



Week 1: The Lonely

Key Scripture

Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

Acts 8:35

Two Ways to Love the Lonely

1. Love by tuning in

Jesus asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" ... One of them... asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" "What things?" he asked.

Luke 24:17-19

2. Love with time

One day Jesus was teaching... Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat... 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. When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."

Luke 5:17-20

For personal reflection or group discussion.

- What public figure's shocking death from suicide or drug overdose do you think shocked the world the most in the last 50 years? Why?
- Who is the least lonely person you know, and why do you think they are not as lonely as other people?

Questions to go deeper in your faith.

- What stands out to you in this story about Philip and the Ethiopian official?
- Thinking about your own life, did you ever feel like you were in people's blind spots? What does that feel like?

Challenges to strengthen your heart.

- What are some reasons we have a hard time acknowledging our loneliness to ourselves and others?
- Has anyone made a significant impact in your life when you were experiencing loneliness? How so? What is something that you are joyful about today?

Read Scripture about loneliness.

Isaiah 41:10

Psalms 68:5-6

Next Steps

- Reflect on the lonely times in your life, thanking God for how He has helped you know Him better through them.
- Ask God to lead you to the right person, as he did Philip. Be obedient to listen, to lend time, to love. And when able share the life giving power of Jesus!
- Spend time considering the battle with loneliness that those around you deal with. Consider what their private fight might be like and ask God to show you ways you can support your friends and family, while considering how you can allow them to support you.



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