

NO ONE IS
Beyond
REACH

COMMUNITY • NATION • WORLD

GATEWAY *beyond*

**BEING DEEPLY MOVED WITH
TENDER COMPASSION,
JESUS REACHED OUT
AND TOUCHED THE SKIN
OF THE LEPER. MARK 1:41**

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HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

This booklet is a companion to the teaching series, “No One is Beyond Reach”. There are a number of ways that you can use this resource.

LIFE GROUP

In this booklet you will find readings, video links and discussion questions to use in your life group. There is too much material provided to cover every single question each week. Choose the questions that are of most interest to your group.

Most weeks include a link to a short video for you to watch. If you have a device such as an Apple TV or a smart TV that connects to the internet you can display the video on your TV. Otherwise you can show it on any computer or iPad screen. When you download the pdf version of this document you can simply click on the live links to access the videos. There will be links to each video posted to the life group leader’s Facebook group as well.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

You can use the information, links and questions to guide your own person reflection. Use a journal to record your thoughts as you respond to what God teaches you throughout the series.

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Each week, there is a family challenge included. You can use this section to guide discussion if you have children in your life group, or parents can use these activities and questions to engage with their own children.

NO ONE IS *beyond* REACH

When Jesus walked the earth, He reached out to those who were seen as untouchable, unlovable, unreachable and living without hope. When Jesus died, He died to forgive the sins of all mankind. When Jesus comes again, the picture He has given us to look forward to is a gathering of people from every nation, every tribe and every language.

No one is beyond the reach of God's heart and no one is beyond the reach of His power to save. The gospel is the power for salvation for everyone on Earth, but if they don't hear it, they can't receive it.

Those of us who have received the gospel are called to go and share the good news with those who haven't yet been reached in our community, our nation, and our world.

At Gateway we have heard the call to go and share the gospel for many years.

We have championed our **Gateway Care** ministries, reaching the broken and hurting in our community with the hope and healing of Jesus.

**OUR GATEWAY
CARE MINISTRIES
PROVIDE
PRACTICAL CARE
FOR PEOPLE IN OUR
COMMUNITY,
DELIVERED WITH
JESUS' LOVE.**

We have supported our **Gateway Global** workers, shining the light of the gospel in some dark places around the world.

In the last few years we have begun to multiply the ministry of Jesus in more places by planting **Gateway Campuses** in our city, believing that one day our reach will go throughout our nation.

**IN OUR NATION,
PEOPLE ARE ISOLATED,
LONELY,
DISCONNECTED, AND
SEARCHING FOR
MEANING. BUT WE
KNOW THAT NO ONE IS
BEYOND REACH OF
THE LIFE CHANGING
MESSAGE OF JESUS.**

Planting campuses enables our Gateway Care ministries to reach more people in more places with the hope and healing of Jesus. It enlarges our capacity to send and support more Gateway Global workers taking the gospel to the ends of the earth.

As we give to Gateway Beyond, we are reaching more people than ever before with the life changing message of Jesus in our community, our nation and our world.

This series will follow Jesus' footsteps as He reaches out to those in need with love, healing and hope. We will then follow Paul as his life is transformed by Jesus. Paul shares the gospel with people and plants churches in places that have never been reached before.

Every week in this series we will encourage each other to share the Gospel with those we live, work and laugh with, and give generously to enable us to reach more people in more places than ever before.

No one is beyond reach!

**IN MOUNTAINS
AND VALLEYS
AROUND THE
WORLD, THERE
ARE PEOPLE WHO
HAVE NEVER
HEARD THE NAME
OF JESUS.**

NO ONE IS BEYOND THE REACH OF GOD'S *heart*

 **Read: Mark 1:40-42**

An unnamed, unwanted untouchable calls out to Jesus for healing. His condition made him unwanted in the community and untouchable to anyone who wanted to stay clean. When Jesus sees him, He is moved with compassion in His heart to reach out and touch him with His hand.

Jesus didn't need to touch him to heal him. He healed others with a word, without even being in the same room. Jesus reaches out to touch the unnamed untouchable to reveal the heart of God that draws close to those who are far off.

What is the significance of Jesus touching this man?

Jesus' healing touch was so powerful in his life, that even though He asked him to keep it quiet, the man told everyone what Jesus had done for him.

