

Journey of Faith



The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

"Any special intentions?" Mrs. Evans asked.

Lisa raised her hand. "For my grandma. She's been really sick. A priest came over yesterday to say some prayers and put oil on her hands."

"That's called the anointing of the sick," Mrs. Evans said. "That means the Holy Spirit, through the priest, gave your grandma special grace to help with her sickness."





Do you know anyone who is sick and needs special prayers?

Jesus Heals With Love

One day, Jesus was teaching at a house in Capernaum. So many people came to hear him that they filled the house. Then four men came up to the house. They were carrying their friend on a stretcher. He was paralyzed. The men wanted Jesus to heal their friend, but they couldn't get inside. So they climbed up to the roof, opened up part of it, and lowered their friend down to Jesus. Jesus looked at their friend and said, "Your sins are forgiven." Then Jesus told the man to stand up and go home. The man picked up his stretcher and walked out. All the people were amazed and praised Jesus.

Adapted from Mark 2:1–12



Four Steps to Healing

The sacrament of **anointing of the sick** is God's way of healing people with the same loving touch that Jesus used when he healed people on earth.

STEP 1

Someone reads from the Bible about how Jesus healed the sick and helped those who sinned. As we listen, we remember that Jesus can heal our bodies and souls.

STEP 2

The priest places his hands on the head of the person receiving the sacrament. He invites the Holy Spirit to come into the person's heart. We remember that Jesus always prayed and touched the people he healed.

STEP 3

The priest says a prayer of blessing over the holy oil. The **holy oil** prepares the sick person for the Holy Spirit. We are also anointed with oil at our baptism and confirmation.

STEP 4

The priest makes the Sign of the Cross on the forehead of the person being anointed. We remember that Jesus suffered on the cross. The priest also anoints the person's hands. We remember that our hands do Jesus' work on earth.

Tomas' Grandpa: A Story About Anointing

"Can I talk about what happened to my grandpa?" Tomás asked.

Mrs. Evans nodded.

"Well, my grandpa was really sick and he wanted a priest to come over and pray with him," Tomás said. "The priest did all the anointing of the sick stuff. I thought it was going to make him better.

"Our whole family was there. We stood around Grandpa's bed and prayed while the priest anointed his hands and feet. My grandpa reminded us that God loves all of us and he loved God. Then my grandpa said he was at peace and was glad his whole family was with him.

"But then he died," Tomás said, frowning. "I thought the priest was supposed to make him better. I was really mad at the priest and at God. Why didn't he get better if he had the sacrament?"

"That's a really tough question, Tomás," Mrs. Evans said. "It hurts when the people we care about die. We miss them a lot. We wonder why God didn't just make them better. But God loves all of us very much. When anointing of the sick doesn't make someone better, that doesn't mean the sacrament didn't work. It means God is helping that person in a different way and that God will be helping that person on the journey to be with him in heaven."

Will Anointing Heal the Person?

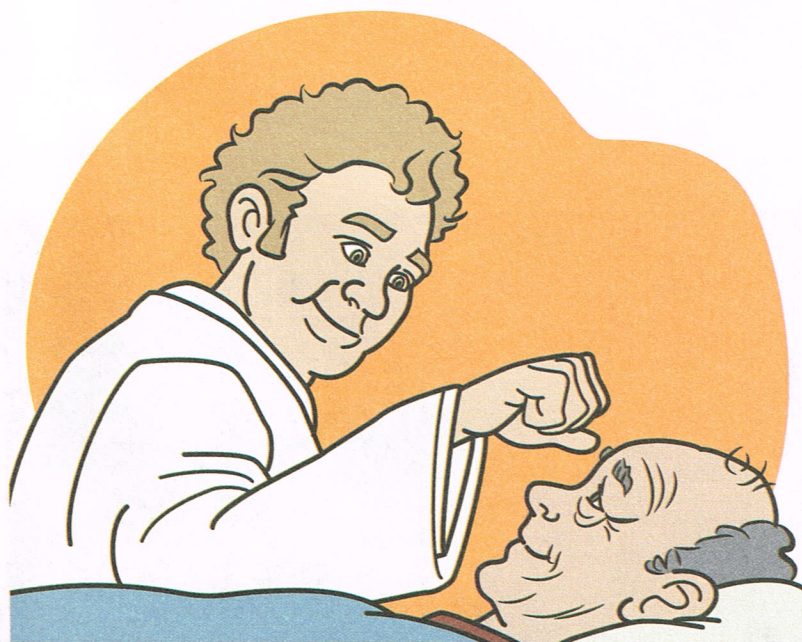
Healing someone isn't the same as curing someone. **Curing** takes away the disease or physical disability. **Healing** goes deeper. When someone is healed through the anointing of the sick, he or she receives:

