

My name is Brandon, and I'm a Christian who has had struggles with anger, anxiety and depression. You need to know that at the beginning of this series. Five years ago, we were meeting in a movie theater and I remember stepping up to the, well there wasn't a stage, it was the movie theater, so stepping onto the floor and looking up at everyone and saying that and sharing that, and thinking, "I wonder who will stick around after that."

And, at the end of that service, just numerous people coming by saying, "Thanks for sharing that. That stuff I've struggle with too, and we get to do this together." When Angie and I, who talked about starting Grace Hills Church, and we go back to the moment where we were thinking through what Grace Hills would be and what Grace Hills would be like. There was a phrase that we kept saying over and over and over and over, that we would always unapologetically be a church for the broken. That there are lots of great churches and lots of great things, but that we would focus our efforts on finding people who had hurts, habits, and hangups. Maybe people who'd never been to church before. Maybe people who didn't look necessarily like what you might think of as church people. That we would be a church for people who maybe didn't have a history of going to church.

Maybe they had a history of going to church but it wasn't a very positive, kind of impression of what the church should be, and there's just all this sort of brokenness that's there. And so, we decided from day one we'd be a healing place. See when I was 17, I met my future wife. When we got married at 19 I started serving as a pastor of a church right before we got married, and things didn't necessarily go great for the first year. In ministry I'd encountered things that I wasn't necessarily expecting to encounter in church. I just figured everybody goes to church to win lost people and that's all anyone cares about, then you find out that everybody's got histories and everybody's broken, and we kinda bring our broken messes together and God kinda says, "All right. Get in there together and get along."

And that's challenging sometimes. And so, went through some really hard things early on, but did the best I could to play the part and spent about 15 years of my adult life trying to be the best pastor I could be, trying to be the best dad, the best husband that I could be, or at least what I thought everyone expected me to be. And what I thought I should look like. And somewhere along the lines I started to get burned out, started to struggle with things that I didn't realize I would ever struggle with, didn't anticipate struggling with, and all of a sudden, I was still able to kinda play the part, but on the inside I was frustrated, I was stressed out, I was nervous. I didn't understand, there were things I was walking through and going through that I couldn't quite figure out.

And in the middle of that God sorta moved us across the country to California, how God is, he does those kinds of things and he says, "Take your newborn baby and move to where it's slightly expensive and you don't know anyone, to a completely different environment, the weather's awful out there in Southern California. And so, you're gonna suffer the sunshine all the time." And, it was in that environment, you know, we were there for a few weeks and we thought, "Life is okay." And I kept thinking, "This is great!" You know, it was sorta like a pinnacle, like we've made it where we need to make it and this is a great spot.

And, in the middle of that we were kinda struggling with stuff, with real life messy stuff, and weren't sure how to work through that. Found ourselves in a small group for the first time, and in that small group we kept telling everybody, "Oh we're fine, we're doing great." And, week one we're fine, week two we're fine, week three, life great, you know, and then week four, and, "How are the Cox's?" And my wife goes, "We're not doing so good." And I'm thinking, "What is she about to say?" And, it was like this

turning point, like a switch got flipped, and we started to see what a real healing community could look like, where people didn't have to be perfect, where you didn't have to perform perfectly all the time.

And you could let your guard down and share some stuff and get kinda real and people would still love you, and they'd still have you in their home and in their lives. And, it started to make this difference, and we sorta caught this vision, and there's a lot more to the story than that, and it wasn't like this instant everything's better, we still walked through a lot of hard things, and even moving back to Arkansas, still walked through a lot of hard things. But we made this decision over seven years ago that, we would be a church for the broken, that we would walk toward messes, that we would welcome messy ministry, that that's what we would be about and we would be unapologetic.

And there's sometimes, there might even be people who maybe might visit Grace Hills or hear about Grace Hills or check us out, and might even not be real comfortable with all the talk about problems and sin and brokenness and being separated from God. There are all kinds of things that people might not be comfortable with, and that's okay. This would be who we are because I'm convinced there are thousands of people in Northwest Arkansas who on the inside are broken and don't know it, don't understand it, can't figure it out, they've hit a wall, they're not sure what to do, they don't know where to go, they don't know if there's a safe place, they don't know if there's a spot to talk about this or to deal with this. And so, we would be a healing place.

