

Group/Individual Study

Series - "Love Does": "Love loves the lonely"

Passages: Mark 1:40-45, Psalm 68:6

REFLECT on the message heard on Sunday, 4/15

1. Read Mark 1:40-45. What do you know about what it was like to be a leper in Jesus' day? (Physically, emotionally, spiritually)
2. Name all the ways that Jesus' compassionate response flew in the face of how society would have said He **should have** dealt with him? Name all the layers of healing that Jesus encounters with this man brought to him.
3. Who are today's "lepers?" What people groups are "invisible" to many of us? What do you see in Jesus' attitudes and actions towards people on the margins that you want to incorporate into your life of faith?
4. Tell of a time in your life when you were deeply lonely. Did your relationship with Jesus help you get through it? Did your faith benefit in any way from that lonely season? Who were the people who helped you then? How?
5. In Psalm 68:6 the Bible says, "God places the lonely in families." How have you seen Him do this? Have you ever seen Him use small groups/the Church/God's people to accomplish this? Explain?
6. Tell about the most positive experience you've had in caring for someone who was lonely? Are there any lonely people in your world that you feel God may be nudging you to care for and reach out to? Are there things you heard on Sunday that might help you do this?