



LIMITLESS

LIFE



in this series

GOD'S LIMITLESS POWER

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OUR LIMITLESS REBELLION

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GOD'S LIMITLESS GRACE

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**JESUS' LIMITLESS
COMPASSION**

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**JESUS' LIMITLESS
REVELATION**



LIMITLESS

more LIFE resources available at
toolkit.salvos.org.au/youthandkids



1/5

GOD'S LIMITLESS POWER



How do you view God?

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Jeremiah 10:12-13
Psalm 65:5-7
Psalm 89:12-14

Write your prayer down and pray it this week to remind yourself to praise God for how powerful He is and not only ask God for things.

2/5

OUR LIMITLESS REBELLION



Do you think that rebellion against God is an issue in our world?

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Isaiah 53:6
Romans 3:23
Romans 3:11-14

Romans 1:18-21
Romans 3:10-18
1 John 1:8-9

Take time to reflect on your life and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas where you are rebelling against Him. Pray for forgiveness and that God would change you.



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NOTES

Do you feel "untouchable" to God or others?
Chat to someone you trust about this.
Think about someone in your life who is
considered "untouchable" - how can you show
compassion to them?

Mark 1:40-45
John 8:1-11

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

How does Jesus compassion towards others
make you feel about Him?



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JESUS' LIMITLESS COMPASSION

4/5

What are some spiritual blind spots
you've recognised in your life, or
you've had someone point out to you.
How are you going to make sure that these things
don't become dangerous to your faith?

John 9:1-2

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Imagine being blind from birth never having seen
anything - how would you feel?



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JESUS' LIMITLESS REVELATION

5/5

Choose one way to share with someone God's
grace in the gospel this week.

Romans 6:23
Ephesians 2:1-10
1 Peter 1:3-5
Colossians 1:12-14

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

How do you feel about grace? Have you
experienced God's grace before?



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GOD'S LIMITLESS GRACE

3/5

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GOD'S LIMITLESS POWER

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summary

God's character is vast and deep. This week we will be looking at His unlimited power.

When we understand God's power more it helps us to foster a correct view of God, a correct view of ourselves and understand how we can relate to God.



you will need

- *Appendix 1* printed and cut up

If you choose activity 1 in "Involve":

- Blank paper for each member of the group
- 1 pen or texta per person for writing

If you choose activity 2 in "Involve":

- Pre-prepared prayer points

If you choose activity 3 in "Involve":

- Print and cut up *appendix 2*

keep in mind

- Today's life guide is mainly aimed at looking at God's power in creating this world. Obviously God's power extends to many other areas – most specifically, His power to save us from our sin. His power to save us will be the focus in guide 3. Feel free to talk about God saving us, but try not to get side tracked – it's coming!



CONNECT



To help your group connect on a relaxed level, spend some time discussing the following:

- » Give your week so far a score out of 5. Why did you give it that score?
- » Would you rather have a head the size of a watermelon or the size of a tennis ball? Why?
- » What is one thing recently that has made you laugh?

DISCUSS



- » If you had to explain God to someone who has never heard about him, what three words would use?



Remember there are no wrong answers here. They are sharing their own perspective. Encourage and affirm those who share honestly.

Today we are going to look at God's power.

- » Have you ever felt powerful? What were you doing?
- » What is the most amazing thing you have ever created? How did you feel when you finished making it?
- » If you could have limitless power for a day what would you do?
- » Who are some of the most powerful people in the world?
- » What makes them powerful?

('Discuss' continues on the next page)



read the bible



Cut up the following passages from the *appendix 1* and give them to individuals in your group to read aloud.

Jeremiah 10:12-13 (NIV)

Psalms 65:5-7 (NIV)

Psalms 89:12-14 (NIV)

- » What line or words stand out to you most?
- » What do these verses tell you about God's power?
- » Does anything here surprise you?
- » Can you think of a time when you saw or heard about the great power of God? What happened?
- » What kinds of things does God use His power for? Does this surprise you? Why or why not?
- » Why do you think God uses His power to create?
- » How does it make you feel to know our God is so powerful?
- » Do you pray as though God's power is limitless? Why or why not?
- » How do you think your prayers would change if you truly believed He had unlimited power?

