

UNLEASHED!

DAY 9— See and Care for the Forgotten

Acts 3: 1-10

Time Alone with God

Prayer

Explore the Word

Read Matthew 25:31–46. Who does Jesus challenge us to care for? How is Jesus personally impacted by the way we care for these forgotten people?

Insights from Ellen White:

Every kind act done to them in the name of Jesus, is accepted by Him as if done to Himself, for He identifies His interest with that of suffering humanity, and He has entrusted to His church the grand work of ministering to Jesus by helping and blessing the needy and suffering. On all who shall minister to them with willing hearts, the blessing of the Lord will rest. (*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 164)

Prayer Focus

Pray for eyes to see people in need as if they were Jesus Himself—and to care for them as if they were Jesus.

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Family/Friend Circle

Connect Activity

Invite each person in your family/friend circle to tell about someone in the local community who is needy in some way. Why do we not all notice the same needy people?

Prayer for the Holy Spirit

Explore the Word

Read Acts 3:1–4. Peter and John had come to the temple many times. Never before is it mentioned that they stopped by someone in need. What made them SEE a person in need this time? (See Acts 2:4, first part.)

Insights from Ellen White:

Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, "Follow Me." (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 143).

Prayer Focus

Pray for Jesus' heart for forgotten people in need.

Church Family

Please gather into groups of six or fewer people. Each group must have a leader. You can remain in the same groups for all 10 days.

Welcome

Worship in Prayer

After praying for a few minutes, you will hear the prayer team begin to sing one stanza of a song. When you do, please transition from prayer to song.

Thanks

1. (SMALL GROUP) Read Mathew 9:35. Thank God for Jesus' personal ministry with people, not just programs.
2. (EVERYONE) The leader will lead us to sing a song of Thanksgiving.

Repent

1. (SMALL GROUP) Read Matthew 9:36. Confess our lack of love for people. Ask God to forgive us for not having the compassion of Jesus for people in need.
2. (EVERYONE) The leader will lead us to sing a song of Repentance.

Ask

1. (SMALL GROUPS) Read Matthew 9:37, 38. Ask God to throw you out into His harvest to care for people in need.
2. (EVERYONE) The leader will lead us to sing a song of the Holy Spirit.

Testify

“What did God help you do with yesterday's 24-Hour Challenge?”

(Yesterday's 24-Hour Challenge: Ask God to show you one thing that He would love for you to do to meet a need for someone in your church family. Sacrifice to do that act of love before tomorrow's meeting.)

Connect Activity

Team up in twos or threes. Tell your partner about a time when a stranger had compassion for your need and helped you. How did that impact your life at that time? Pray together for the Holy Spirit to bless the Word.

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Worship in Word

(SMALL GROUPS)

Read Acts 3:1–10. How did “seeing” the cripple lead to Peter and John caring for him?

Insights from Ellen White:

There is need of coming close to the people by personal effort. If less time were given to sermonizing, and more time were spent in personal ministry, greater results would be seen. The poor are to be relieved, the sick cared for, the sorrowing and the bereaved comforted, the ignorant instructed, the inexperienced counseled. We are to weep with those that weep, and rejoice with those that rejoice. Accompanied by the power of persuasion, the power of prayer, the power of the love of God, this work will not, cannot, be without fruit. (*The Ministry of Healing*, pp. 143, 144)

Prayer Focus

In your small group, pray to see people as Jesus sees them. Pray to have your heart moved by compassion when you see people with unmet needs.

My Decision

I need the heart of Jesus for the forgotten in my community. I need Jesus’ compassion for those in need.

Name _____ Date _____

24-Hour Challenge

Ask God to show you someone who is forgotten in your community. Ask Him what that forgotten person needs from you and from the Lord Jesus. Go minister to that person in Jesus’ name before tomorrow’s meeting. Read Acts 4:32-37 in preparation for tomorrow.