

YOUCAT STUDY GROUPS

Small Group YOUCAT India



YOUCAT INDIA



TOPIC:

YOUCAT 242

Why should the Church take special care of the sick?

Acts 5:12-16

The Apostles Heal Many

¹² Now many signs and wonders were done among the people through the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. ¹³ None of the rest dared to join them, but the people held them in high esteem. ¹⁴ Yet more than ever believers were added to the Lord, great numbers of both men and women, ¹⁵ so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on cots and mats, in order that Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he came by. ¹⁶ A great number of people would also gather from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all cured.



Why should the Church take special care of the sick?

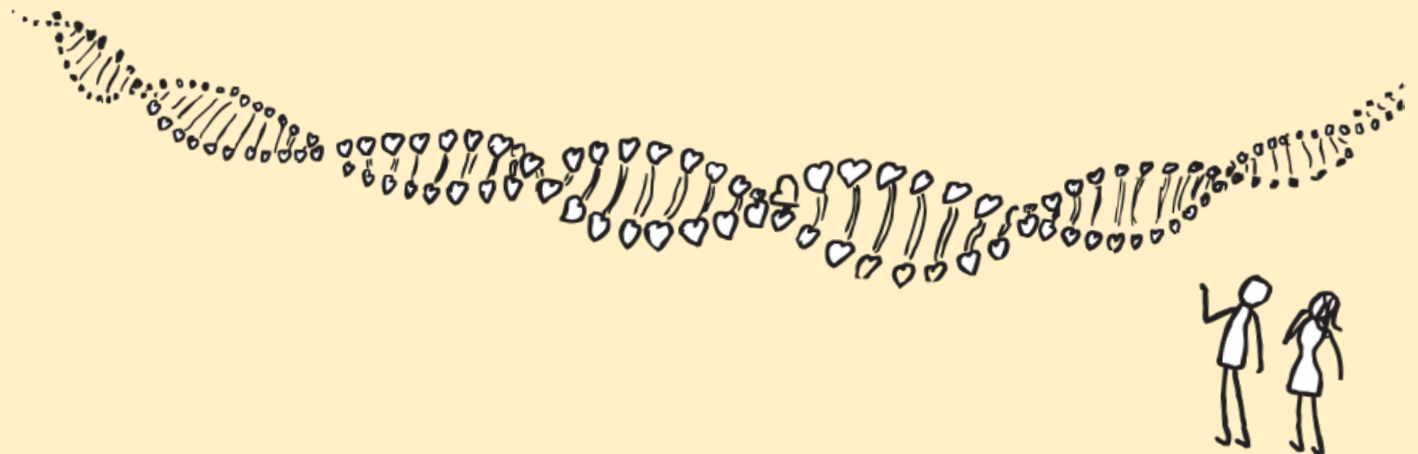
Jesus shows us: Heaven suffers with us when we suffer. God even wants to be rediscovered in “the least of these my brethren” (Mt 25:40). That is why Jesus designated care of the sick as a central task for his disciples. He commands them, “Heal the sick” (Mt 10:8), and he promises them divine authority: “In my name they will cast out demons;...they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover” (Mk 16:17-18)

One of the distinctive characteristics of Christianity has always been that the elderly, the sick, and the needy are central to it. Mother Teresa, who cared for those who were dying in the gutters of Calcutta, is only one in a long series of Christian women and men who have discovered Christ precisely in those who were marginalized and avoided by others. When Christians are really Christian, a healing influence goes out from them. Some even have the gift of healing others physically in the power of the Holy Spirit (the charism of healing, → CHARISM).



SHARING TIME

1. What is your first reaction on seeing a sick person on the street? What are the thoughts that run through your mind?
2. Have you ever prayed for a sick person in your family or among your friends? Share your experience.
3. “He took our infirmities and bore our diseases.” Mt 8:17
What do you understand from this verse?
4. Have you experienced any kind of healing (physical or emotional) in your own life through prayer?



ACTIVITY

Meditate on these words:

“The sick person is able to sense more than other people notice.” ~REINHOLD SCHNEIDER

Remember at least one person among your family or friends who is battling some kind of sickness or disease. Offer a spontaneous prayer or a rosary or a Divine mercy chaplet for their healing with complete confidence in the healing power of God.