Have you ever heard news that was so exciting that you told someone even though you were asked to keep it a secret? Share with the group.

 **Read: Mark 1:43-45**

Why did Jesus ask the man not to tell anyone about what He had done?

What was the impact on Jesus' ministry?

What we do with our hands reveals what is in our hearts. At the end of his life, Jesus stretched out His hands to make a way for all people to come close to God. No one is beyond the reach of God's heart and hands. When we receive a personal touch from God, we too must reach out and tell others what Jesus has done for us.

Have you received a personal touch from God? Share in your group what Jesus has done for you.

Think of the people you live, work and laugh with. What are the challenges they are facing right now? What can you do with your hands to draw them closer to God?

"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around."

–Leo Buscaglia

Comment on the quote above. In your experience, is this statement true?

How have any of these expressions of kindness impacted you? How have you impacted others?

There are many people in our community desperately in need of a touch of compassion. Every week of the year our Gateway Care staff and volunteers are being the healing hands of Jesus to those in need in our hurting community. When you give to Gateway Beyond you are supporting our Gateway Care ministries that reach out to touch those in need in our communities with the hope and healing of Jesus.

Make yourself aware of the suite of Gateway Care ministries that we have available to us as we reach out into our community. Who do you know who could benefit from this help?

<https://gatewaybaptist.com.au/care/>



Watch this short video (3min) about the definition of poverty.

<https://vimeo.com/138653108>

What surprises you about the ideas presented in this video? How does this challenge your understanding of what poverty is?

What can we do as individuals and as a church to alleviate true poverty in our world?

What are you doing with your hands? What is God calling you to do to touch someone in need with the hope and healing of Jesus?

♥ Pray for the people you live, work and laugh with who need a touch of compassion. Ask God what He wants you to do with your hands to help those in need.

FAMILY CHALLENGE:

Hearts and Hands

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

Hebrews 13:16

Think about the people in your neighbourhood that have the most need. You might think about the people who are elderly, lonely, have a disability, have been through trauma, or have been unwell.

Choose a person to pray for as a family. You could also remember to pray for them every night when you say grace with dinner. Ask God to reveal to you how you might be able to help them. Even small acts of kindness make a difference.

NO ONE IS BEYOND THE REACH OF GOD'S *hope*

 **Read: Luke 7:11-12**

Consider the two crowds that meet each other at the town gate of Nain. What had the crowd with Jesus just experienced? (See Luke 7:1-10).

What is the feeling in this crowd? Discuss the contrast between this group and the crowd with the widow.

 **Read: Luke 7:13-15**

This is a woman who has lost everything. Her husband is dead, and her only son is now dead also. She has no way to support herself. No one to protect her from harm. No one to turn to for help. Her husband is dead. Her son is dead and with him her hope for the future is dead, or so it seems.

When Jesus sees her hopelessness, His heart goes out to her, so He reaches out to touch the coffin of her only son to raise him from the dead. Jesus reaches out to give living hope to a woman who had lost all hope.

Describe a time when you felt hopeless? What happened and how did you cope? In what ways did the comfort of others ease your distress?

 **Read: Luke 7:16-17**

The crowd of people all praised God and proclaimed that God had come to help his people that were living without hope.

When we receive new life from Jesus our praise of Jesus and our proclamation of His good news will show others how to receive new life in Christ. No one is beyond the reach of God's hope!

Share examples of how you praise Jesus and proclaim His good news. How does your praise and proclamation influence the people you live, work and laugh with?

When it seems like all hope is lost, Jesus offers everyone hope for a new life. When it looked like all hope was lost for Jesus, when it looked like the only Son of God was dead and buried, Jesus rose from the dead after being in the grave for 3 days. Jesus defeated the power of the grave once and for all.

When we receive Jesus as Lord and Saviour, we receive His resurrection power to overcome the challenges we face today, and we live with the knowledge that we will never be without hope ever again.

How do you draw on the resurrection power of Jesus to enable you to overcome challenges? What are the spiritual disciplines that help you to grow in this?

The reason we must keep planting new campuses in our city, and one day around our nation, is to ensure that others receive the hope that only Christ can give. Across our nation there are millions of people living without hope and heading to a Christless eternity. We have been called by God to plant Gateway campuses to praise His name and proclaim His good news to a nation that desperately needs hope for today and all eternity.



