

## What Sets You Apart?

As you gather together to hear and apply God's Word, start by sharing how you were influenced by the previous study since your group last met. Use the following questions for review.

### **D** Debrief & Interpret

- How did you apply the previous Scripture study?
- What did you learn about God as you applied the Word? What did you learn about yourself?

### **H** Hear the Word

*How does a Christian nurse differ from any other nurse? After all, we learn and practice the same skills in nursing school. Let's look at the Book of Colossians for insights on what makes followers of Jesus unique.*

[Read Colossians 3:1-15:](#)

<sup>1</sup> Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things... <sup>5</sup> Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup> Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. <sup>7</sup> You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. <sup>8</sup> But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator... <sup>12</sup> Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. <sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.

**Discuss:**

- What do you think it means to "set your minds on things above, not on earthly things?" (v.2)
- Create a two-column chart together. For the first column, make a list of all the things in this passage followers of Jesus are supposed to "put to death" (v.5). In the second column, name a corresponding action/thought that nurses or nursing students may engage in. For example: Slander – spreading hurtful gossip about fellow nurse employee. (*Depending on time, you could complete only a few rows of the chart.*)
- Create a second two-column chart. For the first column, make a list of all things in this passage followers of Jesus are supposed to "clothe" themselves with (v.12). In the second column, name a corresponding action/thought that nurses or nursing students may engage in.

### **R** Respond Actively

As you end your study, choose one or both of the options below to apply the Scripture to your life this week.

- *Internal:* What is one concrete way that you can regularly remind yourself to "set your mind on things above" in nursing school this week? Make a plan and put it into action.
- *External:* Look over the two-column charts you created. Ask each person to pick 1-2 actions either to abstain from ("put to death") or to engage in ("clothe yourself") this week in their classes and clinicals.



## Called to Nursing Care

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### **H** Hear the Word

*Have you heard anyone say they felt "called" into nursing? What led to your decision to pursue nursing? This Scripture passage looks at God's call to meet the needs of those who are hurting.*

[Read Isaiah 61:1-3:](#)

<sup>1</sup>The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners

<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God to comfort all who mourn, <sup>3</sup>and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.

#### Discuss:

- What are the three types of patients noted in v.1? What do you think are the unique needs of each group? To which group are you most readily drawn?
- How do you think a person's physical health can be affected by his or her spiritual needs (e.g. for love, purpose, meaning, forgiveness, etc.)?
- Jesus quoted this passage (see Luke 4:17-20) as his "mission statement." In what ways do you think this passage can be part of your mission statement as a nurse? How do you think God's splendor is displayed in this process (v.3)?



## **R** Respond Actively

As you end your study, choose one or both of the options below to apply the Scripture to your life this week.

- *Internal:* What are your current spiritual needs? In what ways do you need Jesus' healing in your life – anointing, freedom, proclamation, release, comfort, joy, etc.? How can you make space in your life for Jesus' healing this week?
- *External:* Memorize Isaiah 61:1-3 (or some key phrases in it). Before you start your clinical day, recite the passage as a prayer. Then live out this Isaiah passage as your "mission statement" as you care for these patients! *If you have time, as a group, brainstorm some possible ways that you can provide this type of care for patients.*

## Back in the Same Boat – Again?

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### **H** Hear the Word

*Many people wanted to hear what Jesus had to say. Some were merely curious but others committed themselves to following Jesus as a disciple. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, Jesus wants to be involved in your life.*

#### [Read Luke 5:1-11:](#)

<sup>1</sup> One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. <sup>2</sup> He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup> He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. <sup>4</sup> When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." <sup>5</sup> Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." <sup>6</sup> When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. <sup>7</sup> So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. <sup>8</sup> When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" <sup>9</sup> For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, <sup>10</sup> and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." <sup>11</sup> So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

#### **Discuss:**

- Simon had just finished a night shift of fishing. How do you think he was feeling when Jesus made his request in v.4?
- What caused Simon's dramatic actions in v.8? How was he feeling now?
- What did Jesus mean when he told Simon to join him to "fish for people?" Why do you think Peter left everything to follow him and to fish for people?



