



The Great Physician in the Gospel of John: Help and Hope as We Suffer
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1. Hope for a father's pain. (John 4:46-53)

- Help me, my son is dying. (46-47)
- Do you believe anything that you have not seen? (48)
- The man begs. (49)
- Go, your son lives! And he believes! (50)
- At home he finds his son healed and he believes and his household. (53)
- God used this illness and the healing to announce Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God.
- God used this illness and suffering to bring the man and his family to faith in Christ.

2. Help for a chronic illness. (John 5:1-17)

- God, please help me. I've been here 38 years. (5)
- Jesus knew all about him. He also had a plan for the illness. (6)
- Do you wish to get well? I have been trying to get well and no one helps me. (7)
- Get up and walk! Jesus calls the man to abandon his useless efforts and believe. (8)
- God used this illness as evidence that Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah.
- God uses this illness to call the Pharisees to recognize Christ, and they do not. (9-17)
- Jesus heals the man and uses the illness and suffering to draw him to faith. (14)

3. Hope for a man born blind. (John 9:1-16)

- God, why am I here. What did I do to be born blind? (1)
- His disciples ask a rude and ignorant question. Who sinned? (2)
- Neither! There is a purpose for this man's suffering! God had a plan for it. (3)
- Jesus will be identified! (4-5)
- We are warned to avoid the mistakes of Job's friends!
- The Pharisees are warned. (7-16)
- God is glorified by the outcome!
- The man is healed. He is the embodiment of Romans 8:28.
- The illness and suffering were for his good as he came to faith.



- 4. Perhaps the best passage in New Testament to help those suffering with medical problems. (John 11)**
- Lord, the one You love is sick. (1-3)
 - Jesus knew all about Lazarus, Martha and Mary, and loved them! (4-5)
 - Jesus had a plan for this illness. (7-15)
 - Jesus cared about Martha, Mary and Lazarus. (26-35)
 - Jesus acted! (39-43)
 - The Pharisees were warned and the responded. (12:9-10)
 - God used the illness to confirm that Jesus was the Messiah.
 - God used the illness to draw large numbers to faith.
 - God used to illness to grow Martha, Mary and Lazarus.
 - What would Martha have received had Jesus come on time? What did she see instead?
 - God wants to use our illness and suffering in the same ways He did in this Gospel!
 - As Dr. Robert Smith used to say, “Be God’s best patient!”