The Disabled Nurse
The Jill Reece Story
(Discipleship Lesson)

Read the entire lesson and then answer the questions that follow.

Jill had been happily married just six months when she began a downward spiral of illness and despair. Here's what happened…

In 1997, at thirty-three years of age, Jill was eleven years into a wonderful career of nursing. She fell on an icy parking lot and two weeks later was suffering from severe pain that went into her hips, back, and neck. Three months later, she was diagnosed with a debilitating illness that affected every system in her body. Three months after that, she was disabled from nursing, mentally and physically. She was told it would continue to worsen and that it was "incurable!" From all the signs around her, life was over, but she knew strongly, deep down inside, that God did not want her like this. She decided in her heart that she was not going to give up. Though she had received Christ at a very young age, she didn't know that divine healing was available today.

The first year was torture. She and her husband kept praying that God would show them the answer to get their lives back or even something close to it. The process for finding her answers really started when she began reading the Bible in a way she never had before. She spent hours reading and wondering why she didn't see healings and miracles now as they were in the Bible. She knew God didn't love some more than others and that He would not hold anything back today, but she didn't understand how to receive this from God. However, in the process of reading and really focusing on the Word of God, she did regain her memory and ability to concentrate. She learned there is great power in focusing on the Word of God and not on the situation, good or bad. The more she read, the more she wanted to learn about God's Word and receive all God had for her. Eventually, Jill learned that those things she had read in the Bible were actually still happening. She understood that what Jesus did on the cross not only provided salvation for eternal life but also healing. What she had to do was receive her healing in faith from her heart, believing that it was already done through Christ Jesus. In July 2002, she was healed! The symptoms left and she began her new, healed life.

What God has done in Jill's life is possible for you and anyone who seeks Him. Are you going through tough times in your life? Maybe you're experiencing sickness, marriage problems, physical addictions, anger, alcohol, fear, or maybe you feel all alone. Whatever the situation, God cares about you and wants to intervene in your life.

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The Jill Reece Story
(Discipleship Questions)

Answer the following by reading the corresponding discipleship lesson and using your Bible.

1. Read 3 John 2. "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." Though everything Jill was experiencing looked as if her life was over as she knew it, what gave her hope that she wasn't going to be in this condition for the rest of her life?

    a. She believed the doctors would come up with a new cure.
    b. She believed this would some day pass.
    c. She knew that God didn't want her to be that way, and she wouldn't give up until she found out how to receive healing.

2. Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5. "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: [4] (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) [5] Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." Does what you believe have an effect on your ability to receive good things from God?

    a. No. You should always go with what makes sense to you.
    b. Yes. Though we are used to being in our flesh and believing what makes sense to our minds, we need to cast down anything we think that doesn't fall in line with the knowledge of God. We need to obey, even in our thoughts.

3. Read 2 Corinthians 10:5. "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." According to this verse, what are you to do if you see something in the Bible that is different from what you have believed as truth?

    a. Forget about it.
    b. Don't forsake the traditions of your family.
    c. I need to change my thoughts to reflect the truth I see in God's Word.

4. Read Psalms 103:1-5. “Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. [2] Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: [3] Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; [4] Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; [5] Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle’s.” Does God want to bless (including healing) everyone?

    a. No. He only wants to heal a few.
    b. Yes. The Lord is good; He wants to heal all my diseases.
    c. I don’t know.

5. After Jill recognized that she needed more knowledge about God and what He had done for her, what did she do first that really made the difference in her life?

    a. She went to the church of her choice.
    b. She made a vow to God.
    c. She helped the poor.
    d. She started to read the Bible for herself and believe what it said.

6. Read Hebrews 4:12. “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the hear.” And John 6:63. “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.” Will the Bible really show you what you need to see in your situation, that is unique to you?

    a. No. We must gather other information.
    b. No. We must go to a religious leader to find out what to do.
    c. Yes. The Bible will point out our thoughts and heart motives. God wants to give me life even if it doesn’t make sense to me in my thoughts. He will make it clear when my thoughts line up with His.

7. Read 2 Timothy 2:15. “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth,” And 3:16. “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” What are you to do if you read the Bible and don’t feel like you understand it?

    a. Quit reading the Bible.
    b. Go to church more often.
    c. I should study it boldly and know that its words are given by God.

