

the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

- What does this passage say about the power of networking with others for health ministry?
- How does faith break down barriers to health?
- How can we help each other get past whatever paralyzes us (such as fear, lack of knowledge or experience)?
- How do you see yourself in this scenario?

Passage 2: Jeremiah 29:11–17

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

Because you have said, “The LORD has raised up prophets for us in Babylon,”— Thus says the LORD concerning the king who sits on the throne of David, and concerning all the people who live in this city, your kinsfolk who did not go out with you into exile: Thus says the LORD of hosts, I am going to let loose on them sword, famine, and pestilence, and I will make them like rotten figs that are so bad they cannot be eaten.

- What does this passage tell us about the context of health ministry?
- How do these verses help us understand the place of spirituality in wellness?

Passage 3: Proverbs 3:5–6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own insight.
In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.

- How do these verses apply to discerning God’s call into health ministry?
- Consider the question: “Do I believe the Lord is guiding me in my decisions?”

Passage 4: Joshua 1:5–7, 9

No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous; for you shall put this people in possession of the land that I swore to their ancestors to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go. ... I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

- How might God’s instructions to Joshua relate to an FCN beginning a new ministry?
- What spiritual perspectives do you see in this passage that will encourage your work?

■ Elevator Speech

Instructions:

1. These activities can be used in a face-to-face environment or for online learning and posted for the class to react.
2. Prepare an “elevator speech”—a succinct statement that is descriptive and theoretical, but short enough to explain the work of faith community nursing in the time it takes to ride an elevator.
3. Brainstorm by listing the letters of **FAITH COMMUNITY NURSING** vertically on a page; find appropriate words or sentences that start with each letter to describe you in relation to your FCN ministry.

4. Share your ideas with the entire class or with a smaller group of participants. Discuss how these words help us in talking to others about faith community nursing and establishing an FCN program in the faith community.

■ Expanded Learning Activities

Panel Discussion

Instructions:

1. Invite FCNs in your community to discuss their experiences in faith community nursing.
2. Make sure your instructions to the participating FCNs are clear regarding what you want shared and set a time limit for each speaker. It is best to send written instructions and expectations to each panel speaker prior to the event.
3. Suggested questions to use for panelists: What have you most enjoyed about being an FCN? What has been your biggest struggle? How do you take care of yourself in the midst of caring for the entire faith community? Do you have a health team to support you?
4. Online learners: Find a practicing FCN in your community. Use the questions above to interview the FCN.

Journaling

Instructions: This is appropriate for either online or in-class setting.

Provide a time for private journaling or reflection during the class. Have participants share their thoughts with the large group or a smaller group if they choose.

Small Group Discussions

Instructions:

Allow time for small group discussions about how to begin an FCN ministry. Then have participants share their thoughts with the large group.

Make a Poster

Instructions:

Have each participant make a tri-fold poster about important aspects of faith community nursing that can be displayed in their faith communities. Remember to have all of the necessary supplies on hand.

Apply the Information

Instructions:

1. First, divide the class into small groups to discuss what an FCN ministry means. Role-play can be used with observers offering insight.
2. In the discussion, be sure to have the participants anticipate questions their pastor or faith community may ask when they return home.
3. Instruct each group to produce one short written document about the practice of faith community nursing. Be sure to have participants include plausible responses to the questions they may be asked.
4. Have participants share their thoughts with the large group.
5. Encourage participants to take notes as other groups present their ideas.

Guest Speakers

Instructions:

1. Invite guest speakers to the class, such as a human resources person to speak on the importance of job descriptions and how to write one; a team building speaker; clergy from other faith communities to understand their perspective of the FCN in their setting; a self-care expert.