WOODVALE
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Connect Group Sermon Aligned Discussion Guide.

Series Title: **God of No Limits**
Key Scripture: 2 Kings 7:1-11
Recorded Sermon: www.woodvale.ca/pastservices/god-of-no-limits
Date + Speaker: September 29, 2024 Pastor Mark Scarr

Starter Question: Of the following animals which is your 'favourite' and why?
Chimpanzee, Otter, Racoon, Cat, Ostrich, or Armadillo
These animals represent animals that either appear harmless but are nasty when cornered OR completely hide when afraid or threatened.

The Big Idea from the sermon and for this discussion is related to that – *Don't let doubts, dysfunction, disappointment or despair cause you to LIMIT what God would do in and through your life.*

Discussion Questions:

1. Read the passage and invite members to identify WHO the main characters were and share what they know about them. Do the same for WHEN and WHERE. Invite any other general, brief observations from the text.

2. Have the members share what they know about leprosy? Read Leviticus 13:46. What would some contemporary equivalents be? (You will come back to this.)

3. Samaria was a city under siege. What tactic had the enemy used to force them to surrender? What were the consequences? (Some are quite grisly) Pastor Mark introduced the idea we can experience a 'spiritual siege'. What might that look like in our lives and what are the consequences?

4. Review the text paying attention to the facts versus what was actually happening. How were the king, guard and lepers 'limited'. Invite the members to share how they limit God and why.

5. How does knowing that it was lepers that witnessed and then announced the miracle/good news make the members feel about their circumstances and God's provision and why?

6. To close the meeting ask the question the lepers asked: “Why stay ‘here’ and ‘die’?” Take several significant moments to pray for one another. And remind one another of this verse: “Let the redeemed of the Lord SAY SO, those He redeemed from trouble.” Psalms 107:2

Diving Deeper:



Additional resources appealing to those concentrating on emotional health and healing. Depression and hopelessness are not to be minimized nor dismissed but it can be addressed.
https://www.cru.org/us/en/blog/life-and-relationships/emotions/to-the-depressed-christian.html
and
https://www.psychologytoday.com/ca/blog/anxiety-files/202104/how-to-overcome-hopelessness



Additional resources appealing to those concentrating on service, tasks, and activities. Here are tips for helping members through adversity:

Opportunities to minister to Individuals

- Check on the well-being of your fellow group members (a text or call can go a long way)
- Run errands for those who cannot do so
- Listen to those in need and just sit with them

Opportunities to Minister to the Community

- Participate in the home church’s support ministries
- Share recommended resources with discernment
- Support Christian helping ministries financially



Additional resources appealing to those groups with a more studious or intellectual bent. This link takes you to the website of a mission that ministers to lepers today and has a lot of information to provide context.
https://www.leprosymission.org/what-is-leprosy/

<u>Leader's notes:</u>
The starter question is a fun 'get to know you' opportunity but is related to the big idea because of what the animals have in common.

1. *Be prepared with some context AND also to note that some are VERY well known and others are completely anonymous.*

2. *Use the link above to learn more about leprosy. Modern day equivalents might include: mental illness, individuals experiencing gender confusion, individuals of other faith traditions, even people from different cultures or socio-economic class. We want members to think about who they or society considers 'unclean' today.*

3. *Cutting off the food supply – the inhabitants were starving. Resorting to cannibalism. Inflation was sky high. Despair was the norm. Depending on what members share it may be necessary to pause after this question and lift all that has been shared up to the Lord in prayer.*

4. *Fact: The king of Israel was so weak he could not stand on his own. Fact: What Elisha prophesied was impossible in the natural. Reality: The enemy had no idea how weak King Jehoram was and had run away thinking a mighty army was descending on them!*

5. *He uses imperfect us to accomplish His kingdom purposes! All the time.*

6. *No one needs to stay 'stuck' in despair or dysfunction if they don't want to. The enemy is a liar and would like us each to think our case is hopeless. That is NOT true. This promise is for everyone. "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10*