## **R** Respond Actively

As you end your study, choose one or both of the options below to apply the Scripture to your life this week.

- *Internal:* When Jesus called Simon, he left everything to follow Jesus. As you think about your relationship with God, what do you need to leave behind to really follow him? What areas of your life have you not surrendered to his leadership? Take a moment and share that with a partner and, if you are comfortable, pray with one another for strength to leave that behind to follow Jesus.
- *External:* Jesus' invitation to Simon was to use what he knows from fishing and to use it for Kingdom ministry – "fish for people." What do you think it would mean if Jesus said to you: "Don't be afraid; from now on you will 'nurse' for people?" How would that change how you viewed your classes, your clinicals, and your work? Name one concrete way you could go "nurse" for people this week and put it into practice.

## Remaining in Jesus

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### **H** Hear the Word

*If we want our faith to influence our nursing practice, then we need to stay in constant relationship with Jesus. What does it mean for us to stay connected to Jesus? In this passage, Jesus explains how to do just that.*

[Read John 15:5-17:](#)

<sup>5</sup> "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. <sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup> My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup> I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. <sup>17</sup> This is my command: Love each other."

### Discuss:

- Explain the metaphor in v.5 about the vine and the branches. What does it mean to "remain" in Jesus?
- According to the passage, what are we supposed to do to remain in Jesus?
- The passage says that remaining in Jesus will help us "bear much fruit" (v.8) – living and acting in ways that demonstrate love to God and others. How do you think that remaining in Jesus connects to bearing fruit in nursing practice? How have you seen this to be true in your life or in the lives of nurses that you know?



## **R** Respond Actively

As you end your study, choose one or both of the options below to apply the Scripture to your life this week.

- *Internal:* John 15 calls us to remain in Jesus and stay connected to him. Take a moment to reflect on the state of your spiritual life. On a scale of 1 to 10, how connected are you to Jesus? What is one spiritual practice that you can incorporate into your life this week to choose to remain in Jesus?
- *External:* The quality of “fruit” of our lives – including our nursing practice – is affected by our connection to Jesus and his love. Think back to your past week in classes, clinicals, and work – consider your attitudes, thoughts, and actions. On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate the quality of the fruit you have produced in the past week? How would you like that to change in this coming week, and what is one specific thing you can do in response to that desire?

## Stress in the Life of a Nursing Student

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### **H** Hear the Word

*You can look almost anywhere in Scripture and see stressors in the lives of people in the Bible. Jesus was no exception to that, so let's look at how Jesus handled stress in his life.*



#### [Read Mark 1:21-39:](#)

<sup>21</sup> [Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. <sup>22</sup> The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. <sup>23</sup> Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, <sup>24</sup> "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" <sup>25</sup> "Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" <sup>26</sup> The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. <sup>27</sup> The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him." <sup>28</sup> News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee. <sup>29</sup> As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. <sup>30</sup> Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. <sup>31</sup> So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them. <sup>32</sup> That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. <sup>33</sup> The whole town gathered at the door, <sup>34</sup> and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was. <sup>35</sup> Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. <sup>36</sup> Simon and his companions went to look for him, <sup>37</sup> and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!" <sup>38</sup> Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." <sup>39</sup> So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

#### Discuss:

- Highlight the stressors that Jesus experienced in this passage. What do you notice about how he handled stress?
- How was Jesus able to turn stressors from potentially negative outcomes to positive ones?
- How do you observe Jesus setting boundaries and limits for himself? What do you think motivated him to do that?

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## **R** Respond Actively

As you end your study, choose one or both of the options below to apply the Scripture to your life this week.

- *Internal:* Nursing school is full of stressors! What are the biggest stressors in your life currently? What can you learn from Jesus about managing and handling stress in your life? What is one concrete step you can put into practice this week in response to this passage?
- *External:* Jesus never lost connection to his mission despite the stressful demands flying at him from every direction. He knew that he needed to go and share about the good news of God to those who have not had a chance to hear (v.38). It is easy to lose sight of the mission of NCF on campus – while we run meetings and lead Bible studies, we forget that there are many on campus who don't have a relationship with Jesus. Who do you know in nursing school that needs Jesus? Make a list of students whom you can invite to the next NCF meeting – and commit to doing that this week!

