

The HEALING HotSpot

Living Connected To The Power Of God
Small Group Initiative



OUR NEW SMALL GROUP INITIATIVE



“Thou hast made us for Thyself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee.”

Augustine – Bishop of Hippo

“There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, the Creator, made known through Jesus.”

Blaise Pascal – Mathematician

“God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. For in him we live and move and have our being.»

Acts 17:27,28

“A small group is a voluntary, intentional gathering of three to twelve people regularly meeting together with the shared goal of seeking and serving God together and providing a safe place where people can help one another form the relationships they need to grow in Christ.”

- Week One - Get Acquainted
- Week Two - Recognize Your Role - Darin Latham
- Week Three - Recognize Your Reality - Darin Latham
- Week Four - Choose Humility - Darin Latham
- Week Five - And . . . PRAY - Paul Moores
- Week Six - And Seek God's Face - Simon Gau
- Week Seven - And Turn from Your Wicked Ways - Darin Latham
- Week Eight - Celebration/Regroup

Group Interaction Guide

Week One

VIDEO: Intro to course clip

Take time to have each group member respond to the following questions:

1. What made you smile today?
2. What is one weird or random thing that only a very few people know about you?
3. Where did you grow up and what brought you to Vancouver?
4. What do you value most in a friendship?
5. For what in your life do you feel most grateful?
6. What has been the greatest challenge you've faced this year?
7. What has been the highlight so far this year?
8. What brought you to small group?
9. What kind of person do you want to become?

Pray

Take some time to pray for one other. If you are not comfortable praying aloud, your group leader will pray for the group this time.

Your Group's Covenant:

Take some time to establish some agreed upon expectations for your Small Group.

I will honour my commitment

I will commit to the group that will meet every _____

from _____ pm starting on October _____ to

November _____. I will give group meetings priority, and I will let the

group leader know if I will be absent or late.

I will observe confidentiality

I will honour others by not repeating what is shared on small group nights outside of the group.

I will respect others

I recognize that we are all invited to share, but it is not a requirement. I will be mindful of time limitations and allow others to share. I will also be attentive when they speak, not using my cell phone during discussion and prayer.

I will not attempt to fix, save, or set people straight

I acknowledge that I am not an expert, so I will not give any unsolicited advice or try to solve someone's problem. I will respect where people are in their lives and trust the work of the Holy Spirit.

Other Group commitments unique to your group:

VIDEO: Interview – Why the Healing Hotspot Series?

Homework This Week:

Read: Jeremiah 29:10-14. What does this passage tell you about God? What does it tell you about how to stay in relationship with him?

This is what the Lord says: “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,” declares the Lord, “and will bring you back from captivity.

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STEP ONE: RECOGNIZE YOUR ROLE - 2 Chronicles 7:14

HOW DO YOU RESTORE YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?

"When Solomon had finished the temple of the LORD and the royal palace, and had succeeded in carrying out all he had in mind to do in the temple of the LORD and in his own palace, (v. 11)

the LORD appeared to him at night and said, 'I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a temple for sacrifices. (v. 12)

When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, (v. 13)

if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.'" (v. 14)

1. These words can be applied to us personally, but they can't be applied to us nationally.
2. A "WiFi hotspot" is a physical location where people can obtain access to the internet. "The healing hotspot" is the spiritual location where people can obtain access to the restorative power of God.
3. You are where you are in your walk with God, because of the choices you have made.
4. As much as we are waiting on God, God is waiting on us.

TODAY'S "BIG IDEA" ...

God is not withholding from us: God is responding to us.

You can access the full sermon at <https://www.broadwaychurch.com/sermons/2018/9/17/the-healing-hotspot>.

Group Interaction Guide

Week Two

VIDEO: Intro to evening's topic - 1 min

Recognize Your Role – Darin Latham

Clip 1: The OT Context - 7 min

Q: On a scale of 1 – 10 (10 being the highest level) how would you rate your closeness to God right now? Why that rating?

Q: What prevents you from being satisfied with the state of your relationship with God?

Clip 2: What is the Healing Hot Spot? - 3 min

Q: If you were to try and locate the Healing Hotspot in your life, where would that zone of closeness to God be? Where have you felt closest to God?

Clip 3: The Principle of “IF” - 6 min

Q: According to Darin, why is “IF” so crucial to understanding how a strong relationship with God works?

Q: In what ways do our decisions shape the direction of our lives?

Homework: Read Joshua 24:15. What does Joshua see as his two possible futures?

“But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

STEP TWO: RECOGNIZE YOUR REALITY

What Is “The Healing Hotspot”?

Just as a “WiFi hotspot” is a physical location where people can obtain access to the internet, “the healing hotspot” is a spiritual location where people can obtain access to the restorative power of God.