INVOLVE



In the Bible when we read about God's limitless power it is often someone praising God in prayer or speaking to people about how amazing God is. The three passages of scripture that we looked at today are exactly this, prayers to God or statements to others about God. When we pray we can acknowledge God and who He is – this is praising Him.

('Involve' continues on the next page)



Choose ONE of the 3 activities that you think best suits your group:

activity 1 - praise prayer



Remind your group that prayers don't need to use fancy words. They can relax and talk to God like they would a close friend.

Give everyone a blank piece of paper.

Take some time to write down a prayer praising God for His power.

Once everyone is finished, encourage all group members to read their prayers out loud, one after the other.

activity 2 - prayer requests

Pre-prepare some prayer requests (bring along newspaper clippings or prayer requests from your church family etc). As a group, spend some time praying that God's limitless power would be seen in each situation.

activity 3 - prayers of thanks

Scatter the cut up boxes from *appendix 2* on the floor/table. Ask each group member to choose one of the topics that they are thankful for. Go around the group and thank God that His power is seen in that area.

APPLY



What is one thing that you are going to do differently this week based on what we've discussed?

AND/OR

If you wrote down your prayer, take it home and pray it this week.



LEADER NOTES

- The Salvation Army's second doctrine says: "There is only one God, who is infinitely perfect, the Creator, Preserver, and Governor of all things, who is the only proper object for religious worship."

FOLLOW UP

About 3 days after your group has met, follow up all your group members and encourage them about what they learnt in LIFE group.
You could ask them:

How are you going at recognising God's limitless power in the world and praising Him for it?



APPENDIX 1



Jeremiah 10:12-13 (NIV)

¹² ...God made the earth by his power; he founded the world by his wisdom and stretched out the heavens by his understanding. ¹³ When he thunders, the waters in the heavens roar; he makes clouds rise from the ends of the earth. He sends lightning with the rain and brings out the wind from his storehouses.

Psalms 65:5-7 (NIV)

⁵ You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds, God our Saviour, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas, ⁶ who formed the mountains by your power, having armed yourself with strength, ⁷ who stilled the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the turmoil of the nations.

Psalms 89:12-14 (NIV)

¹² You created the north and the south; Tabor and Hermon sing for joy at your name. ¹³ Your arm is endowed with power; your hand is strong, your right hand exalted. ¹⁴ Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; love and faithfulness go before you.



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APPENDIX 2



God's power in raising
Jesus from the dead

The power of God's love

God's power in saving
us from our sins

God's power in us
through the Holy Spirit

God's power meaning he
can answer our prayers

God's powerful rule over
all creation

God's power in creating
the physical world we
see around us

Changes in people by
God's power

Miracles happening by
God's power



2/5

OUR LIMITLESS REBELLION

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summary

We were created by an all-powerful God and yet our natural inclination is to rebel, to not give God authority over our lives and to try to be the ruler of our own lives instead.

This is rebellion against God, it is also known as 'sin'.

The Bible tells us that every one of us has sinned and is in need of a rescuer.



you will need

- 1 highlighter or coloured pen per person
- Enough copies of *appendix 1* for your group OR
Enough copies of *appendix 2* for your group
(see "Discuss" to decide which is appropriate
for your group)

If you choose activity 2 in "Involve":

- Enough copies of *appendix 3* for your group

keep in mind

- During this session group members might become aware of sin or 'rebellion' they hadn't previously noticed. Be ready to talk more with members who need it.



CONNECT



To help your group connect on a relaxed level, spend some time discussing the following:

- » Which do you think is better: Krispy Kreme or Donut King?
- » Where is your favourite place? What do you like about it?
- » Who are you praying for at the moment that they might come to faith?