## Need a Break?

As you gather together to hear and apply God's Word, start by sharing how you were influenced by the previous study since your group last met. Use the following questions for review.

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### **H** Hear the Word

*In 1 Kings 18, the prophet Elijah publicly challenged Israel's King Ahab, Queen Jezebel, and the false prophets of Baal. They had turned away from God, resulting in a three-year drought. God answered Elijah's prayers by performing miracles, including bringing down fire from heaven and bringing rain to the land. This was a stressful time for Elijah, yet also exhilarating being a part of what God was doing. We pick up the story here...*

#### [Read 1 Kings 19:1-14:](#)

<sup>1</sup> Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. <sup>2</sup> So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, "May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them." <sup>3</sup> Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, <sup>4</sup> while he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, Lord," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors." <sup>5</sup> Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep. All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." <sup>6</sup> He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again. <sup>7</sup> The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you." <sup>8</sup> So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>9</sup> There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the Lord came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?" <sup>10</sup> He replied, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too." <sup>11</sup> The Lord said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. <sup>12</sup> After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. <sup>13</sup> When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" <sup>14</sup> He replied, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."



### Discuss:

- Imagine that Elijah has been admitted to your unit. What is Elijah's mental and emotional condition?
- Why do you think God met Elijah's physical needs before addressing his spiritual and psychosocial concerns? What do you observe about how God met Elijah's spiritual and psychosocial needs?
- In what ways do you currently resonate with Elijah's state of mind? Based on this passage, what do you think God might want to say to you?

### **R** Respond Actively

As you end your study, choose one or both of the options below to apply the Scripture to your life this week.

- *Internal:* When stress piles on, like Elijah, we may feel alone, misunderstood, and desperate. Instead of running away from our problems, we can choose to run to God and to listen to his voice. Find a time (try for 30 minutes if you can) in your schedule this week where you can get away from everything and listen for God's voice. Put it in your calendar and hold that time as "sacred." Use that time to be still and sit in his presence, asking him to speak to you.
- *External:* In Elijah's story, we see how his spiritual needs overlapped with his psychosocial needs. In nursing practice – or even with our classmates – we may be tempted to set aside spiritual needs and focus solely on psychosocial needs. But in so doing, we may miss out on a powerful set of interventions that can provide a fuller measure of healing and restoration. Take a moment to think about a classmate who has some psychosocial needs – perhaps they feel stressed, isolated, anxious, depressed, etc. How could you offer to pray with them this week so they could hear the voice of God like Elijah did? If they are willing to pray with you, consider building in a minute of silence into the prayer where you invite them to ask: "God, what would you like to say to me right now?" ... and see what happens!

## Compassion Fatigue

As you gather together to hear and apply God's Word, start by sharing how you were influenced by the previous study since your group last met. Use the following questions for review.

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### **H** Hear the Word

Earlier in Mark 6, we learn that Jesus had sent his disciples in pairs on "missions trips." On those trips, they "preached that people should repent...drove out many demons, anointed many sick people with oil and healed them" (v.12-13). As v.30 says below, they came back at the end of their trips and reported what had happened. Put yourself in their shoes and imagine how they're feeling as you read this story.

#### [Read Mark 6:30-44:](#)

<sup>30</sup> The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. <sup>31</sup> Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." <sup>32</sup> So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. <sup>33</sup> But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. <sup>34</sup> When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things. <sup>35</sup> By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him.

"This is a remote place," they said, "and it's already very late. <sup>36</sup> Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat."

<sup>37</sup> But he answered, "You give them something to eat."

They said to him, "That would take more than half a year's wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?"

<sup>38</sup> "How many loaves do you have?" he asked. "Go and see."

When they found out, they said, "Five—and two fish."

