



Meal Ritual God's Healing Presence

Table Center

In the center of the table place a variety of band aids of varying sizes, materials (gauze, adhesive strips, etc.) and a clear glass bowl with some scented oil in it.

Preparation

- Band aids, clear glass bowl with scented oil
- Potential meal option: chicken soup and dinner rolls

+ We Gather...

We gather at this meal to reflect upon the power of God's healing presence in our lives. I invite everyone to take a band aid from the center of the table. As we explore together the power of God's healing I invite each of us gathered here to share your thoughts about one or both of the following:

- A time that you felt the healing power of God...
- Something that you currently seek to have God heal...

+ We Tell the Story...

Invite someone to proclaim the Scripture reading...

"If you are sick, ask the church leaders to come and pray for you. Ask them to put olive oil on you in the name of the Lord. If you have faith when you pray for sick people they will get well. The Lord will heal them, and if they have sinned, he will forgive them." (James 5:14-15)

+ We Bless Our Food...

Place the meal to be shared on the table and pray:

We pray now in thanksgiving for the food you have blessed us with. Bless the food we are about to share, may it be a source of nourishment and comfort as we explore together the gift of God's healing presence in our lives. May it help us to help others. Amen.

As the meal is being shared, invite those gathered at the table to discuss:

- What gives you comfort when you are not feeling well?
- Have you ever personally experienced the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, either as part of the community or as a recipient of the anointing? If yes, describe what that experience was like for you.

+ We Go Forth...

We close our meal today by blessing one another with the oil that has graced our meal table. I invite you to extend your hands over the oil with me as we pray a prayer of blessing over it:

Creator God, you surprise us with your faithful presence. Bless this oil, may it remind us that we are your anointed ones, and we carry your healing to the world. We bless this oil in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I invite you now to make the sign of the cross with the oil on the palms of the person sitting beside you, they in turn will anoint the person beside them, and we will continue until everyone has been anointed. Conclude by praying this closing prayer together:

Healing God, forgiving Jesus, energizing Spirit, help us to go forward to bring your healing presence to the world. Thank you for being our strength, and keep us rooted in your love. Amen.