

DISCUSSIONGUIDE

Care for the Outcast (Mark #7)

Week of April 19, 2020

While this Discussion Guide is intended for use in a Riverwood Growth Group, it can be used personally as well. To get the most from these questions, we suggest you take 10-15 minutes to read, think, and pray through this Guide before participating in your Growth Group. The point of this guide is to not just "get through the questions" (there's no quiz at the end!) but to pursue Jesus and grow spiritually.

ICEBREAKER (Optional)

If you could time travel, would you rather visit the past or the future, and why?

DISCUSSION

Read Mark 1:40-45

1. The man who approached Jesus was a leper, someone who had a deadly disease which also deemed him societally unclean. What would it have meant for him to be healed, or "cleansed" by Jesus?
2.
 - a. What do you see in the text that reveals the leper was humble and fully surrendered to Jesus?
 - b. Would you call this "faith"? why or why not?
3. This passage says Jesus was "moved with pity," extended His hand to touch the leper, and healed him (vv. 41-42).
 - a. What does this interaction say about how Jesus relates with and cares for others?



- b. In what ways were Jesus's actions a bit of a social taboo?

4.
 - a. Why do you think Jesus charged the man to say nothing about the miracle of his cleansing to anyone until he had visited the priest?

- b. Why do you think the man still "went out and began to talk freely about it," despite Jesus's charge not to (v. 45)?

MAKING IT PERSONAL

In Erin's sermon, he urged us that, in order to love and live like Jesus did, we need to follow in Jesus's footsteps and extend ourselves in service to those who might be considered outcasts.

5. Share with the group how we can practically love and live like Jesus to the outcasts among us in our day and age.

MEMORY VERSE

"Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world." (James 1:27)

PRAYER

As we close in prayer, if you are a follower of Jesus, take a moment to thank God for cleansing you from all unrighteousness through Jesus Christ! Despite what is currently going on in the world, ask God to give you boldness and opportunity to love the outcasts around you through prayer and service.