<sup>39</sup> Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. <sup>40</sup> So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. <sup>41</sup> Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. <sup>42</sup> They all ate and were satisfied, <sup>43</sup> and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. <sup>44</sup> The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.



### Discuss:

- How do you think the disciples were feeling as they gathered around Jesus in v.30-32? What do you imagine their conversation was like?
- When they landed on the other side of the lake, how do you think the disciples felt when they saw the crowd and Jesus' reactions (v.33-34)? What do you notice about how that impacted them in the rest of the narrative?
- Why do you think Jesus involved these disciples in the miracle of loaves and fish (v.37-41)? In what ways does Jesus meet the disciples' needs even as they struggled with "compassion fatigue" in this story?

### **R** Respond Actively

**Summary:** When we are struggling with "compassion fatigue," we may feel like we are providing care for others at our own expense. But in this story, we discover that Jesus can meet ALL of our needs. He cared for the disciples as much as he cared for the crowd. He can do the same for us too – Jesus cares for us as much as he cares for our patients. We can receive his gracious compassion for us when we are struggling with compassion for others.

As you end your study, choose one or both of the options below to apply the Scripture to your life this week.

- *Internal:* Where are you experiencing compassion fatigue in your life currently? This could be in clinicals, at work, at home, or with friends. How do you need Jesus to care for your personal needs in this season? Take a moment in silence to pray and ask Jesus to meet both your needs and the needs of those around you. Then ask him to fill you anew with his compassion.
- *External:* Like the disciples, when we attempt to minister and provide care out of our own strength, our human compassion runs out and we grow increasingly fatigued and weary. But Jesus showed the disciples a new approach to ministry – if they relied on him, he is enough to provide for their needs as well. In what ways are you experiencing compassion fatigue in your clinical and work situations? Or perhaps ministry fatigue in your NCF leadership? Develop simple habits this week to help you stay connected to Jesus – starting your day with prayer, listening to Scripture on your commute, etc. – trusting that he is enough not just for everyone around you, but for you as well.

## Thirsty No More

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### **H** Hear the Word

*Bible stories present us with intriguing case studies related to nursing. Consider this story from John 4 featuring a Samaritan woman. In this culture, Jews (like Jesus) and Samaritans despised each other, but they both longed for the Messiah, someone from God who would one day set all things aright. Notice in this story that the woman drew water from the well during the hottest hour of the day, when no one else would likely be around. This suggests that she was a social outcast in her village.*

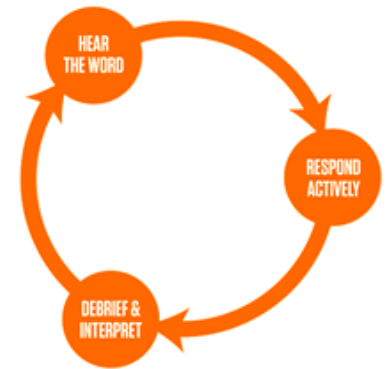
#### [Read John 4:5-30:](#)

<sup>5</sup> So [Jesus] came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. <sup>7</sup> When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" ...<sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

<sup>11</sup> "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?" <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?" <sup>13</sup> Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." <sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

<sup>16</sup> He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." <sup>17</sup> "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. <sup>18</sup> The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true." <sup>19</sup> "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem." <sup>21</sup> "Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem..."

<sup>25</sup> The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." <sup>26</sup> Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he." ... <sup>28</sup> Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, <sup>29</sup> "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?" <sup>30</sup> They came out of the town and made their way toward him.



### Discuss:

- What were the woman's physical, social, emotional, and economic needs? How did Jesus connect these needs to her spiritual needs?
- Identify the various ways that Jesus attempted to meet her needs.
- How did the woman change as a result of her encounter with Jesus? How did she experience healing in her life?
- Imagine if Jesus had not assessed the woman's spiritual needs. How would the outcome of the story be different?

### **R** Respond Actively

As you end your study, choose one or both of the options below to apply the Scripture to your life this week.