DISCUSS



read the bible

Use the verses from *appendix 1* OR *appendix 2* depending on your group. Ask volunteers to read them out loud.



If your group has low comprehension and literacy skills use *appendix 1*.
If they have good comprehension and literacy skills use *appendix 2*.

(*appendix 1*)

Isaiah 53:6 (MSG)
Romans 3:23 (TLB)
Romans 3:11-14 (MSG)

(*appendix 2*)

Romans 1:18-23 (CEV)
Romans 3:10-18 (CEV)

(See 'Discuss' questions on the next page)



- » Do you think this is an accurate description of people today? Why/why not?
- » What line stands out to you the most? What makes that line stand out to you?
- » What are some of the things humans do to rebel against God?
- » Do you think the world would be different if people had obeyed God?
- » How do these verses make you feel?
- » What do you think is the consequence of our rebellion against God?



We don't want the members of your group to feel condemned or hopeless! Let them know that next week we will be exploring the amazing truth that Jesus has rescued us!

INVOLVE



Choose an activity (or you could do both if you have time):

activity I - imagination exercise

Ask your group to close their eyes and imagine that they are the creator of a world.

They can make it however they like and put whatever they want into it, except people. (Allow 2 minutes)

Have them open their eyes and briefly describe to the rest of the group what their world physically looks like and what would be in it, animals, plants, landmarks etc.

(This activity continues on the next page)



Have them close their eyes again, and read out the following scenario:

"You're looking down on your world and you can see that everything you have made is perfect. You've created a perfect landscape and everything looks new and lovely. Then you decide that you want to fill this wonderful, new world with humans so that they can enjoy the world and enjoy having you as their creator. You are the powerful creator so you make people and you tell them that you love them. You give them rules to live by so that they can best love you and love others. Everything is working in perfect harmony and everyone is loving one another and praising you because you've created a good and lovely world.

{Pause and let this sink in}

Now imagine that all the people in your world that you have created, and that you rule over decide that they don't want to love you or serve you as the creator. They decide that they know better than you. They ignore you and pretend you don't exist. Some people know the good rules that you have set up but they purposely do the opposite. Some even say that they hate you and they don't ever want anything to do with you.

{Pause again}

Ask the group:

- » How did you feel when your humans started rebelling against you? Get the group to open their eyes and tell you how this scenario made them feel.
- » What would you decide to do as a result of the humans rebelling against you? (Leave them to their own devices? Punish them? Destroy them? Wipe clean and start again?)

activity 2 - what is sin?

Hand out a copy of the "What is sin?" quote by John Piper to every group member (see *appendix 3*). Read it out loud together.

(This activity continues on the next page)



Take 3 minutes in silence sitting and asking the Holy Spirit:
"What is one area where I'm rebelling against you as God?"

(Encourage your group to refer back to the quote if they find that helpful).

Ask a volunteer from your group to read **1 John 1:8-9** from their Bible or iPad:

Pray together. Create space for each person to confess their sins and thank God for his forgiveness and love.



Remember, we don't want to leave our group members feeling horrible. Make sure you get a good balance between people realising their sin but also knowing they can find complete forgiveness in Jesus. Remind them this is what we will be looking at next week.

APPLY



What is one thing that you are going to do differently this week based on what we've discussed?

AND/OR

Take home the quote from Piper and put it somewhere visible (maybe next to your bed, at your desk, or in your wallet). Take time throughout the week to ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas where you are rebelling against him.



LEADER NOTES

- The Salvation Army's 5th doctrine says: "Our first parents were created in a state of innocence, but by their disobedience lost their purity and happiness. In consequence of their fall all people have become sinners, totally depraved, and as such are justly exposed to the wrath of God."
- Even though the focus of this guide is on our sin, we know that this is not the end of the story. Take time to ensure that your group members understand that Jesus has rescued us from sin!
- You might like to share the following illustration with your group: A helpful way to think about sin is to imagine an Olympic dais. God's rightful place in our lives is the number 1 position, humanity belongs in the number 2 position and we rule over creation in number 3. This is the order in which God created the world. Sin is when we push God out of the number 1 position and put ourselves there.

