

BE THE CHANGE

Self Denial Appeal 2019



03: GOD HEALS

MINGLE

If you have regular ice-breakers, feel free to stick with your own. Otherwise, here are some questions you could use.

QUESTIONS

What is your favourite season, and why?

Would you rather have a giant hamster or a tiny rhino?

What fruit or vegetable best represents you and why?

ACTIVITY: HUMANS VS ALIENS

Equipment needed:

Two 'alien-killing devices'

Find two objects to use as alien killers—this could be fly swats or pool noodles, but just something that won't do any real damage when hitting people with them.

Choose two people in the group to be aliens; the rest are humans. Give the aliens a minute by themselves in the area where the game will be played to secretly hide the two alien killers. Nominate one human to be the 'medic' without letting the aliens know who it is.

When the game starts, all the humans start searching the game area for the hidden alien killers. Aliens can kill humans by tagging them who then die on the spot, but the medic can bring humans back to life by tagging them—the medic should try to keep their activities secret from the aliens as there's no more healing once the medic has been tagged.

Once the alien-killing devices are found, the humans must try to kill the aliens by touching them with the device. The game ends when either all humans or both aliens are dead

Application: God is the source of all healing, in this or any other universe!

THE WORD

Ask someone to read the following passage out loud to your group. You could get a couple of people to read it out if they have different translations.

Psalm 147:3 (NLT)

He heals the brokenhearted and bandages their wounds.

ADDITIONAL PASSAGES

Here are some great supporting passages that you could also get people to read out or use to prompt discussion.

Mark 8:22–25

James 5:16

1 Peter 2:24

WHAT DO THESE VERSES REVEAL ABOUT GOD?

(They show God is a healing God. He doesn't always heal our bodies, though he often does, but he promises he will always heal our souls of the wounds of evil and sin if we claim it in Jesus' name.)

VIDEO

Watch the Self Denial video 'Week 4: Ecuador'. This is available to view and download at www.selfdenial.info/nzfts

DISCUSSION

Use the following questions to encourage discussion. Feel free to add your own and ask follow up questions as people share to keep the discussion flowing.

What was the change that took place in Edison's story? *(Edison had a temporary work injury that brought him low enough to permanently heal his broken relationship with his family and with God. This change meant his wife and kids won't face her current battle with cancer alone!)*

The change in Edison's story took years. Healing is sometimes slow with some false starts. Do you have a physical or spiritual situation you are dealing with where healing requires patience?

Jesus performed a number of miracles of physical healing during his time on earth. Why do you think Jesus chose to heal people?

Do you think Edison's story is mostly happy or sad? What does your answer tell you anything about God's healing?

THIS WEEK

Be conscious of people you know who are sick or injured. Pray for them, and look for opportunities to 'be the change' by praying with them in person and offering to help in whatever way you can. Pray for physical healing, but trust that God hears your prayers and will move in their lives and bring healing, even if it's not physical.

If you'd like to and haven't already, you could also decide on an amount you'd like to contribute to this year's Self Denial Appeal. Think about what you can afford to give and how you'll save or earn the money over the next few weeks. Is there something you could give up to help others in need?

PRAYER

Spend some time praying together.

Thank God that he is a healing God, and pray for healing for yourself and others.

Pray for Edison, his wife Raiya and their family.

Pray for help with this week's challenges.