

DISCOVER JESUS WITH MARK

LIFE GROUP MATERIAL

Meeting no 3 THEME: The end of your isolation

Prepare yourself. Pray for your Life Group's meeting. Read Mark 1 : 40 – 2 : 17

20.00 – 20.10 Start Due to the current situation, at times you can feel sombre about the future; you can feel lonely; you can also struggle with stress because you feel you don't achieve enough. Is this recognisable for you?

20.10 – 20.15 Pray.

20.15 - 20.40 Bible passage: Read Mark 1:40-2:17

Look again at 1 : 40 – 45 [NB 4x the word 'cleanse']

- How did this man suffer from social isolation?
- What strikes you here?
- 'Make clean'. Look at Mark 7:21-23. What makes a person unclean? What do you learn now?

Look again at 2 : 1- 12 [NB 4x the phrase 'forgive sins']

- In which ways would being paralysed cohere with social isolation in Jesus' days?
- What strikes you here?
- What was Jesus' aim in healing the paralytic?
- What is the price Jesus' paid to cleanse and forgive sinners (see f.i. Is. 53)?
- What have hopelessness, loneliness and worthlessness to do with our sins?

Look again at 2 : 13-17 [NB 4x the word 'sinners']

- Would Levi have suffered from social isolation in some way?
- What strikes you here?
- What do we learn from these three passages about the reason Jesus came?

Lesson: Through the preached Gospel we should hear Jesus' voice, calling us. We should come to Him, for our cleansing by His blood, so that we receive eternal life and hope. From Him we should receive forgiveness of our sins, through His death on the cross, so that we enjoy peace with God. From Him we should receive the Spirit of adoption, so that we know He has accepted us as His own beloved children.

20.40 – 20.50 Digging deeper

Wherein might what we have read and learnt transform our lives and our fellowship? Take some time (for silence & meditation) and try to give a personal answer. It is not so important to give a complete answer; as well as to mention something you see now, at this moment, being important for you/us.

20.50 – 21.00 End the Life Group meeting with praying together.