- *Internal:* Do a quick self-assessment – what are your current physical, social, and emotional needs? In what ways might these needs be connected to a deeper spiritual need? How can you invite Jesus to meet your spiritual need this week to seek deeper healing in your life?
- *External:* If Jesus had not assessed the woman's spiritual needs, he would not have been able to address her real longings and desires. How do you think you can proactively assess patients' spiritual needs in your clinical or work settings?

## Compassionate Care

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- What did you learn about God as you applied the Word? What did you learn about yourself?

### **H** Hear the Word

*Jesus tells a story to answer a question from a Jewish "expert in the law." The story prominently features Jews and Samaritans, who despise one another. As you read the story below, remember that the priest and Levite (v.31-32) are both Jewish and of the same ethnicity as the man who was robbed.*

#### [Read Luke 10:25-37:](#)

<sup>25</sup> On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

<sup>26</sup> "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

<sup>27</sup> He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

<sup>28</sup> "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

<sup>29</sup> But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

<sup>30</sup> In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

<sup>36</sup> "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

<sup>37</sup> The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."





### Discuss:

- Why do you think the priest and Levite chose to “pass by” the man who was robbed? What motivated their actions?
- The expert in the law describe the Samaritan as “The one who had mercy” (v.37). In what ways does the Samaritan demonstrate mercy in his response to the medical crisis?
- As you look at today’s healthcare system, what are the obstacles that prevent us from demonstrating mercy in the way the Samaritan did? What do you think it would look like to become a more compassionate and merciful nurse?

### **R** Respond Actively

As you end your study, choose one or both of the options below to apply the Scripture to your life this week.

- *Internal:* The Samaritan provided care for someone he was supposed to despise. Thinking back to your clinical experiences, who is one patient who you found difficult to care for? In what ways do you think you could have responded with more mercy and compassion? Pray with a partner that Jesus would fill you with compassion so you can be a good “neighbor” to every patient you encounter this week.
- *External:* Consider the cross-cultural implications of this story. The Samaritan crossed ethnic and racial boundaries to provide care for the Jewish man. He had mercy on this man because he saw him as a “neighbor,” despite their cultural differences. In the same way, we too are called to cross cultures to be neighbors to those who are of different ethnicities or cultures. The first step is to be a good listener and learner. Identify someone in your nursing school or workplace who is of a different ethnicity or culture as you. Ask if you can get to know them over coffee or a lunch break. During that conversation, ask questions to hear their story. You may choose to use questions like, “What is your ethnic background?” or “How do you think your ethnicity affects who you are today?” Listen to their story without judgment or self-condemnation – just be a good friend and “neighbor” to them!

## Listening as Care

As you gather together to hear and apply God's Word, start by sharing how you were influenced by the previous study since your group last met. Use the following questions for review.

### **D** Debrief & Interpret

- How did you apply the previous Scripture study?
- What did you learn about God as you applied the Word? What did you learn about yourself?

### **H** Hear the Word

In the story below, we see a contrast in how two of Jesus' followers demonstrate care for him. What can we learn from this story?

[Read Luke 10:38-42:](#)

<sup>38</sup> As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. <sup>39</sup> She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. <sup>40</sup> But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"<sup>41</sup> "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, <sup>42</sup> but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

#### Discuss:

- How does Martha demonstrate care? How does Mary demonstrate care?
- How do you think Martha's focus on her job affected her interactions with Jesus?
- In what ways does Jesus' response to Martha surprise you? In what ways has Mary "chosen what is better" (v.42)?
- Applying to nursing practice, how do you discern when to listen and when to provide physical care? How can we balance these two nursing skills?

### **R** Respond Actively

As you end your study, choose one or both of the options below to apply the Scripture to your life this week.

- *Internal:* Like Martha, we may be frantically running around fulfilling all our responsibilities...and forget to sit at Jesus' feet and listen to him. How can you create space this week to choose the better thing? Schedule 5-10 minutes each day this coming week to pray and/or read Scripture to be more like Mary.
- *External:* In your clinicals this week, try to focus on listening to your patients, not just scrambling around to do all that needs to be done. Consider beginning each clinical with a short prayer to ask for Jesus' help to listen well to your patients.