Watch this short video (7min) from the McCrindle launch of their research into Faith and Belief in Australia.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ovJ12DcReal&feature=youtu.be>

Was there anything that surprises you from the research? How can you be encouraged by the findings of this research?

In what way does this research encourage you to speak to those you live work and laugh with about your faith?

Discuss the costs and benefits of church planting. Why is church planting an important strategy to reach our community with the life changing message of Jesus?

When you give to Gateway Beyond you are helping to plant and grow Gateway campuses to reach previously unreached people with the good news of Jesus. Your giving will enable us to reach more people with the hope of Christ than ever before in our history.

♥ **Pray for each of the Gateway campuses and their communities, as they share God's hope with those who desperately need it.**

FAMILY CHALLENGE:

LIFT- Life Impact Foundation Thailand

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."

Proverbs 31:8-9

One of our Gateway Beyond Global workers, Lyndal, works with an organization called: LIFT. She helps people living in poverty in Thailand. Have a look at these links to see the ways LIFT helps people in Thailand.

<https://lifthailand.com/projects>

<https://lifthailand.com/lyndal-updates>

Talk about what living in poverty would be like in Thailand. On the newsletter page, read the story about the five children (Song, Saam, Bam, Bo and Bell) living with their grandparents and talk about how their lives have been changed by LIFT.

Pray for Lyndal and the LIFT team. Pray for the people of Thailand who are living in poverty.

COME ALONG TO THE GATEWAY BEYOND CELEBRATION NIGHT

The Loft, Gateway Mackenzie, Sunday 2 June

Free Food from 5pm, Service starts 6pm

NO ONE IS BEYOND THE REACH OF GOD'S POWER TO *save*

Read Acts 9:1-9

Saul of Tarsus is a Christian killer. He is on his way to persecute more Christians and use his power to stop the spread of the gospel. Jesus has other ideas, and as it turns out, Jesus has greater power than Saul and his religious authorities. Jesus stops Saul in his tracks, causing him temporary blindness, and sets him on a new course to preach the gospel and plant churches. Saul the Christian killer is transformed into the most influential leader in the history of the Christian church.

Has Jesus transformed your life? Share with your group how Jesus got your attention and turned your life around.

Read Acts 9:10-19

Think of the person that you live, work and laugh with who is most unlikely to become a Christian. This was Saul. This was why Ananias did not want to go and minister to him when God prompted him to go. When God prompts you to go and minister to someone that you think would never darken the door of a church, remember what He did to transform Saul the Christian killer into Paul the church planter.

Who do you know who is far from God? What can you do to be ready to share your faith with them?

Read Acts 9:19-31

The Holy Spirit is still prompting us to go to unlikely people and unlikely places to share the gospel and see people saved. No one is beyond the reach of God's power to save, but someone needs to go if people are to be saved! Some are sent by God to go to some spiritually dark places in the world to share the good news where people are still being persecuted for their faith, and some are sent next door or across the footy field, but we are all sent somewhere to see people saved.

Where is God calling you to go and share the good news?

Paul spent fourteen years in preparation for ministry (Galatians 2:1). What can you do to equip yourself for living out the calling God has placed on your life?



Watch this short video (12min) of the story of faith and forgiveness in unlikely circumstances.

<https://www.iamsecond.com/seconds/an-innocent-man-a-crooked-cop/>

Discuss your response to this story. Who do you identify with more? The innocent man or the crooked cop?

Discuss the impact that an encounter with Jesus had on each one of these men. How were their lives different because of what Jesus did in their lives?

Discuss the power and beauty of forgiveness. How have you experienced this in your own life?

When you give to Gateway Beyond you are supporting our Gateway Beyond workers who have heard God's call to go and share the good news in some of the darkest places in the world. Workers like Rob and Liz are training pastors to plant churches in a nation where people are persecuted for their faith.

The good news is, the power of the gospel is still more powerful than any opposition we may face. In nations around the world, people are hearing the good news and being saved every day.

