

2B.5 GOSPEL RESOURCE SHEET 2: RESPONDING TO JESUS' HEALING STORIES

Christians interpret the Bible differently. Here are four responses to the miracle stories.

1

Jesus was a miracle-worker because he was God in the flesh. Christians today should also pray for healing miracles – Jesus is still alive and God is the same today as he was then. He can heal, and he does too.

2

Jesus was a miracle-worker and the son of God, so we should worship him. However, healing can take place through applying modern medicine too – and that is another way God heals today. Prayer is important, but so is using our skills and knowledge.

3

The stories of Jesus' miracles are not to be taken literally: the writers wanted to show how special Jesus was. Today we need to look for a spiritual meaning rather than a literal one. Here, Jesus shows that anyone can come to Jesus and be given new spiritual life.

4

Jesus did not heal everyone who was ill in Galilee when he was on Earth. Not everyone is healed when Christians pray – illness and dying are part of life. Jesus does promise the spiritual healing that forgiveness can bring – healing a person's relationship with God.

Imagine two Christians talking about the story of the healing of the centurion's servant (Luke 7:1-10). They want to try to put Jesus' good news into action in the world today. How should they do that?!

SKETCH OUT THEIR CONVERSATION, TAKING TWO OF THE VIEWPOINTS GIVEN ABOVE

Here are some suggestions about the meaning of this story to include in the conversation:

- *Jesus could heal anyone because he was God, and so...*
- *Faith is needed for healing, and so...*
- *Jesus wasn't prejudiced against Romans or servants, and so...*
- *Christians today can believe in miracles because...*
- *When someone is ill, asking Jesus for help (by praying) is important as well as medicine because...*
- *God can heal today, and often he uses our medical skills because...*
- *Prayer for healing does not seem to work for many people. This does not mean... This might mean...*
- *Spiritual healing includes forgiveness, bringing people back into a relationship with God. This is important because...*
- *I think this means we should...*
- *Setting up a clinic to serve the poorest would mean that...*