

Being the Church/ecclesia, and the needs of people

What is a Church?

Acts 2:37-47

1 Corinthians 14:26-33

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Ephesians 1:15-23

Romans 12:3-8

Ephesians 5:22-32

1 Corinthians 3:9-17

1 Peter 2:4-10

Other possibilities:

Ephesians 4:11-16

1 Peter 4:10-11

Acts 14:21-28

1 Timothy 3:1-13

Revelation 3:14-22

Some of the Greatest Needs of the Lost – Stories about Peace, Hope, Healing, Purpose, Rest, Relationships

The stories below speak to these needs and many others.

[In the brackets after each story: First: *Possible needs that this story would meet*. Followed by: Possible questions to ask either before or after telling them the story.]

We are seeking to find those who are hungry for God – The “man/woman of peace” (POP’s).

Here are some other questions you can use after the stories to draw out those who God is working in:

- What did you hear in that story?
- Who in the story can you relate to?
- What did you hear about God in that story? What did you hear about people in that story?
- What else could have done?

Other questions to bridge the gap to a Discovery Group:

- Are you near or far from God? Would you like to be nearer?
- If you liked that story there are many others, we can share with you. Could we come by tomorrow (?) and share another story with you & your family?

Stories...

Luke 15:11-32 - Lost Son [*Lack of spiritual hope or unworthy of forgiveness/love; Broken family relationship*. What do you think caused the father to respond the way that he did? How else could the father have responded? What does this teach you about God? How would it change your life to know that you are loved regardless of your past?]

Luke 18:9-14 - Pharisee and Tax Collector [*Hopeless, Lost, feel Unworthy*. Who do you identify with most in the story? What does Jesus' response tell you about God?]

Matt. 14:22-33 - Jesus walking on water [Facing challenges. Which step do you think was the most difficult for Peter? When did Peter start to sink? How did Jesus respond? How else could Jesus have responded?]

Mark 5:25-34 - Bleeding woman [*Sickness*. What did it take for this woman to touch Jesus' robe? How did Jesus respond? How else could Jesus have responded? What would it look like for you to reach out to Jesus?]

Mark 4:35-41 - Jesus Calms the Storm [*Stressed, Worried*. What else could Jesus have done when the disciples woke him up? How would it change your life if you knew that you didn't have to go through this storm alone? If this is true, what should you do next?]

Luke 17:11-18 - The 10 Lepers were healed & only one came back [*People who have seen God work*. What is the difference between the 9 and the 1?]

Mark 2:1-12 - Jesus heals man let down through roof [*Asking for healing/hope for someone else*. How can you help your friend? How else could Jesus have responded to this group?]

Matthew 13:44 - Treasure in the field found/hidden/purchased [*Not sure if God is 'worth it' or talking about what they would have to give up.* What would it take for you to give up everything for something/someone? What is it that you are holding onto that you think is more valuable than God?]

Luke 19:1-10 - Zacchaeus [*People with many things but little Hope or Purpose.* Who or What can you relate to in Zacchaeus' story? Why did the people respond as they did to Jesus going to Zacchaeus' house? What would have made it difficult for Zacchaeus to decide to follow Jesus? How else could Zacchaeus have responded to Jesus' invitation? How else could Jesus have responded to Zacchaeus' statement about his life change? How do you think this relationship might have changed Zacchaeus' purpose in life?]

Luke 18:35-43 - Blind man shouted for Jesus. Jesus asked him: 'What do you want me to do for you?' [*People who are sick, broken, desperate.* How else could Jesus have responded to the man? What does his response tell us about God? Why do you think Jesus asked the blind man that question, shouldn't that have been obvious? What do you think this tells us about what God wants from us?]

These are not just "stories" but passages for the Hurting . . .

Psalms 9:9-10 - A shelter for the oppressed [*Overwhelmed, Oppressed.* What would it look like for God to be a shelter to you right now? What does it mean to you that God will not abandon you if you search for Him?]

Matthew 11:28-30 - Come to me those who are weary & burdened [*Weariness, Struggling w/burdens; No Peace/Hope.* How would your life be different if you didn't have to carry this burden alone?]

For the Parent whose child is wayward . . .

Luke 7:11-17 - The raising of the dead son [*Discouragement/Grief over a child.* What would it mean to you to know that God has compassion on your child? If that is true what would you do differently?]

Other Stories . . .

Matthew 13:31-32 - Parable of the mustard seed [*People needing Hope, Purpose*. How does that picture of a mustard seed speak to you? What would it look like for you to have a mustard seed of faith?]

Matthew 13:45-46 - Pearl of great value [*Purpose, Direction*. Knowing God is worth everything! What are you searching for? What is worth everything to you?]

Mark 5:1-13 - Man with many evil spirits healed [*Demonic, Oppression*. Jesus has power over the demonic]

Matthew 14:15-21 - Feeding the 5,000 [Jesus can miraculously provide for our physical needs]

Matthew 9:18-21 9:23-26 – Jairus' daughter raised back to life [*Sickness, Hope*. Jesus has power over death]

Mark 11:20-24 - Withering Tree [*Sickness*. Jesus has authority if we will believe and ask]

Matthew 18:1-4 - Whoever comes to me as a humble child . . . - [*Pride, Failure, Unworthiness*. Jesus wants us to come to him as humble as children]