So, five years ago, we did a sermon series called Healing, and I wanted us as we move into this building and sorta begin a new chapter, for us to repeat and refresh that series, 'cause I've learned a lot in the last five years. A whole lot about this subject, about this topic. And so, I wanted to go back and revisit it and just let this be our opening series as we walked into this place. Now, when I talk about healing, I am talking about the way in which Jesus Christ comes into the life of someone who is experiencing the brokenness that results from sin that we've committed, from sin that others have committed against us, the brokenness that exists in our lives because of the world in which we live, because of the trauma or the experiences that we've walked through, because of abuse and neglect that we might have gone through, because of abandonment or relationship issues. There are all kinds of brokenness that all of us deal with.

But I can confidently say, that in all of my adulthood, I have yet to meet another human being who had it all together. Now I've met lots of human beings who believe they have it all together, or who want to look as though they have it all together, who really want life to seem like I'm okay, I'm fine. And remember fine stands for frustrated, insecure, neurotic and emotional, right? And so, lot of people are, "I'm just fine." And so, I meet people all the time who are fine and it's okay. I don't wanna push anybody to go further than they wanna go, I don't wanna be like, "Let's get together and talk about your feelings."

I want to allow people to walk in sort of a freedom toward those things, but I needed sometimes in my life, I've needed somebody to challenge me, to ask me, to dig just enough to show me that they love me and that they'd stick with me even if things got a little bit messy. And so, that's what we wanted to be as a church. So, welcome to week one of healing.

When I was at Saddleback Church, which is the church I was referencing a minute ago, at Saddleback we learned a lot about healing because we were in an atmosphere that very strongly emphasized the idea of recovery. I met a guy while I was there named John Baker. John was awesome. He was one of our

pastors, one of the elders at Saddleback Church. And John used to be a VP for Famous Amos cookies, so good guy to know, you know. And, John had found himself in a place where he couldn't stop drinking. And, it was ruining his life, and he was functional at work but everything else was falling apart and he found himself sleeping on his couch in his office.

And, he made his way to a 12 step group, and there things began to turn around, but in that group he thought, "Something's missing. I'm not sure what it is, but something's missing," and began to apply his mind, and as he walked through recovery and began to piece the pieces of his life back together, he wrote a 13 page email and sent it off to pastor Rick Warren. He said, "I've got an idea for something that might help people." And that as the birth of Celebrate Recovery. It's across the nation, it's around the world, it's in 19 state prison systems, it's helped people immensely and it is based on eight choices that people need to make to discover healing.

Now, if you're familiar with the 12 steps, you may or may not be, but if you are, the 12 steps are awesome. But sometimes what's missing is Jesus. And, Jesus came up with these crazy idea 2000 years ago, that we now call the Beatitudes. And if you're familiar with the 12 steps, they lay like a transparency on top of the Beatitudes of Jesus. He as the son of God knew and understood our brokenness and he addressed it with broken people, time and time again. And so, over the next few weeks, we're going to look at the Beatitudes of Jesus from Matthew Chapter five. We're not going there today, I wanna do something a little bit different today, kinda set the stage, but starting next Sunday, starting next Sunday, we're gonna look at choice number one.

And, over the following eight weeks, we're gonna look at the eight choices that bring healing into your life, that if you engage with the gospel, if you allow Jesus to work in your life, these eight choices are radically life changing, they bring you to a place of joy, they bring you to a place of purpose, and a place of fulfillment, and we're gonna walk through those. But today, I wanted to start out a little bit differently and just kinda set the stage for everything that we're gonna talk about. I wanna share with you today three core truths that sort of matter to everything else that we're gonna talk about.

You gotta get these three things in order for the eight choices to really make sense, in order for the Beatitudes to make sense. And, these are really simple, but I wanna share them with you one at a time today as we wade into this. And the first truth is simply this: everybody is broken. Everybody's broken. Now let me explain what I don't mean by that. Because sometimes I hear the word broken in our culture and people will say, "I am not broken, I just have problems." So, let me be really clear. When I talk about being broken, I do not mean that our worth of value is diminished. I don't mean that at all. Your worth and value's infinite, it was stated by the price that God put on you, he paid for you, he bought you with a price. And so, this is not a statement of your worth and your value.

