

Instructions:

Group leaders, take some time before your gathering to look over these questions. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you pick 3-5 questions to discuss that pertain to your group's unique style and needs.



Series description:

In Jesus' time, there was a long list of "outsiders" - people who for one reason or another weren't supposed to be close to God. But Jesus changed all that. Luke's gospel is a story of Jesus going to the margins of society to share good news with those who were overlooked, forgotten, and excluded. That is good news to anyone who, from time to time, feels like they may not belong. And it is a challenge for the church today to go and do likewise.

Message description:

In Luke 13:10–17, Jesus heals a woman with a physical condition that caused her spine to curve forward, leading to inflammation, stiffness, extreme pain, and exhaustion for eighteen years. In a society that marginalized people with disabilities, this woman would have been largely invisible. Yet Jesus sees her, calls her forward, and heals her. The real miracle in the story is that Jesus sees her when everyone else would have ignored her, and as a result the woman is finally able to stand up, not just physically, but socially too; to be seen and included in the community.

Jesus intentionally notices and includes those whom society overlooks, including those with disabilities. And while we might frame it differently today than in the ancient world, barriers to true belonging still exist for those who live with disabilities of any kind. Following the example of Christ, the church is called to remove these barriers and to create communities where people with disabilities are seen, understood, valued, and included.

Scripture: Luke 13:10-17

Questions based on this week's teaching:

1. The story of Ethan highlights the importance of belonging. When have you experienced a moment where someone helped you feel included or valued? How did it impact you?
2. In Luke 13, Jesus notices the woman and calls her forward. Why do you think the act of *seeing* someone is such an important part of this story?
3. People with disabilities often face barriers to belonging even today. What kinds of barriers might exist in communities, workplaces, or churches that make people feel excluded?
4. What practical ways can our church or small group help people living with disabilities feel seen, welcomed, and included? Or like the team running with Ethan, what does it look like in everyday life to "run alongside" someone who may be struggling or marginalized?