FOLLOW UP

About 3 days after your group has met, follow up all your group members and encourage them about what they learnt in LIFE group. You could ask them:

How are you going at recognising when you rebel against God? Has anything come up that I can pray for you?



APPENDIX 1



Isaiah 53:6 (MSG)

⁶ We're all like sheep who've wandered off and gotten lost.
We've all done our own thing, gone our own way.

Romans 3:23 (TLB)

²³ Yes, all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious ideal.

Romans 3:11-14 (MSG)

¹¹⁻¹⁴ There's nobody living right, not even one,
nobody who knows the score, nobody alert for God.
They've all taken the wrong turn;
they've all wandered down blind alleys.
No one's living right;
I can't find a single one.



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APPENDIX 2



Romans 1:18-23 (CEV)

¹⁸ From heaven God shows how angry he is with all the wicked and evil things that sinful people do to crush the truth. ¹⁹ They know everything that can be known about God, because God has shown it all to them. ²⁰ God's eternal power and character cannot be seen. But from the beginning of creation, God has shown what these are like by all he has made. That's why those people don't have any excuse. ²¹ They know about God, but they don't honour him or even thank him. Their thoughts are useless, and their stupid minds are in the dark. ²² They claim to be wise, but they are fools. ²³ They don't worship the glorious and eternal God. Instead, they worship idols that are made to look like humans who cannot live forever, and like birds, animals, and reptiles.

Romans 3:10-18 (CEV)

¹⁰ The Scriptures tell us, "No one is acceptable to God!" ¹¹ Not one of them understands or even searches for God. ¹² They have all turned away and are worthless. There isn't one person who does right. ¹³ Their words are like an open pit, and their tongues are good only for telling lies. Each word is as deadly as the fangs of a snake, ¹⁴ and they say nothing but bitter curses. ¹⁵ These people quickly become violent. ¹⁶ Wherever they go, they leave ruin and destruction. ¹⁷ They don't know how to live in peace. ¹⁸ They don't even fear God."



APPENDIX 3



“What is sin?

- It is the glory of God not honoured. (1)
- The holiness of God not revered. (2)
- The greatness of God not admired. (3)
- The power of God not praised. (4)
- The truth of God not sought. (5)
- The wisdom of God not esteemed. (6)
- The beauty of God not treasured. (7)
- The goodness of God not savoured. (8)
- The faithfulness of God not trusted. (9)
- The commandments of God not obeyed. (10)
- The justice of God not respected. (11)
- The wrath of God not feared. (12)
- The grace of God not cherished. (13)
- The presence of God not prized. (14)
- The person of God not loved. (15)

That is sin.”

John Piper Sermon: “The Greatest Thing in the World: An Overview of Romans 1–7”



3/5

GOD'S LIMITLESS GRACE

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summary

God did not leave us in our state of rebellion with nowhere to go and no way to fix the problem of our sin. Instead, God provided a way for us to no longer be in rebellion against Him.

Through Jesus death on the cross, God opens a way for us to be forgiven. God didn't have to do this. But He did. This is how amazing His limitless mercy and grace are!



you will need

- 2 pieces of butcher's paper
- Pens or textas for the group to share
- (Optional) *appendix 1* printed

If you choose activity 3 in "Involve":

- 1 piece of butcher's paper

keep in mind

Group members may be feeling the burden of sin and rebellion from last week's guide. This session is freeing and liberating as we look at the incredible way God has saved us. Make sure this week is all about grace!



CONNECT



To help your group connect on a relaxed level, spend some time discussing the following:

- » What's the worst thing you've ever tasted?
- » When you were a child what was your favourite toy?
- » Can you remember what the favourite place of the person next to you was? (Only ask if you asked this question last week.)

