

WEEK 5

Jesus Restores

Luke 8:42-48



LUKE 8 : 4 2 - 4 8

⁴² because he had an only daughter about twelve years old, and she was dying. While he was going, the crowds were nearly crushing him. ⁴³A woman suffering from bleeding for twelve years, who had spent all she had on doctors and yet could not be healed by any, ⁴⁴approached from behind and touched the end of his robe. Instantly her bleeding stopped.

⁴⁵“Who touched me?” Jesus asked.

When they all denied it, Peter said, “Master, the crowds are hemming you in and pressing against you.” ⁴⁶“Someone did touch me,” said Jesus. “I know that power has gone out from me.” ⁴⁷When the woman saw that she was discovered, she came trembling and fell down before him. In the presence of all the people, she declared the reason she had touched him and how she was instantly healed. ⁴⁸“Daughter,” he said to her, “your faith has saved you. Go in peace.”

SERMON NOTES

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

TEACHING SUMMARY

When Jesus healed the woman who had been bleeding for 12 years, He drew attention to her. He wanted the crowd to know she had been healed so she could be restored to the community—so she could be touched again as it had been 12 years since the “unclean” woman had been embraced or welcomed.

Jesus can restore for us too.

LEAN IN

Are you more of a fixer-upper type person, or do you prefer new things?

Have you ever restored something, such as a piece of furniture or article of clothing? Describe the commitment that was required to bring it back to life.

LOOK DOWN

READ LUKE 8:42-48 (pg. 74)

What did this woman suffer from? What were some of the consequences associated with having this issue?

Why do you think the woman was terrified to have been called out by Jesus?
What is it that gave her peace instead?

LOOK OUT

Is restoration possible without desperation? Explain.

To where or what do people turn to when they get desperate?
How do those things compare to faith in Christ?

Jesus restored this woman physically, socially, and religiously.
How might these manifestations of restoration speak to the
ways in which we seek to minister to our community?

LOOK IN

This woman's utter dependence on Jesus made the way for her complete healing. She couldn't depend on her community or herself—all she had was Jesus. What or who are you depending on for your wellbeing?

Have you ever wanted God's power to change something in your life so badly, but felt hesitant to ask Him for it, or even hesitant to ask others to pray with you for it? Why?

RHYTHM REMINDER



repentance



serve your
community



share your
story



worship

I Need a Miracle

written by: Sangita Patel

In 1999, I was introduced to Jesus through Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN). At the time, I was struggling and feeling rather empty and disconnected inside. My mother's passing had left a hole in my heart, which I tried to fill by staying busy, focusing on my career, and striving to be perfect. As you can imagine, seeking worldly success only led to more emptiness.

Then, one night, my TV decided to go on the fritz and was stuck on TBN. As I watched the channel, I began to wrap my mind around Jesus, and I felt peace and freedom from perfectionism and worldly striving. It was as if a weight had been lifted from me. However, my relationship with God was more one of negotiating for how I would live and what I wanted.

Fast-forward to 2010. While I was out shopping, I was helped by a kind woman wearing a cross necklace at the Burberry store. Upon asking, she invited me to Mariners, her home church. From there, my life drastically changed for the better. I completed *Rooted* in 2014, became a Life Group leader, and I was baptized in 2019 at Mariners. I recommitted my life to Jesus and drew even closer to God. Subsequently, I felt called to join the prayer team and the Outreach Ministry.

Being saved has brought me the peace and healing I craved but never thought was possible. More importantly, I think about the loss of my mother, and realized I don't want uncertainty as to where my loved ones will spend eternity. We all have loved ones that we pray for and are hopeful for their salvation, which is why I wrote this prayer template. I pray this intercessory prayer builds hope in your heart for a miracle. ●

Abba Father,

Father, thank You for Your undeserved grace, tender mercies, and unfailing love for me. You are awesome and I love You with all my heart, mind, body, soul, and strength. You are the one and only true living God and there is no other. Thank You for making a way for sinners like me to be reconciled to You and live in Your Presence for all eternity in Heaven. I am grateful I am in Your Presence, and it is my heart's desire to see my family and loved ones saved as it aligns with Your desire that not one shall perish.

Father, thank You for sending Lord Jesus who is the only way to Heaven and the Truth, the Way, the Life. Give me strength, wisdom, and boldness to fearlessly share the gospel with my family and loved ones so they end up in eternity with You. Usher them from the bondage of spiritual darkness into Your glorious light. Prepare their hearts so they are receptive to the good news.

