**I Am Willing**

Lifegroup Study (PM) – 16 Sept 2018

**INTRODUCTION**

Many of us know that God has the power to bless us but we doubt whether he wants to bless us. We can feel separated from God’s love, believing that he is distant or that we are unworthy. Jesus came to reveal and declare the truth that God is always with us. He shows that God IS willing to bless us. We can live in the knowledge and certainty that he is with us, and that he is for us not against us. His hand is always on our life, reaching in to our pain, sin, shame, sickness and grief to bring healing and restoration. We are also invited to join him in reaching out to others with the love and power of God.

**KEY SCRIPTURES**

**READ Matthew 8:1-4**

8When Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. **2**A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.”

**3**Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy.

**4**Then Jesus said to him, “See that you don’t tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.”

**KEY POINTS FROM SERMON**

* This story comes straight after the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus doesn’t just give us a message, he steps down to face real human suffering.
* Jesus shows that God doesn’t reject us rather he reaches out to us.
* Jesus reveals that God IS willing to bless, heal, forgive and restore.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. If you heard the sermon, was there anything God spoke to you about personally from this message?
2. Within this passage, what personal insights into God’s character do you find?
3. What does this passage teach you about God's purpose for you?
4. In what areas/situations do you struggle to trust God’s heart for you?
5. In what ways is God challenging you to reach out to others the way Jesus reached out to the man with leprosy?
6. **James 1:22** says “*Don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves*.” Is there anything that God is asking you to stop, start or continue in this passage? What is the next step you need to take in response to God’s word? (i.e. obedience)

**PRACTICAL APPLICATION**

* Is there a way you as a Lifegroup could do some form of outreach together?