DISCUSS



drawing exercise

On one of the pieces of butcher's paper draw two people figures. Label one "before receiving God's grace" and the other "after receiving God's grace". (see the example in *appendix 2*)

read the bible



Ask volunteers to read the following verses out loud (if you would like, you can print them from *appendix 1*):

Romans 6:23 (NIV)
Ephesians 2:1-10 (CEV)

1 Peter 1:3-5 (CEV)
Colossians 1:12-14 (CEV)

Have members of your group write down characteristics from the passages that match each figure.

('Discuss' questions continue on the next page)



- » If you could describe what God has done for us in one word, which word would you use?
- » Take another look at the 'before and after' drawing. Which part do you find most amazing?
- » Read **Ephesians 2:8** again. How would you say this in your own words? How does this verse make you feel?
- » Has someone ever given you something for nothing? What was it, and how did you feel when you received it? Was it easy to accept, or did you feel like you had to pay them back? Do you find God's grace easy to accept?
- » According to these verses, what do WE need to do to be rescued?

INVOLVE



Pick ONE or TWO of the following activities that suit your group:

activity 1 - accepting God's grace

Are there any group members who would like to make a decision to receive God's gift of grace today? Create opportunity for this and spend some time praying for one another.

activity 2 - sharing God's grace with others

What God has done for us is fantastic news, it is worth sharing with everyone we know!

As a group, make a list of different ways you could share this good news with people (e.g. telling friends, a speech at school, inviting someone to church, facebook, giving someone a book).

('Involve' continues on the next page)



activity 3 - two people

Share with the group 2 people who you would like to reach with the message of grace and salvation. Write down everyone in the group's name on a big piece of paper and next to their name write the two names of the people they want to share the gospel with.

APPLY



What is one thing that you are going to do differently this week based on what we've discussed?

OR

(If you did activity 2) Choose one of thing off the list of ways you could share the gospel with others that you will do this week.

OR

Pray for opportunities to share the gospel with your two friends



LEADER NOTES

- The Salvation Army's sixth doctrine says: "The Lord Jesus Christ has by his suffering and death made an atonement for the whole world so that whosoever will may be saved."

FOLLOW UP

About 3 days after your group has met, follow up all your group members and encourage them about what they learnt in LIFE group.
You could ask them:

"Have you had any opportunities to share the gospel this week?"

Ask if they have been able to speak to _____ [insert name(s)]
about Jesus and how it went.



APPENDIX 1



Romans 6:23 (NIV)

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord

Ephesians 2:1-10 (CEV)

¹In the past you were dead because you sinned and fought against God. ²You followed the ways of this world and obeyed the devil. He rules the world, and his spirit has power over everyone who doesn't obey God. ³Once we were also ruled by the selfish desires of our bodies and minds. We had made God angry, and we were going to be punished like everyone else. ⁴⁻⁵ But God was merciful! We were dead because of our sins, but God loved us so much that he made us alive with Christ, and God's wonderful kindness is what saves you. ⁶God raised us from death to life with Christ Jesus, and he has given us a place beside Christ in heaven. ⁷ God did this so that in the future world he could show how truly good and kind he is to us because of what Christ Jesus has done. ⁸ You were saved by faith in God, who treats us much better than we deserve. This is God's gift to you, and not anything you have done on your own. ⁹ It isn't something you have earned, so there is nothing you can brag about. ¹⁰ God planned for us to do good things and to live as he has always wanted us to live. That's why he sent Christ to make us what we are.

1 Peter 1:3-5 (CEV)

³ Praise God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is so good, and by raising Jesus from death, he has given us new life and a hope that lives on. ⁴ God has something stored up for you in heaven, where it will never decay or be ruined or disappear. ⁵ You have faith in God, whose power will protect you until the last day. Then he will save you, just as he has always planned to do.