When I say I'm broken, that doesn't mean that I'm never going to be able to be healthy, it doesn't mean that life will never be good again, it doesn't mean that I'm of no use to the world around me. Here's what I mean, when I talk about being broken, I mean that until I come to grips with the fact that deep within me somewhere universally, that there's a problem that has held me back and prevented me from being as whole and as healthy and as holy as God wants me to be, until I acknowledge that sort of crack somewhere in the cistern, I'm not going to be able to function in a fully healthy way. So, that's what I mean by brokenness. All of us are broken. It doesn't mean we're all as broken as we can be, it doesn't mean we're all just completely smashed and devastated and not capable of living life, it simply means

that for every single one of us, we have to face what has been keeping us from a fully intimate relationship with God, and a fully purpose driven life, okay?

So, that's what we're gonna deal with over these next few weeks. Everybody is broken. I wanna read a passage out of Isaiah that's kind of foundational for the New Testament out of the Old Testament. Isaiah Chapter 53, the bible says, "It was our weaknesses he carried. It was our weaknesses he carried." Speaking in the future tense about Jesus. "It was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins." So, that's the way world sized up Jesus in the moment of his death. They crucified him like a criminal. But he was pierced for our rebellion, he was crushed for our sins. He was beaten so that we could be whole. He was whipped so that we could be healed.

All of us, this is a key to all of this, "All of us like sheep have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all." So scripture is clear in the Old and the New Testament from cover to cover, that we've all got a problem with God. We've got a problem with ourselves. We've got a problem with the world around us, and it is that sin when it entered into the human race, and Adam and Eve has spread to every last one of us. And it's one of the reasons why I can stand here on this stage and confidently say that none of us are better than anyone else in a moral sense, in the sense of being sin free, but we don't get to kinda rank ourselves and go, "I'm not too bad. That guy's pretty bad, but I've got it together."

We don't get to walk into Walmart and kinda size people up according to how they're dressed and how they look and go, "He doesn't look really holy churchy." All of that is smashed to pieces when I come up against this passage that makes it really clear that the playing field is level at the foot of the cross. That every single one of us has an issue to deal with before God. That every single one of us is broken.

Now brokenness shows up in lots of different ways, 'cause the problem is that my brokenness comes out. It comes out in the form of my hurts, my habits, and my hangups. It's the things I do, it's the things I'm sensitive to, it comes out in my addictions, it comes out at my tendencies to distance myself from people, it comes out in relationships that I see fall apart and I'm not sure why. Sometimes I'll go from one relationship to the next, to the next, and to the next, and keep breaking them and I keep blaming everyone else, and it eventually at some point I might need to look inside and go, "Maybe there's something that God could fix in me. Maybe there's something that's broken in here, and I'm just pushing everybody away." It comes out in the form of my hurts, and my habits, and my hangups.

So my brokenness displays itself to one degree or another. I can't keep it covered and keep it in forever, scripture's clear. But all those secret things that I try to just keep hush hush about and wish that nobody would ever know, those things will affect me in one way or another, and that's true for every single one of us. Now again, you might walk into a church and hear a message like this and go, "That sounds great, but that's not me, I'm fine. I'm making it okay." And that's great. If you're making it okay, that's fine. I just never met anyone that could go from birth to death and make it truly okay and never have a problem and never have a crisis and never run up against the questions about why can't I seem to get close to God, and why can't I seem to get close to people, and why do I feel the way that I feel?

And so, the feelings that I have, the hurts that I carry, the resentment that I might carry around, all of that is a result of brokenness. It's the result of sin, it's the result of my rebellion against God, it's the result of what other people have done to me, it's the result of situations I've found myself in that I had

nothing to do with creating, and yet I'm there and there's trauma, and it's hard, and I don't understand it, and I got rejected or I got pushed away, or I got looked over in some way. And I've carried that and I've walked around with that, and it's affected the way that I am today.

See in my life, in my life, I was functioning as a pastor. I was doing okay as a husband and as a dad. There weren't any big moral failures that would come crashing down that would destroy my ministry and everybody would look and go, "See, he's got real problems." But inside of me, there were some things eating at me. There were some things that were just taking away the joy and stopping me from being all that God wanted me to become, and experiencing the life that God wanted me to experience. And that brokenness came out in these different ways.

