

Small Group Discussion Guide

“No Limits (pt. 4)” - 01.24.16

Scripture: Acts 9:32-43

Bottom Line: Live with an unshakeable hope that Jesus can do anything at any moment!

INTRODUCTION/BREAKING THE ICE:

Here are some fun “would you rather” questions to “break the ice” at the beginning of your discussion time. Have each member chose one and explain why they chose their answer. • Watch TV or listen to music? • Have a beach holiday or a mountain holiday? • Be invisible or be able to read minds? • Be hairy all over or completely bald? • Make headlines for saving somebody's life or winning a Nobel Prize?

UNPACKING THE GOSPEL

Have you ever gotten to the point where you said, “I guess this is the way it will always be”? The Book of Acts is a clear call to believe that Jesus was and is still able to change the most helpless and hopeless situations and people.

Read Acts 9:32-43

1) Who was Aeneas and what was his ailment?

Answer: a) Physically- Luke the doctor diagnoses this as real. b) Emotionally- helpless, hopeless, dark, depressed, mad. c) Spiritually- Has God given up on me?

2) What's your eight years of bedridden paralysis that kills hope?

Answer: We all have an area of pain or struggle which we have lost hope for change. (sick, hurt, marriage issues, infertility, debt that make you feel completely stuck).

3) Who does Peter point to in the healing of Aeneas? How does this help with hopelessness?

Answer: Jesus! Hopelessness happens when the miracle depends on me. Hope arises when we see the miracle depends on Jesus.

4) The result of this encounter is the healing of Aeneas. Yet, Jesus wasn't personally on the scene. Why is this important for our ailments and struggles?

Answer: Jesus' miracles didn't end when His life ended. Not only did Jesus work miracles while He was physically on earth, but he CONTINUED to after He ascended into heaven. Jesus still works miracles in our lives as well!

LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE

1) How can we deal with years of our own pain and hopelessness?

Answer: a) Fix your eyes on Jesus, more than you. b) Believe that if He did miracles in Acts, He can today! c) the way you fix your eyes on Jesus is to pray! d) Trust that even in your struggles God is using that as an example to draw people to himself.

2) Will you live with a sure hope that Jesus still works miracles? What miracle do you need? Share with your group and take time to pray for one another.