Colossians 1:12-14 (CEV)

¹² I pray that you will be grateful to God for letting you have part in what he has promised his people in the kingdom of light. ¹³ God rescued us from the dark power of Satan and brought us into the kingdom of his dear Son, ¹⁴ who forgives our sins and sets us free.



APPENDIX 2



This could be an example of what your butcher's paper might look like:


Before receiving God's grace

in darkness

ruled by selfish desires

sinful

living under the rule of the devil

A simple stick figure with a circular head and a Y-shaped body, representing a person in a state of spiritual darkness.


After receiving God's grace

raised from death to life

living in the light

living in the Kingdom of the Son

has faith in God

A simple stick figure with a circular head and a Y-shaped body, representing a person in a state of spiritual light.



4/5

JESUS' LIMITLESS COMPASSION

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summary

Jesus limitless compassion is on display as He heals a man who has leprosy. How wonderful it must have been for this man to experience Jesus care towards him and to be made well!

This LIFE guide explores the limitlessness of Jesus' compassion and his love towards us all.



you will need

- *Appendix 1* printed 3 times for members of your group to read out the passage as a skit.

If you choose activity 1 in "Involve":

- One piece of butcher's paper for brainstorming
- Pens and textas for the group to brainstorm with

keep in mind

- As you run this particular LIFE group, make sure that you are sensitive to the people in your group. Many people struggle to feel accepted by God, thinking that their sin, their brokenness or other factors make them completely "untouchable" even to God. Make sure you are available to love and care for any group member who may be feeling like this.



CONNECT



To help your group connect on a relaxed level, spend some time discussing the following:

- » If you had to choose, would you rather go sky-diving or bungee jumping?
- » What is your favourite potato chip flavour? Why is this your favourite?
- » What was your favourite story as a child?

DISCUSS



- » Have you ever felt judged or left out because people thought there was something 'wrong' with you? How did that make you feel?
- » Can you think of anyone in society who is judged or left out because they are unwell or have done something wrong? Why do you think people try to stay away from them rather than helping them?

Print out *appendix 1* for your group and ask a get people to read out the story **Mark 1:40-45 (HSCB)** as the different characters (Narrator, Jesus and the Leper).

The man in this story had a serious skin disease called leprosy. In Jesus' day lepers were nicknamed 'untouchables'. Leprosy was highly contagious so nobody would EVER touch a leper.

('Discuss' questions continue on the next page)



- » What do you think it would be like to never experience physical contact? What sorts of things would you miss out on? How do you think that would affect you emotionally?
- » How would you feel if people avoided you all the time and ran in the other direction whenever they saw you?

This was the leper's experience of life, isolated, alone and never having any physical contact with people. Then he sees Jesus.

- » What do you think the leper was thinking or feeling as he called out to Jesus?
- » Would you have called out to Jesus and asked Him to help you? Why/Why not?
- » Do you think Jesus could have healed the man without touching him? Why do you think he chose to touch this man?
- » Why do you think Jesus healed the leper? What might have been His motivations & reasons? (See **Mark 1:41-42**)
- » How do you think Jesus feels about people in society who need help but are shunned instead?

further reading

If your group has time and would like to look at another story of Jesus showing compassion; have a read of **John 8:1-11**. This is the story of a woman caught in adultery who is brought before Jesus.

- » What do you think was going to happen to this woman?
- » Jesus is clearly 'the one without sin' in this story and yet He doesn't condemn her. Why do you think this might be? (He doesn't condemn her because He is headed to the cross to take the punishment for sin and therefore He can show compassion to her)



DISCUSS



Choose ONE of the following activities for your group:

activity 1 - untouchables

Brainstorm as a group people in our society and our own lives who are sometimes treated like "untouchables".