I just can remember when I was growing up, when I came through childhood, these certain little memories of interactions with people that might create this kinda seed of shame. And then as I get into adulthood I don't think much of it, but I'm five, 10 years into adulthood and certain conversations, even with the people closest to it, me and my life, they might trigger that sense of shame. And all of a sudden I'm not handling it anymore. I'm melting down. It's coming out, I don't understand it. I don't know where that came from. I don't know where those words came out of, 'cause I've not acted or talked or spoken that way before, but it's crashing down. My brokenness becomes very real.

And I've experienced a lot of healing in the last decade of my life. It doesn't mean I've walked through it perfectly because I'm still learning lots of things, but I can stand here on this stage and acknowledge I'm a broken guy experiencing the healing of Jesus. Now, also I said this five years ago, I'm gonna say it again today, just to be really clear, you will not hurt my feelings if you go, "I just can't go to a church led by a broken pastor." That's okay. That's all right.

Now, I will have a little challenge with you, to go find any church anywhere, whose pastor is not broken, whose people are not broken, because when you find it and you join it, you're gonna ruin it, okay? When you find that perfect church, you're gonna carry all of your baggage and your mess in there 'cause you haven't dealt with it yet, right? And so, I'm a broken guy having experienced a lot of healing in my through the truth and grace of Jesus Christ. And that's what we're gonna talk about over the next eight weeks, okay?

Here's the second big truth you've gotta know: God is a healer. God is a healer. We are broken, God is a healer. He just said it's by his stripes that we're made whole, that he took my baggage, my sin, my rebellion, my hurt, my pain, he took my suffering, he took all of that with him when he went to the cross and he paid the debt for my sin, and he also paved the way for me to be made whole again in a relationship with Jesus.

Now why would Jesus do that? Why would he do that? And some of us immediately go, "Well it's 'cause he loves us. Yeah, but you can't start there. You have to back up from that and say, "Why would Jesus go to the cross to pay for the sins of mankind? Why would Jesus go through what he went through in order to bring healing in my life. Is it because he just loves us so much?" Well, he does love you more than you could ever imagine, but it goes back a step further than that. He did that because that's who he is. Jesus went to the cross because God is a healer. He went to the cross because God is love. He went to the cross because God is a God of grace and forgiveness, and he is going to find a way, God is infinite in his wisdom, God is sovereign and in control, absolutely.

And, out of his nature, flows the cross. See, we tend to think about Jesus' sacrificial step in human terms. We think about him being motivated in the way that we are motivated, that he didn't know we were gonna be kinda messed up, and then he saw that we were, and it moved his heart and therefore the cross happens. And we picture it that way, in this kind of timeline where something moves him to act in a sense. But the reality is the cross occurred because God is, has always been is now and forever will be a God who heals. He's just a God who heals.

We just wrapped up a series where we talked about Joshua and the people of Israel coming into the possession of the promised land. And in the middle of that, we kinda skipped over a lot of material, right? There were about 40 years worth of stuff that we didn't have time to talk about in that series. When the children of Israel, they had a really interesting early history. They came right up to the red sea, that's their first obstacle. "We're free, we're delivered, there's a sea in front of us, and there's an army behind us." And so, God shows up, right? And he throws the Egyptian army into the bottom of the sea, he parts the sea, they walk across on dry ground, and then the sea closes in on the Egyptian army, and the Israelites are free.

And it takes them a few days to forget the goodness of God. Days. But they get to the place where there's water, but the water is bitter, it doesn't taste right. We don't know if it's too alkaline or what, but something was up with the water. And so, they start saying things that make perfect sense like, "Oh that we just died in Egypt. Let us go back to slavery. This water tastes bad." It's Aquafina, we prefer Dasani, where's God, right?

And they start saying that. And so, God is about the deal with their sin and with their brokenness. And so, they have the trauma of slavery, which that wasn't their fault, right? It's not your fault when you're enslaved. And they also have the sinfulness in their hearts because they're human. And so, the trauma that others committed toward them and the sins that they'd committed in their own lives, creates a situation where their brokenness starts to come out, starting to display itself. They're murmuring against God, they're complaining about what God is up to. And God begins to speak, and in his moment of deliverance, Myriam writes a song about how great God is, and then the very next thing that happens is they complain about God, and then this is what God has to say to them in Exodus Chapter 15, verse 26, he said, "If you will listen carefully to the voice of the lord your God, and do what is right in his sight, obeying his commands, keeping all of his decrees, that I will not make you suffer any of the diseases that I've sent on the Egyptians. Why? Because you're so good? No."

