

No Illness Is Too Difficult

- Greet group members as they arrive. After a few minutes of social conversation and fellowship, begin the study.

You will need:

- *Nothing's Too Hard for God* Small Group DVD
- TV
- DVD player
- Bibles (NIV or other easy-to-read translation)

Introduction

? **Has anyone here experienced an illness that was difficult to overcome?** *(Allow responses. Ask a person or two to briefly share.)*

SAY The common thread connecting every story is that all of us want healing when we're sick. Today, we're going to hear the story of Larry Greene whose illness seemed impossible to overcome.

Video Segment 1

SAY This video will build our faith in God's ability to heal us no matter how bad our illness.

- Play DVD track 4 (approximately 5½ minutes), then pause for discussion when prompted by the video.

DVD **What are some ways we can know God still heals people today?** *(Allow responses. Answers may include: Scripture tells us God heals and that He never changes, we have seen people receive healing, etc.)*

- Ask someone to read **Exodus 15:26; Psalm 103:2,3; Isaiah 53:5; Hebrews 13:8; and 1 Peter 2:24.**

? **What do these verses tell us about God?** *(Allow responses. Answers may include: He never changes, Jesus was wounded for our healing, etc.)*

DVD **Besides one's faith, what are other factors that sometimes affect our healing?** *(Allow responses. Answers may include: prayer; evaluating our physical, emotional, and mental activities; reminding ourselves of God's promises for healing; listening, or not listening to the advice of doctors; etc.)*

- Ask someone to read **Matthew 20:29–34** and **Mark 1:40–42.**

? What do these passages tell us about healing? *(Allow responses. Answers may vary.)*

SAY When we receive healing, it can take many forms. Healing can happen in an instant or through the passage of time, and it can be miraculous, and also through the aid of doctors.

Video Segment 2

SAY Let's watch the rest of the video and see how Larry's story concludes.

- Resume DVD (approximately 7½ minutes), then end with discussion.

SAY This video gives us two distinct pictures of healing. Larry, who lost his sight, miraculously had his sight restored. The video's host, Scotty, injured his back, had three back surgeries, but hasn't received complete healing. Yet, he still has faith that he will be healed, but understands God may be working a greater purpose. "God is more interested in our character than our comfort." Scotty understands that his healing may be accomplished ultimately through death and the gift of eternal life.

- Ask someone to read **Isaiah 55:8,9**.

? Scotty alluded to this verse as he concluded the video. What does this verse mean? *(Allow responses. Answers may include: God's reasons may be hard for us to understand, God knows what is best, etc.)*

SAY Ultimately, we can't know for certain why God chooses to heal or chooses not to heal. There is no magical formula or 5-step plan to receive healing, but God does require us to ask Him for help and have faith in His strength. That's all we can do. Healing is truly up to God.

God knows and understands things to a far deeper level than any of us ever will. And because of that, we should trust Him and believe that He knows what is best for us.

? So, how do you survive in the meantime while you are waiting for your own healing? *(Allow responses. Answers may include: pray, look for ways to bring glory to God, encourage others, etc.)*

- Ask someone to read **2 Corinthians 12:7-10**.

SAY Paul was the great evangelist of the New Testament church and was truly a driving force in its development. Yet, we read here that Paul wanted healing (deliverance) from something, but God chose not heal him instantly.

? What was Paul's response to this unanswered prayer? *(Allow responses. Answers will vary and may include: trust, faithfulness in the Lord, etc.)*

SAY Paul's attitude was graceful acceptance. He didn't shake his fist and blame God. He chose to take his weakness and use it to show God's glory.

? From what we've learned today through Scripture, as well as Larry and Scotty's stories, what do you think our attitudes should be as we walk through illness? *(Allow responses. Answers will vary.)*

? Sometimes we assume that the only perfect answer is healing. But is that always the case? *(Allow responses. Answers will vary.)*

SAY Sometimes the answer isn't healing, but the grace to live victoriously through an illness. The prayer might even be answered through the encouragement of loving friends and family to help us endure.

- If you have the time or would like to suggest further study for your group, continue on to the next section. Otherwise, skip to the Conclusion.

For Further Study

? In Scripture, what prompted God to heal? *(Allow responses. Answers may vary.)*

SAY God's compassion prompted Him to heal. Remember the story of Jesus and the two blind men? (See Matthew 20:29–34.) Verse 34 said Jesus had compassion on them and healed them.

- Ask someone to read **Matthew 8:5–13**.

SAY Because of the faith of the centurion, Jesus healed his servant.

- Ask someone to read **John 9:1–11**.

SAY In this passage, we see that when Jesus healed the blind man, the blind man told all those around him that Jesus healed him. He brought glory to God.

Conclusion

SAY As we end our time together, let's pray and ask God to help us as we, or those close to us, encounter times when healing is needed.

- Ask for prayer requests for healing and pray your own prayer, or use the following.

Dear God, Thank You for showing us that You still heal today. We have faith in Your ability to heal and we ask for healing for those who need it. As we wait for the answer, help us have courage, patience, and strength to face each day. Help us trust that You are in control, and that even though Your plan may not always be what we would choose, it is the best plan for us. In Your name we pray. Amen.