

LIFE GROUP MATERIAL ... 5 February 2012

"The Church: A Healing Community"

WELCOME: Share with the group an occasion when you had to trust someone.

WORSHIP: Read Matt 17:1-2. Imagine you were there and do or say what you would have said or done.

(Each person come with a reading, song, prayer, meditation etc. To share next week at worship time.)

WITNESS: Pray for those who are bereaved, sick, lonely, oppressed, or afflicted in any way.

READING: Matt 17:14-20

NOTES:

The sermon on Sunday Morning on Matt 17:14-20 is the subject of our study tonight.

There were two main sections to the sermon:

- 1) Extraordinary God
- 2) Essential Faith.

Both of these are summed up in the key text for the study: Matt 17:20.

'²⁰ "You don't have enough faith," Jesus told them. "I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it would move. Nothing would be impossible.'

WORD: Please SELECT from the questions below those appropriate to your group.

Q1. Matt 17:18. Does God WANT to heal everyone?

Q2. Matt 14:30. Is illness or disability a part of God's purposes for everyone some time, and for some people, all of the time? (2 Cor 12:7-10; John 9:1-3)

Q3. Matt 17:16. Jesus said that the healing did not occur because of a problem the disciples had. When someone is not healed today it is rare, or unheard of, for the person praying to acknowledge that the healing didn't happen because of a problem in their life. The explanations most often given are: "God did not heal you because there is sin in your life"; "God did not heal you because you do not have enough faith". What do you think of these comments? Consider Matt 17:17!

Q4. The longer someone is a Christian the more sceptical they are about healing. Is this true? If so why? Is it because we "reduce God's Word to the level of our experience?"

Q5. Matt 17:20. Do you *honestly* believe this? How do you increase your faith?

Q6. Matt 17:20. What is the difference between hoping something will happen and believing something will happen?

Q7. Matt 17:18. It was God's will to heal the boy. How important is it to know God's will before you pray for healing? Or, as above, is it God's will to heal everyone?