- the courage and strength to suffer, just as Jesus had the courage and strength to endure his crucifixion.
- grace that prepares her soul, mind, and body to meet Jesus in heaven.
- the special peace that comes from knowing he is forgiven and that everything is going to be all right.
- a reminder that God is always watching over us.

Sometimes, someone may be cured through the sacrament of anointing of the sick. But even if someone does not receive a cure, God still cares about that person and is preparing her or him for something greater.

Write down the name of someone you know who is sick.

Say a special prayer for this person now. Remember the person in your prayers this week.

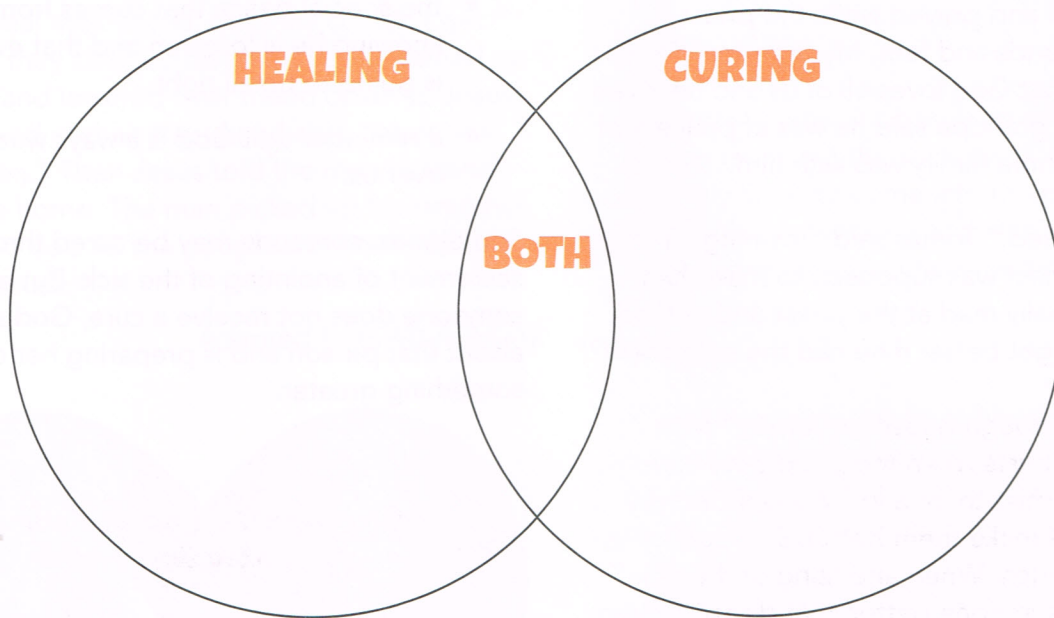




HEALING OR CURING?

Think about each scenario and decide if it's healing, curing, or both. Then write the number of the action in the matching circle.

1. Jesus forgives the paralyzed man's sins and helps him walk again.
2. Jesus gives the blind man his sight back.
3. A doctor sets someone's broken leg and the leg gets better.
4. A person with cancer is very depressed. A priest prays with them and they begin to feel better, but the person is still sick.
5. You're sad because your grandpa is sick. You pray with your grandpa and start to feel better.
6. Your friend has a fever, but after taking some medicine your friend is ready to go back to school.



In Short



- Anointing stems from Jesus' healing ministry.
- The sacrament follows basic steps.
- The sacrament is more than preparation for death.

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