Father, I lift my father, siblings, niece, nephews, relatives, and the South Asian community at large domestically and globally to come to know You as their Lord and Savior. I ask that You remove scales so my loved ones see Your goodness and unfailing love. Wash them clean and give them a garment of Jesus' righteousness. Give them a desire to know You personally and a hunger and thirst for Your Word.

Abba Father, oh gracious and merciful One, forgive me of any known and unknown sins as I ask for the above. I sit in expectancy. Thank You in advance for the miracle of salvation for the above. I ask for all of this in Your son Jesus' holy and precious name.

Amen



Beginning to See
by Andrea Holt



"Who Touched Me?"

by David Harrington



Answering God's Call

written by: Annette Gross

In Matthew 19:14 (NLT), Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

These words reveal Christ's heart for children. For Jeff Bates, it begins with the Holy Spirit prompting him with a calling.

Living in Irvine and attending Mariners Irvine, Jeff and his wife joined a Rooted group in early 2020. After Jeff went to Man Camp, Mariners' annual men's retreat, God laid on his heart a need to start attending the Mariners Mission Viejo congregation and serving in whatever capacity God directed. Jeff shared God's call with his wife and she was all in, confirming what she had already felt convicted of by the Holy Spirit.

The following Sunday, Jeff and his family made Mariners Mission Viejo their home. Though it was hard to leave Mariners Irvine, they chose to

trust the Lord's leading and were excited about what lay ahead.

The Mission Viejo congregation began as a Mariners in the Neighborhood site in 2020 during the pandemic with a purpose to support the needs of people in the community. Jeff knew he was being led by God to serve, so he met with the Discipleship Pastor within the first month and expressed his desire to serve wherever needed. They discussed many ideas, but the most pressing was the need for leadership in the youth ministry.

Jeff had helped lead a youth ministry during his college days, but that was 15 years ago, and he wondered if it was the right fit for him now. He discussed and prayed about it with his wife. They decided that it was the right fit for his personality and heart, confident it was where God was leading. Youth ministry would allow him to



Jeff at Mariners Mission Viejo



follow his passion to make an impact on the Mission Viejo youth community.

In August 2021, Jeff began leading the youth program at Mariners Mission Viejo. There were four middle school students at the start, and over the course of a year, those students began inviting their friends. The number grew to about 15 or so attending weekly.

Jeff shared that it is not about numbers but about relationships and connection. The youth were diving deep, developing trust, and building community with each other.

The growth in regular attendees also spurred the addition of a high school group. This provided the opportunity for attendees to meet with their peers, developing deeper conversations that have led to stronger connections based on shared experiences and mutual needs.

One of the more rewarding aspects for Jeff is watching students be vulnerable with each other and support one another with hugs and reassuring comments. It has been a blessing to see them blossom and create a loving community as they learn to trust and grow with each other while navigating and overcoming challenging life experiences.

Even though youth work can be time consuming and challenging, Jeff and his wife view his service as their ministry, making his time away from his family more meaningful. Periodically, his family joins him at youth events so they can see the impact their serving is having on students. Since some of the youth group students volunteer to help with young children, Jeff's children also interact and connect with the students who are a part of the youth ministry.

Jeff is thankful for the support he receives from Mariners. He has four volunteers that lead Youth Life Groups and help him to separate the students into their groups. The youth group also looks forward to moving into their permanent home in the near future.

Jeff's choice to answer God's call can also serve as a reminder for all of us to consider how we can connect with others and allow God to use our gifts in His service. The rewards far outweigh the sacrifices. ●





Returning Home
by Andrea Holt

Chances of Grace

written by: *Jordie Poblete*

It was a beautiful winter's day before Christmas in San Diego, with blue skies and clean air. A stark contrast to where I was heading: prison. It was my first time ever being in a prison, and I was going there to lead worship for the inmates.

As I approached the tall, barbed wire fence surrounding the perimeter for D Yard at the R.J. Donovan Correctional Facility, I was given instructions.

"Please open your guitar case."

"I.D. please."

"Please sign this acknowledging our 'no hostage' policy that's in effect."

I'd later find out the policy meant if I were taken hostage by an inmate while visiting, no correctional officer on-site would negotiate or defend my safety.

I had brought my guitar with me because I was part of a new ministry partnership that Mariners Church had just begun a few weeks ago.

Prison Fellowship is an organization which essentially brings the gospel and people who believe to prisons around the U.S. Their mission is simple: don't forget those who are in prison.