"Because I feel sorry for you? No. Because I am the lord who heals you." And, if you know much about the Hebrew language, which I know most of you in here are experts, on the Hebrew language, right? But in the Hebrew language, a lot of times you get a title or a name of God that is translated a certain way, and it carries with it a deep meaning. And so, he reveals himself here to the children of Israel as this Hebrew phrase, Jehovah Rapha. It means the God who heals.

So, what God is saying is, "I want you to know me by this name." If you ask me my name, my name's Brandon. What does Brandon mean? I'm not really sure. I looked it up on Google once and got about four different answers, and I didn't like any of them, okay? So, I don't know what Brandon means. But if I am relating to God, and God says, "Brandon, I want you to know me, and this is how I want you to know me," he gives me a name by which I can call him. He said, "You can address me as the God who heals you." That's how God wants to be known by you, the God who heals you. That's just who he is. That's who he was with the children of Israel, that's who he is throughout scripture. You see it again and again

and again, and when Jesus Christ comes to this earth to God among us, what does he do in people's lives? He's healing them, constantly, continually, his heart's moved with compassion on the crowds.

He sees their hunger, he sees their thirst, he sees the blind, he sees the lame, he sees the deaf, he is moved and works and acts on their behalf, because he was there in the wilderness with the children of Israel, he saw that, he is God and he is a God who heals. It's just what he does.

So, you need to know, universally people are broken. Every last one of us, we have some brokenness whether we know it or not, whether we admit it or not, it's there. And you need to know that God is a healer. Those are foundational truths that lead us to the third core truth for this series, and it's simply this, "God freely offers his healing out of his infinite love and grace to any broken person willing to receive it by faith."

So, I'm broken, God is a healer, and God has done everything necessary to communicate to me as a broken person, "I want you to come to me. I've made it possible for you to hear the good news of Jesus Christ. I have revealed my word, I have sent missionaries, I have made sure that down through the ages you got the message, I want you in my family, I planned you for my pleasure, I have better things in mind for you, I want to heal you, I want to change your life, I have something for you that you haven't experienced yet, you don't know about yet, but I want to heal you."

And so, he freely offers himself for anyone and everyone who is willing to come and embrace him by faith. Now, it requires this step of humility. It requires this moment of repentance. It requires this moment of me going, "I don't have it all together on my own. I'm not perfect, I can't just kinda keep it all wrapped up in a nice bow anymore. I'm willing to get real and get honest and talk to God about my faults and my sins. I'm willing to confess some stuff and agree with him about it. And I'm willing to come clean with God and when I do, that clears the way for me to embrace his truth and receive his healing in my life."

When you look at the bible and you see this message of healing as it spreads throughout, it's amazing what God has said about his people and about the future, and about what is possible in the lives of people that come to him by faith. He invites us to freely come. He actually closes the book of Revelation with a description of what heaven's gonna be like. It's this great wonderful place for us to live for eternity, right? And he describes it as a place with the river, the water of life flowing through the middle of it, and flowing out, and along that, or planted all these trees, and he says, "Those trees bear fruit and that fruit is intended for," the bible says the healing of the nations. That from here to eternity, he is concerned with healing.

But right after describing that scene, the very last thing he says in Revelation is, "And let all who thirst come freely. Let all who will come on in." There is not some kind of acceptable versus unacceptable score for who gets to come into the family of God. There's not like a, you know, you qualify or you don't qualify in order to be a part of God's family. One of the things that I always find interesting, if I find myself in conversations with people that don't currently attend church, maybe I'm in a restaurant or somewhere, and I'm talking to somebody that's serving or selling or whatever, and we get into some kind of a conversation, it's amazing to me how many people feel like, "Well church is great, I'm sure it does good for a lot of people, but I just could never fit in there. I could never fit in there."