I. HOW TO REMAIN IN (OR RETURN TO) GOD’S ‘HEALING HOTSPOT’

“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

(2 Chronicles 7:14)

1. Recognize your Reality...

a. God’s design as Creator

“So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” (Genesis 1:27)

b. Our rebellion as creatures

“Although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.” (Romans 1:21)

c. God’s response in Christ

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”
(John 3:16)

d. Our reality as Christ followers

“...my people, who are called by my name...” (2 Chronicles 7:14)

"You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." (1 Peter 2:9)

- i. We have special honor placed upon us.
- ii. We have special access granted to us.

TODAY'S "BIG IDEA" ...

No fantasy apart from Christ can match our reality in Christ.

You can access the full sermon at <https://www.broadwaychurch.com/sermons/2018/9/17/the-healing-hotspot> .

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Group Interaction Guide

Week Three

VIDEO: Intro to evening's topic - 1 Min

Recognize Your Reality – Darin Latham

Clip 1: Facing Reality - 11 min

Q: According to Darin, what is true about humanity and how does the Gospel (the message of salvation in Christ) address that reality?

Clip 2: What's True About You? - 4 min

Q: What does it mean for you to be a child of God, one of his people?

Q: How does this identity you have in Christ affect the way you live your life day by day?

Clip 3: Waking Up to Reality - 5.5 min

Q: In what ways you can identify with the situation of the prodigal son? What clouded his understanding about his father? What cleared the air for him?

Q: For yourself personally, what is the most significant takeaway from the father's reaction to the returning son?

Homework: Read 2 Peter 2:9-10. What does this text tell us about who we are when we are in relationship with God?

“You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”

STEP THREE: CHOOSE HUMILITY

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(2 Chronicles 7:14)

1. Choose Humility:

- a. What it isn’t...
 - i. Humility isn’t making less of who you are.
- b. What it is...

“God opposes the proud but shows favour to the humble.” (James 4:6)

“Proud”: to overshadow...

“Humble”: not rising too far from the ground...

- i. Humility is properly acknowledging who you are.
(Romans 12:3)

- c. How to do it...
 - i. Acknowledge your limitations... (James 4:14)
 - ii. Acknowledge God’s lordship. (James 4:15)

TODAY’S “BIG IDEA” ...

To be where God is, you must be who you are.

You can access the full sermon at <https://www.broadwaychurch.com/sermons/2018/9/17/the-healing-hotspot>

Group Interaction Guide

Week Four

VIDEO: Intro to evening's topic - 3 min

Choose Humility – Darin Latham

Clip 1: The Problem of Pride - 9 min

Q: What prompts us to want to 'overshine'? How does pride show up in your life? How has that impacted your relationships?

Q: How has social media provided a platform for prideful expression?

Clip 2: The Power of Humility - 5 min

Q: Who do you know right now that you would describe as having humility? Why would you describe them that way?

Q: Why is humility so vital and powerful in all our relationships?

Clip 3: Back to the Healing Hot Spot - 8 min

Q: Getting back to a close relationship with God depends upon being honest with yourself and honest with God. What has been most helpful to you in applying this kind of honesty to your life? How does understanding who God is help you face the truth about yourself?

Homework: Read Philippians 2:5-8. How does Jesus' example set the tone for us?

"In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death even death on a cross!"

STEP FOUR: And . . . PRAY

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(2 Chronicles 7:14)

Prayer is the language of the healing hotspot.

THE 5 APPROACHES TO PRAYER – PSALM 86

1. PRAY intently - I mean it. Psalm 86:1-2
2. PRAY continually - I’ll keep doing it. Psalm 86:3, 1 Thess. 5:17
3. PRAY thankfully - I’m grateful for it. Psalm 86:12. 1 Thess. 5:18
4. PRAY humbly - I don’t deserve it. Psalm 86:16
5. PRAY in faith - I know He can do it. Psalm 86:13
 - a. Pray with a clear memory of God’s activity.
 - b. Pray with a clear confidence in God’s purposes.

TODAY’S “BIG IDEA” ...

Prayer that pleases God requires more from the heart and less from the tongue.

You can access the full sermon at <https://www.broadwaychurch.com/sermons/2018/9/17/the-healing-hotspot>

Group Interaction Guide

Week Five

VIDEO: Intro to evening's topic - 3 Min

... And Pray ... – Paul Moores

Clip 1: The Language of the Healing Hot Spot - 2 min

Q: From your perspective, what are the most significant obstacles to praying and developing a habit of prayer? What has helped you overcome those obstacles?

Clip 2: How to Pray – Part 1 - 7 min

Q: Which one of the approaches in this clip most strongly resonates with you and why?

Clip 3: How to Pray – Part 2 - 7 min

Q: Which one of the approaches in this clip most strongly resonates with you and why?

Q: What could you do this week to elevate the priority and practice of prayer in our life.

Homework: Read Hebrews 4:14-16. How does this passage help motivate you to pray?

"Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

STEP FIVE: SEEKING GOD'S FACE

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(2 Chronicles 7:14)

II. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SEEK GOD'S FACE?