8. Read Luke 1:37. “For with God nothing shall be impossible.” And 1 Corinthians 1:27. “But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty.” When doctors or anyone label us, such as when they diagnosed Jill as “incurable,” is there a greater authority that we can believe in and seek after for change?

    a. No. Miracles of the Bible are passed away.
    b. No. We should listen only to our doctors.
    c. Yes. I can seek God and what He would want for my situation, because nothing is impossible with Him.

9. Read Colossians 3:10. “And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.” Can someone be saved and not know all that God has really done for them?

    a. No. We know everything we need to know.
    b. Yes. The Bible says to renew the mind in the knowledge of God. Being saved isn’t the end of knowing God, it is the beginning.

10. Read Mark 7:13. “Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.” If you are not willing to believe what God’s Word says but believe something you thought or were taught, can that block what God wants to do in your life?

    a. No. You should always believe what your folks taught you.
    b. Yes. Traditions of man can make the Word of God ineffective in our own lives if they don’t agree with the Bible.

11. Read Luke 12:29-31. “And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind. [30] For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. [31] But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.” And Matthew 6:33. “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” Why should we focus on God and what He wants and not the situation?

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12. Read Isaiah 53:4-5. “Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. [5] But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.” And 1 Peter 2:24. “Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.” What did Jesus do for us and how does that apply to healing?

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13. Read James 5:15. “And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.” And Hebrews 13:8. “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.” In James 5:15 the word “saved” was originally written as the Greek word “sozo.” This word means “to deliver, protect, heal, preserve, and be whole.” After reading Hebrews 13:8, do you believe that God not only meant what He said when the Bible was first written, but that He means it for today? _____

14. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” What should you believe right now and continue to carry out every day of your life?_____
_____
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(Discipleship Answer Key)

Do not look at the answer key until you have completed the questions.
Compare your answers with the following answers.

1. Read 3 John 2. Though everything Jill was experiencing looked as if her life was over as she knew it, what gave her hope that she wasn't going to be in this condition for the rest of her life?

    a. She believed the doctors would come up with a new cure.
    b. She believed this would some day pass.
    c. She knew that God didn't want her to be that way, and she wouldn't give up until she found out how to receive healing.

2. Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5. Does what you believe have an effect on your ability to receive good things from God?

    a. No. You should always go with what makes sense to you.
    b. Yes. Though we are used to being in our flesh and believing what makes sense to our minds, we need to cast down anything we think that doesn't fall in line with the knowledge of God. We need to obey, even in our thoughts.

3. Read 2 Corinthians 10:5. According to this verse, what are you to do if you see something in the Bible that is different from what you have believed as truth?

    a. Forget about it.
    b. Don't forsake the traditions of your family.
    c. I need to change my thoughts to reflect the truth I see in God's Word.

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    a. No. You should always believe what your folks taught you.
    b. Yes. Traditions of man can make the Word of God ineffective in our own lives if they don't agree with the Bible.

11. Read Luke 12:29-31, and Matthew 6:33. Why should we focus on God and what He wants and not the situation?
    If I focus on the situation, I will doubt. God knows not only what I need, but by seeking Him above all else, He will give me all I need.

12. Read Isaiah 53:4-5, and 1 Peter 2:24. What did Jesus do for us and how does that apply to healing?
Jesus took on Himself everything that was needed for my healing. My sins made me dead (spiritually), but through Jesus I can live (spiritually) and be healed (physically). My part is to believe that by His stripes I was healed in what Jesus did over 2000 years ago and receive that gift now.

13. Read James 5:15, and Hebrews 13:8. In James 5:15 the word "saved" was originally written as the Greek word "sozo." This word means "to deliver, protect, heal, preserve, and be whole." After reading Hebrews 13:8, do you believe that God not only meant what He said when the Bible was first written, but that He means it for today?
Yes, Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. To be saved still means "to deliver, protect, heal, preserve, be whole."

14. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. What should you believe right now and continue to carry out every day of your life?
Anyone who believes in Christ is brand new, not just when salvation is received, but every day. That means brand new in all areas of my life. I need to receive what Jesus has already done for me anytime that I find my life is not the "new creation" it is meant to be in all areas of my life. Jesus already did all the work for me; all I have to do is believe and receive.

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