



Sermon Discussion Guide

Matthew Smith - Project 92
May 30, 2021

Leader Preparation

1. Take some time to look over these questions ahead of time. Choose the ones that you want to make sure you cover with your group. We have highlighted what we think are **key questions by bolding them**.
2. Pray for your group and your time together as you prepare. This is so helpful!
3. When meeting online you as the leader will need to be more directive than in person. Don't be afraid to invite everyone to answer a question, invite them to share by name, and thank them when they finish. The online format requires a little more intentional orchestrating than an in-person group.
4. Try to start the gathering by getting everyone talking at least once to begin. The Hook section is great for this. When in doubt, have people share stories about their past. (How the week was, favorite memories about the topic for the day, etc). This is a great way to help your group continue to get to know one another.
5. Next, look at the Scripture and what it means. We believe Jesus is discipling people through this Word. Get people into the Scriptures and the Scriptures into people!
6. Finally, end with what God is saying to people and how God is inviting them to respond. These aren't just ideas to know but realities to live in!



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Hook - Getting to know one another

- How is everyone doing this week? This could also be an icebreaker question related to the topic for discussion.

- 1. Missions is a way of life. Matthew Smith spoke this morning about the training opportunities he has had to work with indigenous people. Missions is prayer and financial support as Kathy reported HCs Faith Promise giving. How have you participated in missions? How have you seen your family support missions?
- 2. Do you have a memory of missions (going, missions trip, supporting, praying)?

Book - Scripture

- Read the scripture, and discuss a few questions to understand **what the text is saying**.

Story of the Lepers

- **2 Kings 6:24-25**
- **2 Kings 7:5-16**

Other passages

- **Ephesians 2:1-5 - our condition and God's work through Christ**
- **John 1:12 - Receive the free gift**
- **Proverbs 24:11-12 - this message is for others too!**
- **Luke 8:39 - go and share the news**
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3. The Old Testament can shed light on our own darkness! Reread this story in the context of both ourselves and the world around us as the lepers.



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4. Connect this to any of the stories in the NT about the lepers coming to Jesus. They were at the end of their ropes, oppressed, downtrodden, ignored. How does the Gospel of the OT and the NT speak to this, speak to the purpose of missions?

Look - Connections to our world today

- This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.
5. Our world is full of wide gates, as Matthew spoke, gates that are easy to enter and open the way to destruction. What are some of those wide gates? More than just other belief systems, what are the false idols the world walks through?
 6. Find a country using <https://operationworld.org/> or the actual book if you have it, and look up the percentage of Christian in that country. That remaining percentage in the country either has not heard or has not responded to the gift of life in Christ. Spend some time praying about these countries, for workers, for the hearts of the people, for the governments, for the christians in those countries.

Took - Personal Application

- This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.
7. How do you currently participate in the spreading of the good news? You were once a leper too who had "a good day!" and found life through



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Christ! (2 Kings 5-8) Are you burying the gold and rejoicing in your wealth (v. 8) or turning back to the suffering world to spread the news (v. 9-16)?

8. What are other ways to participate? (Pray, give, listen, share, volunteer, befriend, take a walk, etc.) Brainstorm, listen to stories of others in the group and how they engage with missions, commit to continuing your missions work or commit to doing something new.

Time of Prayer

9. Take some time this week to pray for one another. Pray about God's true identity as a loving father who is deeply interested in you and desires your well being.