

Participant’s Guide

Episode 1

Faith Prescriptions Introduction

Introduction

If you are a Christian healthcare professional, then you recognize that our greatest calling is to honor the Lord in our efforts to help our fellow man. The apostle Paul instructs the Colossians in Chapter 3, verse 23 “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.” This divine calling is most obviously an exhortation to provide excellent, compassionate care for our patients. If we recognize that our patients are more than just physical beings – that they are made in God’s image, and that they have a soul that will never die - then we will seek to communicate the love of Christ through the care we provide for them.

The mission of Faith Prescriptions is to equip Christian healthcare professionals to communicate the love of Christ, in word and in deed, to our patients, students and colleagues. What does this look like on a daily basis? How does the love of Christ motivate us to do our very best for our patients? How can we encourage our patients to open up to us regarding their spiritual needs? How do we verbally communicate the power of the Gospel with sensitivity and respect? Many doctors from across the country will be sharing what the Lord has taught them regarding these and many other pertinent topics.

This series is best undertaken by groups – two or more – so that as each segment is viewed it can be immediately followed by discussion regarding how to best understand and apply what has been presented. The brevity of the videos (fifteen minutes or so) means that there is much more that could be said than time permits, so expect to go beyond what is taught as you chew on these topics with your colleagues. Expect your group discussions to both edify and encourage you as you experience God’s continuing honoring of Jesus’ prayer in John 17:21 “…that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” To God be the glory for what He will accomplish through your demonstration of Christ’s love to your patients, students, and colleagues.

Summary

*Faith Prescriptions* is the third program designed to help Christian healthcare professionals to live out their faith through their practices. Similarities and differences as compared to the prior programs are considered. Also included are cameos by Dr. Bill Peel and Dr. Walt Larimore (who originated the prior programs), what to expect from this series and an overview of how the Lord can utilize healthcare professionals to plant and nurture faith in the lives of their patients.

Speaker

Dr. William Griffin has been a CMDA member for almost four decades, and he currently serves as CMDA’s Vice President for Dental Ministries.  He is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame, and received his DDS degree at Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry. His career in health care has led him to discover the strong ties between physical health and spiritual health, and over the years he has been greatly inspired by CMDA’s medical outreach teaching programs, “The Saline Solution,” and “Grace Prescriptions.”  He may be reached at Bill.Griffin@cmda.org.

Discussion Questions

1. **What from this video inspired, edified or challenged you?**
2. **What would it look like for you to follow Paul’s example in 1 Corinthians 9:22 to “become all things to all people”? (NIV).**
3. **Read Galatians 1:8-9 and then consider: (a) Why do you think Paul was so adamant regarding the purity of the gospel?; and (b) What are some of the essential elements of the gospel, the non-negotiables, which should not be compromised in our verbal proclamation of the Good News?**
4. **What similarities exist between physical disease and spiritual disease? Between physical health and spiritual health?**
5. **Discuss further what Dr. Larimore meant by “a Christian who happens to be a doctor” versus “a doctor who happens to be a Christian.”**
6. **Pastor Bill Peel states, “I believe that the most incredibly strategic place for the spread of the gospel worldwide is the medical workplace.” Agree, disagree, comment?**
7. **Do you have any patients like Crystal in your practice—patients who seem to reject your attempts to show them the love of Christ? Why might they be oblivious to your efforts, and what could make them more permeable to God’s love?**
8. **What is your understanding of how God could “establish the work of (your) hands” (Psalm 90:17)?**
9. **What is one take-home item from today’s session that you hope to implement?**

Additional Resources

1. The Case for Christ by Lee Stroebel
2. Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis
3. A Faith Worth Sharing by C. John Miller
4. Telling a Better Story by Joshua Chatraw
5. Jesus, MD by Dr. David Stevens
6. [“Interview of a Patient”](https://issuu.com/cmdacommunications/docs/spring_10_tcd) article from *Today’s Christian Doctor*, Spring 2010
7. [“The Saline Solution Opened My Eyes”](https://issuu.com/cmdacommunications/docs/tcdsummer08) article from *Today’s Christian Doctor,* Summer 2008