



Lives Changed by Jesus

Week Six | The Leper – Come As You Are (Mark 1:40-45)

For a brief overview of why (and how) to engage in each of these practices, you can read the Guideline For Growing on our website

<https://www.gymeabaptist.org.au/growing/pages/guideline-for-growing>

OVERVIEW:

In this series we will be exploring several New Testament characters whose lives were changed by an encounter with Jesus. Over the course of the series we will dive into the transformation they experienced, the focus of their encounter, the required response, any friends who were involved, and the invitation into mission. The importance of these five aspects will vary but will be a consistent part of the discipleship menus.

As in previous “menus” there will be a variety of activities to take up. These can be done by yourself (God and You), with a couple of friends (You and a Few), or in a Life Group (You and a Crew). As with any menu, choose what resonates with you. In other words, there is no need to do all of the menu!

Just one more reminder that you can listen to the sermon that accompanies the discipleship menu - it can be found on our website or wherever you listen to podcasts. You may also want to listen to The Big III podcast; a mid-week podcast that explores three big questions raised by the sermon.

PASSAGES TO READ

Make Mark 1:40-45 the central reading this week. Read it aloud multiple times.

As you do, you may want to picture the scene in your mind and picture where you are in the scene. Who do you associate with? How close are you to the “action”? This kind of imaginative reading is a very helpful way to read narrative texts.

Additional texts that you may want to read include: Mark 2:13-17; 3:31-35; 9:38-41; 10:17-31. In each of these reflect on the welcome and inclusion of those whom were, obviously, not usually included. Consider what Jesus deems most important and how we can welcome people in the same way.

QUESTIONS TO REFLECT ON (JOURNAL)

1. What are some of the boundaries that our society place on inclusion?
2. What are some of the boundaries that we can place on inclusion in our church?
3. What are the risks of challenging those boundaries, for those on the inside who challenge them and for those on the outside who challenge them?
4. How can you/we be more inclusive of those who are seeking Jesus?

A THEME TO PRAY ABOUT

Ask the Holy Spirit to (gently) reveal the ways in which we have not been inclusive and welcoming and to open our eyes to those we can welcome this week – into our homes, our businesses, our classrooms, our neighbourhoods, and our community of faith.

VOLUNTEER

If you are willing and able (and this may take more than this week to organise) volunteer at a soup kitchen or other ministry that serves the marginalised in our community. As you do, consider how you can be welcoming and observe how others do this.