Once you have brainstormed share these verses with your group:

1 John 2:6 "If we say we are his, we must follow the example of Christ" (CEV)

Ephesians 5:1-2 "Do as God does. After all, you are his dear children. Let love be your guide. Christ loved us and offered his life for us as a sacrifice that pleases God." (CEV)

Jesus calls us, as His followers and children, to live as He would, to imitate Him in our lives. Discuss some practical ways we can show compassion to those in need.

activity 2 - quiet reflection

Jesus is limitlessly compassionate. He is compassionate to those who have sinned because He has taken their sin for them at the cross and He is also limitlessly compassionate to those who are struggling in life. He doesn't run from us or cast us out, but instead He comes close to us and wants us to experience His compassion, and love in our lives.

Take some time to reflect quietly on your own life and how Jesus has been compassionate to you.

(Activity 2 continues on the next page)



Some thinking points to help:

- » The Book of Common Prayer says that we have sinned against God in "word, thought and deed", how wonderful that He has shown us compassion in forgiving us.
- » What things are you embarrassed or ashamed of in your own life? Have you felt Jesus compassion in those areas? If not ask the group to pray over you in this area.



The Book of Common Prayer is the Anglican prayer book. It has instructions for corporate worship and different special events such as Baptism and Marriage. It includes prayers and direction for different readings of Scripture.

APPLY



Choose some "untouchables" in your life who you will work at showing the compassion of Jesus to this week.

OR

If you feel "untouchable" to God or others, share this with your LIFE group leader or someone you trust and commit this to God in prayer this week.

FOLLOW UP

About 3 days after your group has met, follow up all your group members and encourage them about what they learnt in LIFE group.
You could ask them:

Have you noticed any people in your life that you would normally want to run from?
How are you going at showing compassion to them?



APPENDIX 1



Mark 1:40-45 (HCSB)

NARRATOR Then a man with a serious skin disease came to Him and, on his knees, begged Him:

LEPER "If You are willing, You can make me clean."

NARRATOR Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out His hand and touched him.

JESUS "I am willing," He told him. "Be made clean."

NARRATOR Immediately the disease left him, and he was healed. Then He sternly warned him and sent him away at once, telling him,

JESUS "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go and show yourself to the priest, and offer what Moses prescribed for your cleansing, as a testimony to them."

NARRATOR Yet he went out and began to proclaim it widely and to spread the news, with the result that Jesus could no longer enter a town openly. But He was out in deserted places, and they would come to Him from everywhere.



5/5

JESUS' LIMITLESS REVELATION

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summary

To be blind from birth would be to have never experienced a beautiful sunset, to never know what the faces of your family and friends look like.

Jesus comes into the world revealing Himself as the Light and showing us His purpose. He heals a man of his physical blindness whilst speaking into the bigger issue of our spiritual blindness.



you will need

If you choose activity 1 in "Involve":

- Blindfolds for half the group (preferably really dark material to block out as much light as possible)
- Cards for a game, or uno cards, 2 different pictures of a beautiful scene, or item, (such as a pen and paper or a ball) to help you do a "normal activity"

If you choose activity 2 in "Involve":

- A piece of paper for each member of your group

keep in mind

- It can sometimes be tricky to recognise that we are spiritually blind, remember to pray that the Holy Spirit would shine the light of His Word into your life and the lives of your LIFE Group members.



CONNECT



To help your group connect on a relaxed level, spend some time discussing the following:

- » Does your name have a special meaning and/or were you named after someone special?
- » What is the hardest thing you have ever done?
- » If you could ask Christ to change one problem in the world today, what would you like him to change?