1. When we seek God's face, we are seeking God's presence for the purpose of transformation.

III. IF WE SEEK, CAN GOD ACTUALLY BE FOUND?

"The great promise to those who seek the Lord is that he will be found." – John Piper "If you seek him, he will be found by you." (2 Chronicles 28:9)

1. The only religion that guarantees a real encounter with God is Christianity.

IV. HOW SHOULD WE SEEK GOD'S FACE?

1. With all of our heart.

a.) We must intentionally turn our face to meet God's face.

"When you come looking for me, you'll find me. Yes, when you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything else, I'll make sure you won't be disappointed." God's Decree. (Jeremiah 29:13)

2.) With all of our minds.

a.) We must intentionally fill our minds with the things of God.

“Summing it all up, friends, I’d say you’ll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious—the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse”. (Philippians 4:8)

TODAY'S "BIG IDEA"...

Transformation can only take place when you and
God are face to face.

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Group Interaction Guide

Week Six

VIDEO: Intro to evening's topic - 3 Min

Seeking God's Face – Simon Gau

Clip 1: Why Seek God's Face? - 3 min

- Q: In what ways have you experienced the real presence of God in your life? When have you had those experiences?
- Q: What do you think is the biggest challenge people encounter in believing and expecting God to connect with them in a personal way?

Clip 2: Seeking with All of Your Heart - 3 min

- Q: What do you think it means to seek God with all of your heart?

Clip 3: Seeking with All of Your Mind - 4 min

- Q: What do you think it means to seek God with all your mind?
- Q: How does our view of God affect the way we go about seeking him?

Homework: Read Luke 11:9, 10. How does this passage motivate us to seek God's face?

"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."

STEP SIX: TURN FROM OUR WICKED WAYS

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(2 Chronicles 7:14)

1. Living true to today’s passage calls for a radical dose of self-awareness.

Word Study... “Wicked”: an adversary, bad, malignant, evil.

“...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...” (Romans 3:23)

“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.” (1 John 1:8)

2. We cannot have a relationship with God and cling to our wicked ways at the same time.

“This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth.” (1 John 1:5-6)

Group Interaction Guide

Week 7

VIDEO: Set Up Evening

Turn from Our Wicked Ways – Darin Latham

Clip 1: What is ‘Wicked’? - 5 min

Q: How does Darin describe the word ‘wicked’ in this clip?

Q: Why is it so hard for us to recognize some of our motives and behaviours as wicked or evil?

Clip 2: What’s Wrong with Wicked?- 4 min

Q: What impact does wickedness have in our lives and why do we need to name it and deal with it?

Clip 3: The Way Wicked Works - 7 min

Q: How does wickedness get a foothold in our lives?

Q: What does this clip teach us about finding freedom from wickedness?

Homework: Read 1 John 1:8-10. What does this text tell us about how to deal with wickedness in our lives? Why is the ‘IF’ so important?

“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.”

Today, the main idea is to express gratitude for our time together and to enjoy one another. As a part of the evening's festivities, please take time to talk about the following:

1. What is the best thing that happened to me through this course?
2. What will I do differently immediately as a result of what I have learned?
3. Do we want to regroup for another session?
4. What topics would interest the group going forward?

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Suggested Resources

- Haley Barton, Ruth, *Sacred Rhythms: Arranging Our Lives for Spiritual Transformation*, Downers Grove, IL.: Intervarsity Press, 2006.
- Benner, David G., *Soulful Spirituality: Becoming Fully Alive and Deeply Human*, Grand Rapids, MI.: Brazos Press, 2011.
- Buchanan, Mark, *Spiritual Rhythms: Being with Jesus Every Season of Your Soul*, Grand Rapids, MI.: Zondervan, 2010.
- Calhoun, Adele Ahlberg, *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook; Practices that Transform Us*, Downers Grove, IL.: Intervarsity Press, 2005.
- Caliguire, Mindy, *Discovering Soul Care*, Downers Grove, IL.: Intervarsity Press, 2007.
- Clem, Bill, *Disciple: Getting Your identity from Jesus*, Wheaton, IL, Crossway, 2011.
- Foster, Richard, *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*, New York, NY.: Harper & Row, 1988.
- Ortberg, John, *The Life You Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People*, Grand Rapids, MI.: Zondervan, 1997.
- _____. *Soul Keeping: Caring for the Most Important part of You*, Grand Rapids, MI.: Zondervan, 2014.
- Shigematsu, Ken, *God in My Everything: How an Ancient Rhythm Helps Busy People Enjoy God*, Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018.
- _____. *Survival Guide for The Soul: How to Flourish Spiritually in a World that Pressures us to Achieve*, Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018.
- Willard, Dallas, *The Spirit of the Disciplines: Understanding How God Changes Lives*, New York, NY.: HarperSanFrancisco, 1988.
- _____. *The Divine Conspiracy: Rediscovering Our Hidden Life in God*, San Francisco, CA.: HarperSanFrancisco, 1998.
- Whitney, Donald S., *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*, Colorado Springs, CO.: NavPress, 1991.
- _____. *Spiritual Disciplines Within the Church: Participating Fully in the Body of Christ*, Chicago, IL.: Moody Press, 1996.

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