

1. The example of Jesus—caring for those in need

- a) Mark 1:21-34 What are your thoughts about this single day in the ministry of Jesus in Capernaum?
- b) John 5:1-9 What lesson can we learn from this Sabbath miracle about helping the helpless?
- c) Share some other examples from the ministry of Jesus of helping those in need.
- d) Why did Jesus spend more time helping the needy than teaching and preaching? (Was this also teaching and preaching?)

2. Following the example of Jesus

- a) Four friends—Luke 5:17-26
 - i) What can we learn from this story about helping a friend in need? (Mark 2:1-12)
 - ii) How did the healing of this paralytic in Capernaum impact his four friends?
- b) A Roman Centurion—Matthew 8:5-13
 - i) What does this story reveal about the Roman centurion?
 - ii) What can we learn from his example?
- c) Think of a friend in need right now. What is her/his need? How might you be able to help?

3. Reaching out to the outsider

- a) Give a definition of an outsider.
- b) What inspired counsel do we find in the Scriptures about caring

for outsiders/strangers? Deuteronomy 10:19, Leviticus 23:22, etc.

- c) Who were some people considered “outsiders” during the ministry of Jesus?
- d) Jesus cared for the outsiders.
 - i) Luke 17:11-19 – social outcasts
 - ii) John 8:2-11 – a “sinner”
 - iii) Other examples?
- e) Who are some outsiders in your community who need your care and love?
- f) Share a time when you had the privilege to help an outsider. How did this experience impact you?

4. Words of affirmation from Jesus

- a) Read Matthew 25:31-40 We know we are not saved by social action. We are saved by the grace through faith in Jesus our Savior. What is the relationship between salvation and our care for those in need?
- b) Offering a plate of food, a drink of water, some cloths, a visit to a sick person, or to a prisoner—what do all these activities have in common?
- c) Share a time you were able to participate in such a simple yet meaningful act of kindness. What lessons did you learn through that activity?

