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# LIFE TEEN PARENT LETTER

*Thank you for allowing your teen to join us tonight at Life Teen. Below you'll find some information about tonight's topic. Please dialogue with your teen and encourage them to share what they learned.*

## **LIFE NIGHT: EXORCIST**

### **CONTENT OVERVIEW**

Jesus is the Divine Physician. Jesus came to heal the broken and restore the sinner. In order to heal, a physician must be around the sick. Jesus eats with tax collectors and sinners, those who are sick with sin. This caused concern amongst the Pharisees. Jesus, after all, is a respected rabbi, and this is not the kind of crowd that a teacher of the faith should be hanging around. Jesus responds to the Pharisees with, "For I have come to call not the righteous, but sinners." (Matthew 9:10-13)

People came to Jesus with incredible faith. They believed that by simply touching His clothing, they would be healed. One woman experienced this power as she pressed through a crowd, simply to touch Jesus' cloak. (Luke 8:42-48)

In one circumstance, people were so zealous to have a friend healed that they tore the roof off a house to get to Jesus. But remember, the greater miracle is not the healing, but the forgiveness of sins. (Mark 2:1-12)

Jesus not only healed physical sicknesses, but also cast out of demons. In the Gospel of Mark, we hear the story of a man who lives out in the tombs, who no one can restrain, even with chains, and who spends his days howling and bruising himself with stones. Jesus meets him and sets him free from his many demons by allowing them to enter a herd of swine. (Mark 5:1-13)

Throughout the New Testament, Jesus casts out demons and He commissions His disciples to do the same. This authority to heal body and spirit is passed down through apostolic succession to our bishops and priests today. (Luke 9:1-2)

The Sacraments of Anointing of the Sick and Reconciliation heal the greatest illness we have - sin. They sometimes also produce physical healing, but this is not their primary purpose. Their primary purpose is to heal us spiritually and prepare us for Heaven. (CCC 548, CCC 1520)

All of Jesus' healings and exorcisms point to something even greater - salvation brought about through faith in Jesus. When Jesus heals, it also foreshadows the ultimate healing from sin and death He will win on the cross. When Jesus casts out demons, it represents His ultimate victory over Satan through the cross. Jesus heals the ultimate sickness of eternal death.

Some people today don't know how to feel about Jesus' healing power in their lives. "I don't feel worthy." "It would never happen for me." "I don't want to ask, there are so many others who need it more than me." Rather than fully trust Jesus we turn away and refuse to accept the gift He offers.

As parents, we never want to see our children suffer with sickness. We spend money and time to make sure they stay healthy. As Christian parents we never want to see our children suffer from sin. We need to provide them with opportunities to make sure that they are healthy in spirit. As a family, do we regularly attend Mass and participate in

Reconciliation? Do we ask for healing for ourselves, our families, and our friends? The mercy and healing Jesus offers is a gift that we may choose to receive or reject. Each day we have the opportunity to receive His gift if we open our hearts in faith and encourage those around us to do the same.

### **CONVERSATION STARTERS**

1. When have you asked Jesus for healing for yourself or someone else?
2. Are prayers for healing a part of your family prayer? Have you ever prayed with someone for healing?
3. Do you encourage your family to take advantage of Reconciliation?