

ICB COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY

WHAT WE DO: A JOURNEY THROUGH THE BOOK OF ACTS

The message last Sunday, continued our series "What We Do". This week we look at the story of Peter and John healing a beggar and the challenge it is to live with our eyes open to the needs around us.

START

Icebreaker: Memory game: if you can, put together 10-15 objects on a tray/table (eg pen, notebook, candle, scissors, mobile, hairbrush, etc.) and give people time to look at them while you are waiting for everyone to arrive. When you are ready cover the tray up (or remove it from the room) and get people to write down what was on it. Afterwards compare who got the most, and talk about the idea of looking at things intentionally and how easy it was to remember what was on the tray.

SHARE

- Today we are talking about being aware of ways to show care to those around us. Share an example of a time when someone showed you care by helping you in a particular situation. What was that experience like and how did that make you feel?

READ ACTS 3:1-10

- Peter and John must have passed by this crippled beggar many times. Why was this day different?
- Why do you think God chose to heal this man?
- What can we learn from Peter and John's treatment of this man? How can we apply that to our own lives?
- There are so many examples in the Bible of people being "interrupted" in order to show others care. (Jesus himself was "interrupted" many times during his ministry). *Read Luke 10:25-37.* Compare and contrast the attitudes of Peter and John with those in this story.
- What is Jesus' point in having the Samaritan exemplify brotherly love toward his neighbour?

READ EXODUS 3: 1-15 and 4:1-5

- God gave Moses a challenge but Moses was very unsure about his ability to do it. As Pastor John shared on Sunday God is not interested in what you cannot do, or what you do not have, instead He wants us to be ready and willing to use what we DO have. From these verses how do we see God deal with Moses and his feeling of inadequacy? What reassurance does God give Moses?
- What can we learn from that for our own lives?

GROW

- Why is it such a challenge to live with eyes open ready to serve or care for others? What obstacles do you find that get in the way and what can you do to change that?
- How would you advise someone to overcome their insecurities and doubts in their own abilities?
- How easy is it for you to be obedient and let God use you and the gifts He has given you? How do you need to grow in this area?

PRAY

Pray for "divine interruptions" this week and for open eyes to see and care for what's going on in those we encounter. Pray for God's words, wisdom and love for others whatever situations may arise. Pray too that God would teach us to value and use the talents and abilities He has given us.

GO

Know that God's love, strength and wisdom are always available to equip us for whatever situation we find ourselves in. All the examples we have seen today were ordinary people just like you and me. Though we may doubt that God can work through someone like us, the fact is He loves to use the weak to show His strength. As it says in 2 Cor 12:9, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." He longs to use us, right here, right now. All we have to do is be willing and available.

Read more about Peter and John healing the crippled beggar in Acts 3:1-10, The Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37, Matt 22:34-40, Mark 12:28-31 and The Story of Moses and the Burning Bush in Exodus 3-4:17.