DISCUSS



- » What is the most beautiful thing your eyes have ever seen?
- » What are some of the challenges that you think people who are born blind would face in today's society?

read the bible



Ask one member of your group to read aloud from their Bible:

John 9:1-12

('Discuss' questions continue on the next page)



- » In Jesus' day there were no organisations or tools in place to help people with visual impairments. What do you think blind people in that day would have missed out on?
- » Imagine for a moment that you are man in the story who has been blind from birth, how do you think you would have felt about life? How do you think you would have felt after just having been healed? What emotions would you be feeling as you see for the first time? How do you feel towards Jesus? How do you feel towards the crowd? Where are you planning to go first? What are you most eager to see or do?
- » Do you think the point of Jesus healing this man is only to demonstrate that He can cure physical blindness? Do you think there is something more going on here? If yes, what might it be?
- » Right before Jesus performs this miracle he says: 'I Am the Light of the World'. Why do you think He chose to say this? What do you think he meant?
- » John Newton was a slave trader with no religious affiliation until he encountered Jesus' amazing love for himself. He wrote the famous song Amazing Grace and included the line: "I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind but now I see." What do you think he meant by this?

The phrase "spiritual blindness" refers to someone who is blind to the light that Jesus shines on our life. Spiritual blindness is not seeing Jesus as the King of this world and not accepting God as the only one who can deliver us from this desperate situation.

- » What kind of things do you think keep people spiritually blind?
- » (For people in your group who are Christians) What was it like when Jesus made you see spiritually? Do you remember what you felt like as Jesus shined His light of revelation on your life?
- » (For everyone) Is there something specific in your life keeping you spiritually blind? Would you like to have Jesus shine His light on your life? Why or why not?



If people answer "yes", stop and pray for them - this is HUGE! Make sure that you spend time explaining the gospel to them and what it means to be a Christian. See the Leader Note if you'd like some guidance on what to share.



INVOLVE



Choose ONE of the following activities for your group:

activity 1 - blindfolded

Blindfold half of your group and have the rest of the group go about doing a normal activity, maybe something like getting tea or coffee, or playing a game (uno, snap etc) or talking about an amazing thing that they can see (you could show them a picture of beautiful scenery and have them discuss it).

Finish your 'normal activity' and then remove the blindfolds and have the blindfolded people discuss how they felt whilst the activity was happening.

Swap roles, blindfold the other half of the group and repeat some similar activity and then ask them to discuss how they felt.

activity 2 - spiritual blind spots

When you drive a car, there is a blind spot where cars in the lane beside you disappear from your view. At this point they can become quite dangerous because you might miss seeing them. It is the same in our lives.

Even though as Christians Jesus had revealed Himself to us, we can still have blind spots. Every now and then we need to take a good look around and see where our spiritual blind spots might be. Our spiritual blind spots might be places where we struggle to see the truth in our lives, particular sins that we are struggling with, parts of our life that we haven't given to Jesus etc.

Sometimes other people need to point them out to us, this is where it is good to have a mentor or accountability partner who you can openly and honestly share life with.

Write down any spiritual blind spots you see in your life and write down the name of one person you trust who you will ask if they can see any blind spots in your life.



APPLY



What is one thing that you are going to do differently this week based on what we've discussed?

OR

(From activity 2) What were the spiritual blind spots that you discovered when you looked at your life or when you talked with someone about it? What are some ways this week that you are going to make sure that they don't become dangerous to your faith?



LEADERS NOTES

- If a group member says they want to be given spiritual sight make sure you are ready to share with them the core truths of the gospel. There is no formula, but the important points to include are:
 - We sinned and as a result we can't be in relationship with God
 - God sent Jesus, the perfect one, to die on a cross and pay the penalty for sin (death)
 - Jesus rose and that means we can have a relationship with God if we believe in Jesus and what He has done for us
 - Christians live for Christ in EVERYTHING they do
 - The Christian life is not a life of ease and no problems, but Jesus is always with us.

This is good to do to make sure that the person really understands what they are committing to. If they still want to follow Jesus then pray for them and have them confess that they have not always lived God's way, that they want to turn and follow Him now and ask for forgiveness.

FOLLOW UP

About 3 days after your group has met, follow up all your group members and encourage them about what they learnt in LIFE group. You could ask them:

How have you gone this week at recognising spiritual blindness in yourself? What are can I pray for Jesus to shine his light on your life?





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