One such person who came to the ministry launch event at Mariners Irvine was a man named Martin. He was formerly incarcerated for murder for more than 10 years at the same San Diego facility where I was going to lead worship.

"My story is my own," he told the gathered crowd who signed up to learn more about the ministry. "I own up to what I did, and I did the time. But while I did the time, I knew it had to be made right not only according to the law, but God's law."

Martin proceeded to describe his encounters with various groups who brought church and faith to the prison, and how he gradually began to find God and make amends.

"If it wasn't for those people who hadn't forgotten me and gave me the good news, I would probably be much more messed up and not gotten out," he said.

Now, here I was at D Yard, hoping to reach another Martin.

D Yard is considered a medium-security section of the facility. It is the middle level of security for those who committed "medium" offenses.

It was in the prison yard of that block that our group came to set up our “hope” event. A prison yard is exactly that—a large expanse of dead grass with some pull-up bars and an outdoor toilet with no privacy.

I won’t ever forget the setting that D Yard had though. It was perfectly framed by a tall desert mountain range, just a few miles away from the U.S.-Mexico border. And that beautiful blue sky was visible from every corner of the yard. There were also these large, blue metal doors converging from different buildings. Inside each of those buildings were the inmates in their cells where they spent most of the day.

At 2:30p, their “programming” had them come out to the yard for some recreational time, which was only about 30-45 minutes.

Once those blue doors opened at every building, the inmates clad in denim blue filed out slowly. They took in the sun and the fresh air. And as I began to play my guitar, the amplified sound reverberated through the yard and made its way into the inmates’ ears. Intrigued, they began to slowly make their way toward me. They looked like travelers from a far-out land as I saw them at a distance. But the closer they came, the more detail about who they were began to emerge: tattoos that were insignias of their gangs; some used walkers because they were older inmates; brown and white skin; some wore glasses and were young like me; bandages covering bruises.

I was afraid and anxious because these people were there for a reason. They killed and stole. They were convicted. They were sentenced to spend years here.

These types of people are what prisons are for, I thought.

But as I began to sing for the hundreds gathered, I could barely give any words to describe the moment. I will tell you, more than 90% of the people who were released into the yard gathered for the “hope” event. Lyric sheets for the songs were distributed to them to sing along. Their pastor gave a message. Martin, their former fellow inmate, gave a testimony, and then there was an opportunity for them to respond in faith to become part of the family of God. As we ended, I decided to sing another song over them.

It’s a song that has been sung around the world in many churches, but it hit differently for me when I sang it in that prison yard.

“You take what the enemy meant for evil, and You turn it for good.”

One voice became, two, became three. Four. Then hundreds.

It was a choir of prisoners.

It was a choir of those who felt that particular truth of God and received His great gift of grace. God’s presence was felt by everyone, including the correctional officers and their captain who were keeping a watchful eye, and saw the miracle taking place.

“I was doubtful anyone would respond, but they did. It’s something that I’ve never seen from the inmates before,” the captain later said.

In other words, a miracle—a Christmas miracle. Who knew in such a place that something divine could show itself? ●

The Miracle of Open Doors

written by: Brandon Gross

In the spring of 2020, the leaders of Sunburst Youth Academy, a military-based program for at-risk youth, were searching for a place to hold their graduation ceremony. God's faithfulness to Mariners Church over the years proved to be the answer, with a facility large and open enough to host the celebration.

Following the graduation ceremony, God opened the door for a new partnership and an opportunity to bring the gospel to cadets every weekend.

The Sunburst program focuses on providing the students with community and support that come from real-world training, military discipline and routine creation, counseling, and mentorship. Upon completing the program, cadets graduate and receive assistance with the next steps in their life. While they are going through the program, each cadet has the option of attending a chapel service, which is currently hosted at the Sunburst facility by Mariners Church.

Every weekend, cadets join a Mariners Hosted Here worship service and experience opportunities to connect, grow, and learn more about what it means to follow Jesus. In the past couple of years, we've seen more and more cadets choosing to attend, with some saying "I Believe" for the first time.

My story with Sunburst Youth Academy began with a "yes" to a simple invitation to come and see what God is doing through these special chapel services. After one visit, my heart was overflowing in ways I hadn't previously experienced. Tears of joy streamed down my face during the car ride home—pure and unfiltered gratitude surfacing for all God has done not only in my life but in the lives of us all. It was at that moment I knew there was a story that needed to be told, and more importantly, it was an opportunity to witness His grace.

Enter the most recent experience I had at Sunburst with a few of my closest friends from Mariners and the conversations that followed.



