.

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