



Discovery Group: Six Stories of Hope

- 1. Luke 5:17-26- The paralyzed man***
- 2. Luke 7:36-50- Jesus and the sinful woman***
- 3. Luke 15:1-3 & 11-32- The Prodigal Son***
- 4. Luke 19:1-10- Zacchaeus the Tax Collector***
- 5. Luke 23:32-49- The Crucifixion of Jesus***
- 6. Luke 24:36-49- Jesus' resurrection***

Hope:

That these six stories will inspire you to consider the love that Jesus offers. To see in the loving actions of Jesus the love of God, a God who offers, forgiveness, healing, hope and restoration. This is our hope at St Marys because it is Jesus' promise to all who come and ask for his loving help.

Journey:

Each we'll journey through a story of hope where Jesus interacts with people who come to see in him the very hope and love they had always longed for.

Each week there will be a chance to share about our lives, hear from God's word, see the vision God has for your life and set goals which come directly from God's word.

Each week we'll also ask the same basic questions of each story to grasp the simple and powerful message Jesus offers. Thank you for embarking on this journey with Jesus,

Story of Hope: The Paralyzed Man

1. What brings you to this group and what are you hoping to get out of it?

2. Does anyone have a spiritual story about their life they wish to share?

Luke 5:17-26

¹⁷ One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick.

¹⁸ Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus.

¹⁹ When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.

²⁰ When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."

²¹ The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

²² Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts?"

²³ Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'?

²⁴ But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home."

²⁵ Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God.

²⁶ Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today."

1. What does this story say about Jesus?

2. What does this story say about people?

3. Is there an example to follow or a command to obey in this story?

4. What will you do because of what you've learned from this story?

5. Who do you know who needs to hear this story?

Luke 7:36-50

³⁶ When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table.

³⁷ A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume.

³⁸ As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

³⁹ When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is-- that she is a sinner."

⁴⁰ Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Tell me, teacher," he said.

⁴¹ "Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty.

⁴² Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"

⁴³ Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

⁴⁴ Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair.

⁴⁵ You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet.

⁴⁶ You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet.

⁴⁷ Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven-- as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little."

⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

⁴⁹ The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

⁵⁰ Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

1. How did we go with putting our goal of what we learnt from last week into practice?

2. What does this story say about Jesus?

3. What does this story say about people?

4. Is there an example to follow or a command to obey in this story?

5. What will you do because of what you've learned from this story?

6. Who do you know who needs to hear this story?

Luke 15:1-3 & 11-32

1. How did we go with putting our goal of what we learnt from last week into practice?

2. What can be pray for you? Let us also pray for the person who you said in week one who needs to hear the story of Jesus?
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Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus.

² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ Then Jesus told them this parable:

¹¹ Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons.

¹² The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

¹³ "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.

¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.

¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs.

¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!

¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.'

²⁰ So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

²¹ "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

²² "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.

²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate.

²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing.

²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on.

²⁷ 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

²⁸ "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him.

²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends.

³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

³¹ "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.

³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

3. What does this story say about Jesus?

4. What does this story say about people?

5. Is there an example to follow or a command to obey in this story?

6. What will you do because of what you've learned from this story?

Luke 19:1-10

1. What has been easy and what has been difficult to put into practice over the last few weeks?

2. Let's pray for both ourselves and our friends.

¹ Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through.

² A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy.

³ He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd.

⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

⁵ When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today."

⁶ So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

⁷ All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

⁸ But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

⁹ Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.

¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

3. What does this story say about Jesus?

4. What does this story say about people?

5. Is there an example to follow or a command to obey in this story?

6. What will you do because of what you've learned from this story?

Luke 23:32-49

1. How are you going in discovering the truth and accepting the truth about Jesus?

2. What have you accepted and/or what is holding you back?

3. Have you had a chance to pray for your friend(s) and invite them on a similar journey to yourself?

³² Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed.

³³ When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals-- one on his right, the other on his left.

³⁴ Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

³⁵ The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One."

³⁶ The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar

³⁷ and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself."

³⁸ There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

³⁹ One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

⁴⁰ But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence?"

⁴¹ We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. "

⁴³ Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

⁴⁴ It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon,

⁴⁵ for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.

⁴⁶ Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

⁴⁷ The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man."

⁴⁸ When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away.

⁴⁹ But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things

4. What does this story say about Jesus?

5. What does this story say about people?

6. Is there an example to follow or a command to obey in this story?

7. What will you do because of what you've learned from this story?

Luke 24:36-49

1. What is your spiritual journey now as we reach the end of discovering about Jesus?

2. Have you had a chance to tell others about your journey? What has been their reaction? Pray.

3. What are the goals Jesus has asked you to embark on? What steps can you write down to help you continue them?

³⁶ While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

³⁷ They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost.

³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds?"

³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

⁴⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet.

⁴¹ And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?"

⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish,

⁴³ and he took it and ate it in their presence.

⁴⁴ He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.

⁴⁶ He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day,

⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.

⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

4. What does this story say about Jesus?

5. What does this story say about people?

6. Is there an example to follow or a command to obey in this story?

7. What will you do because of what you've learned from this story?

8. Let's end with prayer and a commitment to further discovering more about Jesus.

Some ideas going forward

- i. Join a Christian Life Group which aims to get people on board sharing the gifts and skills God has given them.
- ii. Join the Local Area Visitation Team.
- iii. Do some training about being a co-leader for the next Discovery Group.
- iv. Prayer for your friends and share your faith with them.
- v. Seek opportunities at church to serve and learn.
- vi. Come up with a dream yourself and seek God's help.