

Small Group Material

Transforming Miracles - Truth in God's Word

John 4.46-54

This is the first of three healings that Jesus performs as part of the seven signs (the official's son (4.46-54), the healing of the invalid 5.1-15; the man born blind 9.1-34. A key verse is verse 50, 'The man took Jesus at his word...'

Welcome (10 mins)

When you were a child what was the most serious illness you had?

Worship (10 mins)

Listen to 'Every promise' by Keith Getty & Stuart Townsend.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kMuq5z1uaMo>

or

'Thy word is a lamp unto my feet' Amy Grant

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a6LC8cu03lg>

Ponder quietly in what ways God's Word has helped you. Then spend sometime thanking God for his word.

Word (30-40 mins) Read John 4.46-54

A. Move through this section quickly

What motivates the royal official to travel so far? (From Capernaum to Cana was 16 miles - imagine walking from Chipping Norton to beyond Witney for help!)

What's amazing about the official's response - before, during and later?

How would you have responded to what Jesus told him to do?

What does this miracle tell you about Jesus? Why does John call it a 'sign'?

For reflection: (optional)

When you bring your problem to God (such as sickness in the family), do you tend to accept his word or keep fretting and worrying?

When have you taken God at his word (even though the circumstances were seemingly impossible) and discovered that he did exactly what was promised?

In our lives...

Have you got any stories of when a prayer was answered at exactly the time it was prayed?

You don't have to walk 16 miles to find Jesus! He is right with us! Are there any issues that you desperately want Jesus to address? Bring them to him in prayer - *and make sure you then listen to what he says!!*

Witness (15 mins)

It would be really good to pray about the spread of the Word of God. Here are 2 wonderful stories:

It's worth watching both these videos if you can.

1) Watch 'Unreached people group responds to the gospel' from Leading the Way (3.30 mins)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z_rziTTI7kA&feature=youtu.be

2) <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/about/how-we-help/bible-distribution/>. Scroll down and watch the Open Doors video 'Literacy Training and Bible Distribution in Cameroon' (1.16 mins)

Pray for the spread of God's Word in the world particularly to those groups who have not got it.

Pray for Bruce Rossington, his family and work.
(<https://eu.aimint.org/pray/peopleandplaces/therossingtons/>)