## Coming Alongside Others

As you gather together to hear and apply God's Word, start by sharing how you were influenced by the previous study since your group last met. Use the following questions for review.

### **D** Debrief & Interpret

- How did you apply the previous Scripture study?
- What did you learn about God as you applied the Word? What did you learn about yourself?

### **H** Hear the Word

As you read the story below, pay attention to all the ways that God is at work behind the scenes. What are all the unusual circumstances and coincidences you can identify?

#### [Read Acts 8:26-39:](#)

<sup>26</sup> Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." <sup>27</sup> So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means "queen of the Ethiopians"). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, <sup>28</sup> and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. <sup>29</sup> The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."

<sup>30</sup> Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.

<sup>31</sup> "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

<sup>32</sup> This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,  
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup> In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?

For his life was taken from the earth."

<sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" <sup>35</sup> Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup> As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" <sup>38</sup> And he gave orders to stop the chariot.

Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.



### Discuss:

- How do you see God's work behind the scenes in this story to bring Philip and the eunuch together?
- What do you notice about how Philip responded to the Spirit's leading in this story?
- How would you describe the spiritual condition of the eunuch prior to meeting Philip? How did Philip assess that condition and how did he act upon that?
- Based on this story, how would you describe the role of a spiritual companion in someone's life? What are they responsible for...and what is God responsible for?

### **R** Respond Actively

As you end your study, choose one or both of the options below to apply the Scripture to your life this week.

- *Internal:* How are you longing to grow spiritually? Where in your spiritual journey do you feel "stuck?" Like the eunuch, try to identify a spiritual mentor who could walk with you through your questions. Ask them to meet with you in the next couple of weeks to talk and pray together. (If you need help locating a mentor, ask your faculty advisor or another trusted Christian for suggestions.)
- *External:* Regardless of where you are in your spiritual journey, the Spirit can use you to walk alongside another person. Take a minute in silence and ask God: Whom would you like me to be a spiritual companion to? In the coming weeks, try to meet with that person, ask them about their spiritual journey, and follow the Spirit's leading in how to respond!

## Servant Leadership

As you gather together to hear and apply God's Word, start by sharing how you were influenced by the previous study since your group last met. Use the following questions for review.

### **D** Debrief & Interpret

- How did you apply the previous Scripture study?
- What did you learn about God as you applied the Word? What did you learn about yourself?

### **H** Hear the Word

*Nurses serve patients in the basest of ways, with ADLs or cleaning up messes from sick patients. Yet nurses are also in positions of leadership by supervising staff, planning patient care, teaching, etc. How do we balance these extreme roles in our profession while honoring the Lord?*

[Read Psalm 23:1-6:](#)

- <sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
- <sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
he leads me beside quiet waters,
- <sup>3</sup> he refreshes my soul.  
He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.
- <sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- <sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.  
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
- <sup>6</sup> Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

### Discuss:

- The author of the psalm, David, is writing about how the Lord relates to him. Re-read the Psalm, this time imagining God saying these words to you personally. How does the Lord meet your needs by how he relates to you?
- Re-read the Psalm, underlining the verbs and descriptions of leadership qualities.
- Read it again, circling the verbs and descriptions of servant qualities.
- Now think of yourself in the role of nurse:
  - How do you use leadership qualities in your role?
  - How do you use servant qualities in your role?
  - How do these qualities affect the spiritual care you give your patients?



## **R** Respond Actively

As you end your study, choose one or both of the options below to apply the Scripture to your life this week.

- *Internal:* Which phrase in Psalm 23 connects most deeply to you today as you consider how you need God to relate to you? Set the phrase as a daily reminder on your phone, so that God's words in the Psalm can influence how you live your life this week
- *External:* The Lord combines the traits of servanthood and leadership in Psalm 23 – he is the ultimate servant leader. What servanthood and leadership traits do you want to practice this week in your clinical experiences? Try to identify a concrete way to live out each of these traits this week.