

## WELCOME

## SHARING OF PRAISES & PETITIONS

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## OPEN IN PRAYER

### CARE OUT LOUD WEEK 1

#### ICE BREAKER

Ask each member of the group to answer the following question:

*If you could help anyone in the world (be it an individual or a group of people) in any way that you see fit – not for the sake of romantic love but because you really feel you could help – who would it be and why?*

READ:

ISAIAH 42:1;6-7

<sup>1</sup> *"Here is my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen one in whom I delight;  
I will put my Spirit on him  
and he will bring justice to the nations...*

<sup>6</sup> *"I, the Sovereign, have called you in righteousness;  
I will take hold of your hand.  
I will keep you and will make you  
to be a covenant for the people  
and a light for the Gentiles,*

<sup>7</sup> *to open eyes that are blind,  
to free captives from prison  
and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.*

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## LUKE 4:18-19 (THE MESSAGE)

<sup>16-21</sup> *He came to Nazareth where he had been reared. As he always did on the Sabbath, he went to the meeting place. When he stood up to read, he was handed the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll, he found the place where it was written,*

*God's Spirit is on me;*

*God's chosen me to preach the Message of good news to the poor,*

*Sent me to announce pardon to prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind,*

*To set the burdened and battered free, to announce, "This is God's year to act!"*

*He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the assistant, and sat down. Every eye in the place was on him, intent. Then he started in, "You've just heard Scripture make history. It came true just now in this place."*

### DISCUSSION:

These are two readings that specifically point to Jesus. The first was written in Isaiah hundreds of years before Jesus was alive – this verse was written to point to, or prophecy, his life. The second Jesus was reading from another verse in Isaiah (again, prophesying the life of Christ), to make known that he was the fulfillment of that prophecy.

1. With these two Scriptures as a guide, name some things that we can assume were a mission of Jesus? (*if discussion is hard to get started – some examples might be to heal the sick, to feed the poor, to offer hope, etc.*)

### READ:

#### JOHN 14:12-14 (BIBLE IN BASIC ENGLISH)

*Truly I say to you, the ones who put their faith in me will do the very works which I do, and will do greater things than these, because I am going to God in heaven.*

#### EPHESIANS 3:20 (GOD'S WORD TRANSLATION)

*Glory belongs to God, whose power is at work in us. By this power he can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.*

### DISCUSSION:

CARE Groups are not just about the second and fourth Sunday of every month. These groups were designed with the intent of being another extension of the church, or the body of Christ. We see that Jesus' mission was to meet physical, spiritual and emotional needs in the world. We also see that God has given us the ability and God's power is working through

us to do the same and even more. At the beginning of this session we talked about our passions, need we saw, and needs we would reach if we could. Now, let's talk about it in a proactive way. What can we do? What can we as a group do to reach out to the community or world around us? Let's open it up for discussion keeping in mind that God wants to give us the desires of our hearts. Let's get creative, let's get personal, and let's talk about what we as a group can do.

Write down the ideas that come up in the group – remember there are no outrageous or impossible goals; there are no goals that are too small. If it is important to one person – consider it.

**(Note to the leader:** This may seem a little vague – that is intentional. This is one time I don't want to direct or influence your direction. Let the uniqueness of your group member's passions, interests and personalities lead the discussion. There are no guidelines other than finding a way to do something beyond the people in the group)

## CLOSING REMARKS

I will compile the list of potential ministries we have talked about tonight. I encourage you to keep thinking about what we can do and if any other ideas come up, email them to me and I'll add them to the list. Next week we will talk about things we can do as we narrow our focus according the group interest. Let's commit to praying about what God would lead us to do.

## CLOSE IN PRAYER

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#### ICE BREAKER

Ask each member of the group to answer the following question:

*If you had a magic lamp that would grant you only one wish, what would you wish?*

#### DISCUSSION

Last week we talked about the Mission of Jesus being to meet physical, spiritual and emotional needs. We all left with the challenge to consider what we as a group could do to reach beyond ourselves. If you weren't here, that's ok too – your ideas are valuable and will certainly be important in our discussion today.

Rather than studying and reading this week – as we do most weeks – we are just going to discuss the possibilities. I'm going to open the group up to share where you believe our interests are leading us.

Leaders – let the group members start talking... you should hopefully leave the group with the following questions answered. There doesn't have to be a specific plan that night – but hopefully there will be a more narrow focus on what the group can and would be willing to do.

1. Where do you feel called to direct our outreach focus? Can the group agree on one specific focus?
2. How can give of our time and/or attention to this focus?
3. Will members of the group commit to doing more specific research if particular needs are identified?

i.e., 1 – we can minister to the three blind mice; 2 – the butcher's wife is after them, we can find them a new home or make sure the butcher's wife doesn't have access to knives 3 – Susie is willing to look into mouse houses; Johnny will research locks for the butcher's

knife drawer; Paul will look into times the group might be able to meet together to offer the mice cheese free mouse traps. (OK, silly example – but remember I don't want to lead you – this is your groups thing! But what I'm trying to get across here is that I'm hoping for your group to have direction and an introductory action plan. I don't expect you to launch into this overnight – but that you have a plan moving forward.)

**CLOSE IN PRAYER**