JORGE MOLINA

PASTOR

THE SUNBURST OUTREACH HAS BECOME A STAPLE IN YOUR LIFE. WHY HAVE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY INVESTED SO MUCH TIME WITH THIS SPECIFIC PROGRAM? The cadets (students) are vulnerable, at-risk teens. They come from an unchurched environment in most cases and need the grace and strength only God can provide to endure. The relationship we have with Sunburst came from an invitation to bring the gospel to teens. This is so missional for each of us.

YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN SMALL MIRACLES, AS YOU'VE TOLD ME ON MULTIPLE OCCASIONS "THEY'RE ALL BIG MIRACLES." HAVING BEEN TO SUNBURST MULTIPLE TIMES, I AGREE NOW MORE THAN EVER. WHAT MIRACLES HAVE YOU OBSERVED THAT SHOWCASE GOD'S WORK AT SUNBURST? So many miracles, but this is the one that stands out most to me: a

public school and a military reserve base asked us to bring the message of Jesus to their facility and program.

Seeing the growth of the students in their spiritual journey is a miracle—that they are vulnerable enough to take that journey, and as you saw firsthand, that the teachers and sergeants are receiving Christ and drawing closer to Him.

WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR SUNBURST OVER THE NEXT YEAR, AND HOW CAN THE MARINERS COMMUNITY HELP MAKE IT A REALITY?

I would like to see us continue streaming the online messages for the cadets, for us to bring counseling services to the teachers and military personnel, and for us to share the online services with the parents of each cadet.



MARY ANNE SWART

MENTOR

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO VOLUNTEER AT SUNBURST? I heard about Sunburst and what a cool opportunity it was for us from my psychology professor. His excitement piqued my curiosity, but I didn't think that I would have the time in my schedule to go until he offered to waive the weekly assignments if we volunteered. Truthfully, that was a large part of my decision to check it out.

HOW HAS THIS EXPERIENCE CHANGED YOUR LIFE AND WALK WITH GOD? This experience has caused me to think about how my own feelings of inadequacy do not matter when I have a powerful God at work within me. Every week I drive to Sunburst feeling woefully unprepared and inadequate, and every week I leave feeling full of excitement and joy. Every Sunday, it becomes evident that it is God at work, not me. I feel most prepared not when I have reviewed the study magazine or outlined a conversation, but when I have spent significant time praying over the girls and our time together.

WHAT MIRACLES HAVE YOU OBSERVED AT SUNBURST? Once, my friends and I were debriefing our experiences on the drive home when I expressed my desire to give my girls a gift. But we weren't sure what kind of gifts we were allowed to give since they live under such strict regulations. I decided that they couldn't get in trouble for having Bible verses. As I considered what Scripture I wanted to give them, God gave me the idea to find verses that spoke into the prayer requests I had just asked of them. I prayed God would show me which verses to use because He knew what would speak into their lives better than I ever could. Over the course of the next week, I found each girl

a verse that I thought corresponded with their requests and, even better, could start a conversation related to the gospel.

When I brought the girls their doodled verses the next week, they were shocked I had spent the week thinking about them and praying for them.

One of the girls had requested prayer about the future. When I told her about my prayers for her and presented her with the verse, her eyes grew wide and she told me during the week, she had met with the Air Force, talked at length about the future, and decided that is the path she wants to pursue after Sunburst. She confided that when originally asking for prayer, she had secretly felt very skeptical, thinking, "Mary Anne is not just going to show up next week with a book saying, 'Here's the plan for your future that God gave me!'" But she realized God had actually listened to me and my prayer had worked.

I think that moment marked a change in our conversations. No longer was God someone just to learn about, but someone who might actually care about us and listen to our prayers.

WHAT WOULD YOU SHARE WITH SOMEONE THINKING ABOUT VOLUNTEERING AT SUNBURST?

Do it. You will be humbled. If you are worried that you are inadequate, don't—you are. Pretty much everyone is. That's what makes it so beautiful—you realize that any progress or success you achieve comes wholly from God and has nothing to do with yourself.

However, at the end of the day, all these kids want is someone to listen to them. They aren't desperate for fancy theological answers or eloquent arguments, but someone who will listen to them, someone who will treat them as important, someone who will show them their experiences are worth hearing. I have recognized from the fast-paced, out of breath, almost desperate way the girls talk over each other they are not used to being listened to. One of the girls told me she "just wants someone to tell her that she is proud of her." You can be that person. ●

