

SUFFERING

LESSON 3: Mental and Physical Ailments

ANCHOR STATEMENT: When we suffer from ailments and illness, we have hope that these sufferings are temporary. Through faith in Christ, we will be raised to walk in new life, which is the permanent healing that we desperately need.

MAIN PASSAGE: John 11:38-44

1 Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. 2 Some men brought to him a paralyzed man, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven." 3 At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!" 4 Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? 5 Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? 6 But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "Get up, take your mat and go home." 7 Then the man got up and went home. 8 When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to man.

WHAT WE WANT STUDENTS TO KNOW: That when humanity inherited sin from Adam and Eve, it also inherited the suffering that would come from life in a fallen world. However, when these sufferings remind us of our need for God, we can rejoice that He has promised us a resurrection and new life through faith in Jesus.

WHAT WE WANT STUDENTS TO DO WITH WHAT THEY'VE LEARNED:

Understand that mental and physical ailments do not have to define us or keep us from finding joy in God's promises for His people.