And people will say that. And I usually agree. I would say that you don't fit in church. See that the problem with fitting in, is that to fit in, you gotta kind of adopt some of the cultural customs and habits and behaviors of the people around you, right? You gotta look the part. You gotta fit it. It's like me when I walk into a gym. I don't necessarily fit in, but I'm a member of Planet Fitness, you know why? Because on the wall they've got a slogan they totally stole from Jesus, and it says, "Everybody belongs." And I love that, because that's what the church ought to be.

And I don't know, I haven't been to church in years. People will say things like, "If I walked in there, the place will just fall down on me." Well let's test it. Laurencio is a good builder, I don't think so, you know? The walls are not gonna cave in on you, you don't burst into flames. People make comments like that but the reality is God wants you to be part of his family. He's gone to great lengths to reveal that message to you. He's gone to great lengths to communicate to you that he has healing for you. Go back to the passage we looked at before, in Isaiah 53, says this just to remind you, "It was our weaknesses that he carried." He already knows about all your weaknesses and he carried them. He decided to take them to the cross with him, right?

"It was our sorrows that weighed him down. Although we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins, but he was pierced for our rebellion. He was crushed for our sins. He was beaten so that we could be whole. He was beaten so that we could be whole. He was whipped so that we could be healed." All of us like sheep have strayed away, we have left God's paths and yet the lord laid on him the sins of us all. There's the mixing in that passage of my brokenness and God's healing, that come together and everything that he knows about me in terms of my weaknesses, my sins, my hurts, my past, my brokenness, the things I may have been harboring, the things that affected the way that I think, and I can't wait to dig into some of the deeper levels of understanding of why I do some of the things I do, and how to change my behaviors.

And we'll talk about all of that over the next eight weeks. But what I want you to just start with today, is simply this: that if you have never approached God before and said, "God, I need you in my life. I need help and I'm not sure what to do. I'm broken and I can't fix it. I keep repeating this sin and I can't seem to stop. I keep doing these things and I don't understand why. And I'm looking for somebody to blame, I'm looking for some reason why this is happening. And I find myself in the moments that nobody else sees, asking why. Why am I here? Why am I saying what I'm saying? Why am I feeling the pain that I'm feeling? Nobody else knows, nobody else sees, but deep inside, there's this part of me and I need help. I need help."

So again, I'll just stand here and say, "I need help." God has blessed me with an amazing wife. You wanna live a challenging life, marry a therapist. But it's been an enormous blessing, in that she has challenged and built and grown me, I am blessed with an amazing church family. I'm blessed with just being surrounded by people that I love, who've been helpful to me.

In the next eight weeks, we're gonna talk about the power of getting real, coming clean, and just kinda throwing it up before God. We're gonna talk about the power of confession, we're gonna talk about the power of forgiveness, forgiving other people. We're gonna talk about the problem of bitterness and resentment and how to deal with that and how to get over it. We're gonna talk about all of the things that God has in store for your healing, all the things that Jesus talked about. Blessed are you if you're poor in spirit. Blessed are you when you thirst and hunger for righteousness' sake. All the things Jesus said have to do with our recovery and our healing and our growth. And I found myself, I've spent a lot of

months praying about this day and about this series, and asking God to help people to come who need God's healing.

Now, let me just say, some of you are at different places. Some of you might be at a spot where you're like, "That's great, it's not me. I'm not so sure." That's okay. That's all right. Again, I'm not here to push and pry and go, "No, you got problems. Let's talk about them. Find me something." We're not gonna do that. I'm not gonna catch you in the lobby and say, "Hey, tell me your deepest darkest secrets." That's not gonna happen, okay? So, some of you, you're just at a spot where you're trying to figure this out. Give it a few weeks. Just come and see if what Jesus had to say about you matters. See if it's really relevant. I'm convinced that it is, that it will be, that it's life changing to realize it, but give it some time.

Some of you are at a place where you're desperate. You walk into a church on Sunday and you're like, "I'm at my wits end. I'm at my wits end. I don't know what else to do." I talk with people now and then regularly, far too regularly, who are at a place of just wishing they could end it all. You might be at a place where you feel like you can't fight your way out of this and you can't overcome it, and there's just no more options. I wanna ask you to keep coming. I wanna ask you to give this an opportunity to allow Jesus to work in your life.

