



Introduction

Jesus' life was marked by his dependence upon God, which is why he would rise early in the morning to pray. Jesus depended upon his Heavenly Father for everything, as he was regularly giving of himself to the people and thus needed time to be refueled. In the passage we cover, Jesus is approached by a leper who was forced to stay far away from all people because of the loathsomeness of their skin disease. Yet Jesus shocks those present as he lovingly reaches out his hand to touch this very sick and lonely man to heal him.

Observation/Interpretation

- Why do you think it was important for Jesus to pray?
- How were lepers treated in the culture of Jesus day?
- Who would say the 'modern day lepers' would be?
- How do you think Jesus would treat/deal with these 'modern day lepers'?

Application

- If it was important for Jesus to pray (& he was God incarnate), how much more important is it for you to pray?
- What are some of the hinderances in your life to spending time with God and praying?
- Take some time to pray for one another.
 - Pray for a greater desire to pray
 - Pray for a bigger vision of God's beauty and greatness
 - Pray for ways that your community group could 'lovingly touch' one of these 'modern day lepers'.

Memory Verse

Mark 1:35 Rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.

Community Group Discussion

- Read the passage together out loud.
- Involve your group by asking/answering the study questions, taking the time to share.
- Ask for prayer requests and be sure to pray together.

Family Discussion

- Have your child/children read the passage aloud, if old enough otherwise you read it aloud.
- Involve them by asking questions.
- Ask for prayer requests and invite them to pray together as a family.

A great way to use of these notes is to start/join a Community Group

These notes can be used for personal bible study, yet, another way would be to invite some people together. We call these intentional gatherings, 'Community Groups'.

What is a Community Group?

Community Groups are small gatherings of believers (non-believers welcomed too!) that meet regularly for accountability, friendship, study of the Bible and prayer. Community Groups are an essential part of the mission of Calvary SLO Church as they are a place where we wrestle with the truths of the Bible and encourage one another toward the life God intends. Each community group is unique and molded by the people who attend it. Most community groups gather weekly and involve food, dialog, prayer, discussion for applying the Bible to practical living, and loving service to one-another. They're meant to be an organic and authentic expression of the church, actively living like the body of Jesus.

Why should I join/start a Community Group?

God is a Trinitarian God who is revealed as one in three persons: Father, Son and Spirit. We've been made to image God, which means we're designed for community & friendship. We often suffer when we're not in community, due to the brokenness of life, complexity of this world and the temptation to isolate ourselves. We encourage you to gather with a small group of friends, family or roommates on a weekly basis and use these discussion notes to press deeper into God.

How do I join the Calvary SLO Community Group eco-system?

We're enthusiastic about all forms of biblical community, however there are definite benefits to joining with the Calvary SLO Community Group (CG) eco-system. In short, the benefits are:

- **Training:** We have trainings intent on equipping leaders.
- **Support:** Each CG leader is assigned a coach to provide assistance and ongoing support.
- **Visibility:** CG's are promoted via the bulletin, website & given access to The City (our online social network).

To join all you have to do is sign up for the next upcoming training! Info: pastor James: james@calvaryslo.com.