

Life Group Material – or notes for your own study

## Living the Kingdom Way (Luke)

Week beginning 21/10/2018

### Healing and faith - Luke 8:40-56

## Session

# 7

### Sharing our stories

Spend a bit of time sharing any ways in which you have 'Lived the Kingdom Way' over the last few weeks. Have you done anything differently? Have you seen God at work in any new ways? Where have you lived out Jesus' manifesto, 'become the least', 'loved your enemies', 'counted the cost' or 'carried a friend to Jesus'?

**Read Luke 8:40-56 through together and then have a couple of minutes' silence, asking the Holy Spirit to speak to you through this passage.**

- What strikes you most when you read it?
- How does it make you feel?
- Why do you think that healing was a big part of Jesus' ministry? (you might like to reflect back to Luke 4:18-19 and look at Mark 1:41, Matthew 16:31, John 10:37-38, Acts 10:38).
- In what different ways did Jesus heal (don't just think of physical healing)?

Think about the different characters in the story.

- How do they express their faith and respond to Jesus?
- Which one do you most relate to and why?

Thinking about healing today...

- Do you believe that Jesus still heals today? Have you any experience of this or any stories to share?

- The hard question... How do we respond when God does not appear to heal as we would like him to?

To help with the last difficult question, Watch the interview with Justin Welby and Paul Harcourt [www.youtube.com/watch?v=K8XiBlzD-aQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K8XiBlzD-aQ)

- How does this idea of the 'here but not yet' of the Kingdom... the fact that the we get 'glimpses of the Kingdom that is breaking in' help us wrestle with this difficult issues of why we don't see everyone healed?

Thinking about praying and healing...

In response to this issue, Ellie Mumford says... *'More people are healed when we pray than when we don't so I'm going to keep praying...'*

and Robbie Dawkins reminds us that most importantly when we are praying for healing, we need to pray for people to know God's love... *'Healing isn't at the centre of what we do – God's love is... what we're ministering to people is the presence of God. There's power in the presence of God for healing and deliverance, but our goal in everything is for people to encounter the reality of God's presence and to experience His love for themselves.'* (*Doing what Jesus Did* p136)

- How do you respond to these statements about praying healing for others?

### Prayer and response

In a time of quiet, be open to God and ask him to show you what he wants to say to you through this passage.

Take time to offer prayer for healing for each other or for others that you know.