



You will need:

Bible(s)
Practicing Our Faith
 (POF), chapter 11
Living Till We Die
 (LTWD) *Songbook*
 Brightly colored paper,
 pencils, scissors for “Laying on
 of Hands” activity
 “Sadako and the
 Thousand Paper Cranes”
 directions and paper squares
 (wrapping paper is good) to
 make paper cranes
 CD - “He Will Carry Me”
 from *Stories and Songs*
 Handouts:
 ◇ “Jesus’ Healings in the
 Gospels”
 ◇ “Five Kinds of Healing”
 ◇ “How to Fold a Paper
 Crane”
 ◇ “If I Died Today...” (to be
 completed before session five.)
 ◇ “Service for Wholeness”

You may need:

Guest from Parish Nurse
 Association, Order of St. Luke
 or similar organization
 Information on local
 healing ministry programs
 Pictures of Hiroshima
 Peace Park, Oklahoma City
 Memorial, Vietnam Memorial
 “To Touch the Fringe of
 God’s Garment,” *Weavings*
Tuesdays with Morrie
Celtic Prayers of Iona
LTWD Songbook CD

(Handouts and reference information on things you will need can be found in Part Two.)

Faith Practice Four: HEALING

Background

The faith practice of healing becomes especially important for understanding what wholeness and healing mean even when there is no cure. Healing in this sense draws on the deeper meaning of God’s Shalom, i.e., the peace and wholeness that come from sensing God’s presence. From a faith perspective, death is the ultimate healing. A tie-in for this session with a congregation’s/community’s Parish Nurse Program or Health Ministry is very helpful.

Focus of session

We explore how we can take the faith practice of healing more seriously; broadening our concept of healing to include the Hebrew notion of Shalom, making it possible to speak of healing when there is no hope for a cure.

Room set-up

Among the greenery and candles, place bottles of vitamins and pain medications, a cruet of oil, a stethoscope and other medical items, and origami paper cranes.

Before the session

1. Set up tables/arrangements
2. On a Dry Erase Board (or newsprint) write the quote for the day:

“(Healing is) ... not just fixing up things that are wrong. Real health, from a Christian point of view, is coming to the fullness of your vocation as a child of God.”

- Tilda Norberg

3. Cue CD for gathering music, “He Will Carry Me” from *Stories and Songs*, and start as people gather
4. Have coffee, drinks ready
5. Have handouts ready



Opening 10 minutes

1. Review: How did it go with practicing forgiveness? Any insights or further questions?

2. Lead centering prayer, giving one from *Celtic Prayers of Iona* or one of your own. Then select a phrase from the prayer, like “O best of healers, make me whole” and have each participant sit quietly and repeat these words in their mind, as they listen for God’s insight.

Talking Points 20 minutes

“Faith Healing” See *Part Two, Talking Points*.

This introduces healing as a faith practice and looks at the biblical mandate for healing. Handout “Jesus’ healing in the Gospels” is used.

Activity 10 minutes

“Laying On of Hands” See *Part Two, Activities*.

Participants trace their hands and cut them out to use in a ministry to the sick.

Talking Points 10 minutes

“Shalom—Being Whole I” See *Part Two, Talking Points*.

The Hebrew notion of Shalom, a sense of wholeness and peace, comes from a restored and whole relationship with God.

Music 10 minutes

Teach the song, “We Cannot Measure How You Heal,” #10 in *LTWD Songbook*.

Discuss the text. Sing the song with the *LTWD Songbook* CD or on your own. Or choose a song that underscores the idea of God’s work of healing in our lives.

Guest Speaker 15 minutes

Have a guest from a local Parish Nurse program speak. This program promotes integrating health issues with congregational life through a therapeutic/medical practice/social ministry model.

-or-

Have someone from a community health ministry organization speak about ways that your congregation or organization can integrate health issues into your own program.

Talking Points 10 minutes

“Shalom – Being Whole, II” See *Part Two, Talking Points*.

This continues the discussion of healing through treating the whole person. Handout “Five Kinds of Healing” is used.

Talking Points 10 minutes

Healing When there is No Cure See *Part Two, Talking Points*.

Those diagnosed with a terminal illness often gain a new perspective on life that brings healing. May use the article, *To Touch the Fringes of God’s Garment, Five Woven*.



Activity 15 minutes

“Sadako and the Paper Cranes “

Public places of healing are important. You may want to show pictures/slides of memorial sites like the Hiroshima Peace Park, the Vietnam Memorial, the Oklahoma City Memorial.

Tell Sadako’s story with this activity: Distribute squares of colored paper and the handout, “How to Fold a Paper Crane.” Fold one paper crane as a demonstration to participants. As participants fold their own paper cranes, read the story, Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes.

If time is short, you may need to condense the story, telling it in your own words.

Point out how healing enters into Sadako’s story.

Visit the website, www.sadako.com, for further information about Sadako and the Hiroshima Peace Park.

Closing 5 minutes
(Closing section may precede Service for Wholeness)

1. Summarize the main points of session:
 - ◇ Healing is wholeness, Shalom
 - ◇ Healing is part of our Christian vocation
 - ◇ Healing is what God intends for all of creation
 - ◇ Healing is as an art
 - ◇ Healing can happen when there is no hope for a cure
 - ◇ Public memorials are important for the healing of nations

2. Make assignments for next time
Read POF, chapter 11
Distribute handout, “If I Died Today...”
Remind participants to have their obituaries written by next session.

3. Service for Wholeness will have the closing prayer.

Music 5 minutes

Learn the refrain, “My Soul in Stillness Waits,” #12 in *LTWD Songbook*. This refrain may be sung during the concluding Service for Wholeness, at the Intercession for Healing.

Worship 15 minutes

Lead a Service for Wholeness: devise one of your own or follow the model found in *Part Two, Handouts* — distributing the handout to the participants.