Some of you are just starting into this, it's like, "Okay, I got it. I've given my life over to Jesus, I've repented my sins, I trusted him, but man it's like trying to get my legs under me. I'm not sure if I'm doing this right." It's okay, God's a very patient God who grows us over a lifetime.

And some of you have walked through this in your past, and you're like, "I've got this, I did that years ago. I came to that place of brokenness, I trusted Jesus, so I'm good now." And if that's you, if that's where you are, and you go, "I've walked through this, I've experienced this, and I'm good now, I'm growing, I'm maturing," then let me just take a second and place a very heavy responsibility on you. You are not healed for your own enjoyment. You're healed because you keep bumping into people who are broken and you can't figure out why. Look around and ask God where do you want me to minister? Who do you want me to serve? How do I help someone else to come into an understanding of what God's love is all about, of what this healing is all about.

But I wanna close today by reminding you first of all of these basic truths. Everybody's broken, God is a healer, God freely offers his healing to anyone who will receive it by faith. Anyone who will ask by faith, God will heal. But I wanna speak to you and just ask, is there something in your life, is there this moment of realization going on right now where you go, "I need help with this. And I'm not even sure what to do, and I don't know where to start. And I can't figure out why I can't stop doing the things I don't wanna do. And I don't know why I feel down the way that I do. I don't know why I feel sick inside the way that I do. And I'm not sure what to do. And I'm at my wits end. And I need healing."

I believe that the God who is a healer wants very badly to come into your life and change it all. And to heal you and fix you and repair you and help you to recover and to get on your feet, and to grow and to mature, and to become all that he has envisioned for you to become. And he envisions great things for you to become. But I want you to start today. I want you to just go, "I will give God the next nine weeks of my life. I will listen to these messages, I'll come, and I'll talk about and think about these eight healing choices that we're gonna talk about over the next eight weeks, and I'm gonna consider each one with a whole lot of weight. And I'm gonna give God the opportunity and allow myself to be opened up to his work in my life." That's where I want us to be today.

I want you to bow your heads with me for a moment. Father I ask now that you would highlight for every one of us what it is you wanna work on. God sometimes we don't know what it is that we have been getting stuck on. Can't figure it. I don't know where those feelings came from. I don't know where those words keep flowing out of us are from. Now sure about this anger, not sure about sadness, not sure about this desperation. But God I believe you're a healer, and I ask you right now to start walking into the lives of anybody that's open to you, anybody that wants to invite you in by faith, and begin to do the miraculous healing work that only you can do.

God is a church, we wanna be committed to your mission. We wanna be a church of broken people for broken people. We don't wanna be anything else. If you're here this morning, all of our heads are bowed, all of eyes are closed. If you're here this morning, and you know I need healing. I need it deep within. I don't know where to start. I can't seem to fix it, but I need healing. Would you courageously lift a hand for a moment, I just wanna pray. If you're here this morning, you know I need healing for some stuff, and I'm asking God to work, and I don't know what's next, and I'm just looking for his help.

If you're here this morning and you've never trusted in Jesus, you've never received him, as your lord and as your savior, it's a relationship that is so simple in how it begins. I come humbly to him, God here I am, owning my sin, confessing it to you, believing that you died for me, believing you rose again, God I'm trusting you to save me today. I'm trusting you to save me today.

If you're here this morning, you've never started a relationship with Christ, you've never made that kind of step, that decision for yourself, maybe you grew up in church, maybe somebody else has talked about you being a Christian, but you can't remember starting that relationship with Jesus, you don't know if it's there, but you wanna start that relationship today, you talk to him, you say, "God I own my sin, I received your son Jesus as my savior, I trust you, please save me."

If you're praying that prayer today, would you lift a hand, I'm trust Jesus today for the first time. Jesus we love you, we praise you. I ask you right now God, for the next eight weeks to teach us out of your word, to draw us by your holy spirit, to empower us, to remind us of your truth, to shower us with your grace, to help God for us to experience the healing that is really only possible when we come into contact with what you have said about your son and about us and about our world. God use this season for us as a church to just make it solid what we're all about. We're a church of broken people. We exist for broken people. We're here for the least, the last, the lost. God keep us focused on that mission, and we will praise you above all things. In Jesus' name, in Jesus' name, amen.