



Theme & Passages	In The Name of Jesus Acts 4:5-12	Notes prepared by Neil Casey and Rachel Watson
Welcome (10 mins)	Ask the group to imagine that they are out shopping in a busy town. Maybe you have gone to Guildford or Kingston or even up to London. As you are walking you spot someone sitting outside one of the shops that you are heading for. On closer inspection you see that the person sitting on the ground can't walk. Their clothes have seen better days and they would benefit from a haircut. As you are about to head into the shop they call out to you and ask you for some money. What do you do next?	
Worship (20 mins)	Ask the group to be still and quiet. Allow the group to listen to the worship song - What a Beautiful Name it is and encourage them to let the words wash over them as the music is playing. Once the song has finished lead the group in a time of prayer, encouraging people in the group to share their prayers of worship out loud.	
Working with God (20 mins): Evangelism Discipleship Compassion Justice Creation Care	<p>This week we heard about BBC's Children's Centre which supports local families by offering fun activities that promote child development and decrease loneliness and isolation. The Children's Centre offers Family Support Work for a range of reasons such as raising young children, supporting children with additional needs, managing behaviour and getting into routines. It can also be a support to those facing a wide range of issues including mental health, relationships, finances and housing. The Centre offers a number of parenting courses for those parenting younger children and teens as well as partnering with local organisations such as CAP to offer the Money Coaching Course.</p> <p>The Centre wants to work with our church community to provide stepping stones to faith for people, and to act as a bridge between Sunday church and our weekday activities. <i>We invite you to be part of this, either through volunteering, praying or giving.</i></p> <p>'Lara' is a young mum who started coming to Bumps and Babies after finding out about the Children's Centre at the Village Day Stall. She was new to the area and feeling very low and isolated, but through coming to the group and accessing some Family Support she has grown in confidence, has made some local friends and is feeling more positive about being a mum. This is an example of God's love and compassion in action.</p> <p>For your prayers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thank God for the 40-50 families who attend the Centre weekly many of whom came to our Good Friday Family Fun morning. Pray that seeds sown would settle in people's hearts.• Pray for more opportunities to go deeper in our relationships.• Pray for more volunteers from our church community; making hot drinks, washing up, coming alongside parents to chat and listen.• Pray for continued financial provision for the Centre (you can give specifically to this work via the church office or the contactless machine in the foyer by selecting 'Children's Centre').• Pray as we look to the future that our work would be God shaped. Pray especially for a new monthly support group for parents and children with	



	<p>special needs and disabilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If anyone wants to be added to a Children's Centre Prayer Whatsapp group please speak to Rachel.
<p>Word (20-25 mins)</p>	<p>Give the group some background to the passage below by summarising the events in Acts 3, where Peter and John come across a lame beggar in Jerusalem and Peter says to the beggar "In the name of Jesus, get up and walk". The beggar is healed and Peter preaches to the crowd that has gathered following the healing. Peter and John are arrested, put in jail and then brought before the High Priests the next day to explain themselves.</p> <p>Read the passage - Acts 4 v 5-12</p> <p>Allow a moment or two of silence for reflection</p> <p>Focussing in on verse 7 Neil explained that both the High Priests and the disciples recognise the power and authority of the name of Jesus. However they have different attitudes towards His name. Neil suggested the difference is that the High Priests don't know Jesus the person, whereas the disciples do. What do you think it means to know Jesus the person?</p> <p>Neil referred to the Great Commission where Jesus said to his disciples "All authority on heaven and earth has been given to me. Therefore go..." The disciples understood this to mean that, as followers of Jesus, His authority had been delegated to them. As such exercising that authority is part of the "Therefore going.." And exercising that authority is part of the "Therefore going..." for us too. Is he right? And, if so, what implications does that have for us as followers of Jesus?</p> <p>Neil suggested that there are at least five barriers that get in the way of calling on the name of Jesus being a normal, commonplace, second nature part of our lives today:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- we live in a post-modern, post Christian, scientifically sophisticated world- we don't want to disrupt our status quo- we don't see this as part of our "mission". Rather it is something confined to the original disciples and "special" Christians- we sensationalise healing and make it something unusual, extraordinary and rare- we aren't there yet in our discipleship <p>Do any of these resonate for you? What barriers are there for you?</p> <p>Neil put forward some possible next steps for us. These were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- reframing our ideas about calling upon the name of Jesus and our ideas about healing- investing time in getting to really know Jesus- being attentive to opportunities to call upon the name of Jesus for those who are suffering, under threat or in need of healing



	<p>- making calling upon the name of Jesus a normal part of our lives by practicing in a place of safety, such as praying for those in our small group Ask the group to reflect for a moment and to share what the next step is for them. Take some time to pray for one another by way of encouragement and support as they take those next steps. Check in with the group next week to see how they are doing.</p>
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