♥ ENGAGE WITH GATEWAY GLOBAL

Sign up for Gateway Beyond E-news to receive regular updates:

<https://gatewaybaptist.com.au/beyond/e-news-sign-up/>

Pray for our Gateway Beyond Global workers around the world. Find out about each one of them on our website:

<https://gatewaybaptist.com.au/beyond/our-world/>

Have an experience of mission for yourself. Find out about the upcoming mission teams:

<https://gatewaybaptist.com.au/beyond/pray-go-give/upcoming-mission-teams/>

Invite a Gateway Beyond Worker to visit your life group this year:

Contact our Global Missions Director, Caroline Berry, to find out when a Gateway Beyond worker is available to share with your group.

caroline@gatewaybaptist.com.au

FAMILY CHALLENGE:

Hope Walks

*"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord,
and he will repay him for his deed."*

Proverbs 19:17

Hope Walks is a ministry of one of our Gateway Beyond Global workers, Linda. Have a look at the information about club foot on their web site here: <https://www.hopewalks.org/>

Talk together about what club foot is and how club foot would affect the life of a child living in poverty. The ministry of Hope Walks shares the love of Jesus by providing the treatment they need to live a full life.

Now read this story about Erick from a remote Island in Honduras. <https://www.hopewalks.org/erick-from-honduras/> Have a look on google maps to see where Roatan is. Talk about the difference this medical support will make for little Erick as he grows up.

Pray for Linda and the ministry of Hope Walks.

NO FAMILY IS BEYOND THE REACH OF *redemption*

Paul has a vision from God to go to an unreached city with the gospel. He finds a businesswoman beside the river who is ready to receive the gospel. Her whole family gets saved.

What is a vision? Have you ever had a dream from God? Share your experience.

How do we know if a dream comes from the Holy Spirit?

 **Read Acts 16:6-10**

What was Paul's response to the vision he receives? Do you have a compelling vision? What is your vision and where does it come from?

When a gospel vision is received and believed, whole families are redeemed, and local churches are planted. God has given Gateway a vision to take the gospel to new communities to see whole families redeemed and new campuses planted.

 **Read Acts 16:11-15**

What do we learn about sharing the gospel from Paul's encounter with Lydia? What can we learn about how divine and human responsibility come together in evangelism?

Soon after, Paul gets put in prison and he meets a prison guard who is ready to hear the gospel and his whole family is also saved.

 **Read Acts 16:16-34**

What are the charges brought against Paul and Silas to the magistrates? What practices should we be known for as Christians as we share the message of Jesus?

What was the jailer's response to hearing the gospel?

The church in Philippi is established in the homes of a wealthy businesswoman and a working-class man that enables the gospel to move through that city, and for lives to be changed forever.

Jewish men were taught to pray, 'I thank you, Lord, that I was not born a woman, a slave or a Gentile.' In Philippi, God begins the church with a woman, a slave girl and a Roman jailer, and Paul rejoices.

What inherited prejudices and assumptions, even religious ones, might God require us to relinquish today?

It cost Paul considerable money, time in prison, ridicule and hardship, but he knew it was worth the effort to see people saved and new churches planted. It will cost us money, time and hardship to share the gospel with a nation that has turned its back on God. But, every time one person is saved the gospel moves into a family. Every time one church is planted the gospel moves into a community.



Watch this short (5min) video about Gateway Beyond Worker, Ainsley Winten

<https://vimeo.com/273628087>

How has the gospel transformed this community? Question about the costs and benefits of ministry as we reach people in need around the world

When the church is on the move, cities and nations are reached with the life changing message of Jesus.

When you give to Gateway Beyond you are supporting a movement of churches taking the gospel to our community, nation and world through Gateway Care, Gateway Campuses and Gateway Global.



Over the next twelve months, what might God be calling you to sacrifice in order to give to Gateway Beyond ministries in our community, nation and world? Bring your Commitment Card ready to pledge on Commitment Sunday.

FAMILY CHALLENGE:

African Hearts

"He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 18:2-3

Gateway loves to support the ministry of African Hearts and the work of Gateway Beyond worker Ainsley.

Soon we will have a look online at the school where many of the children live. Before coming to African Hearts, many of the children didn't have safe homes to live in or good food to eat or clean water to drink.

Have a look at the photos in this link that show the African Hearts school and their boarding house where they are kept safe and loved. https://www.african-hearts.org/ah_school.htm

- In what way is their school the same as yours? In what way is it different?
- What is hanging above their bunk beds? Why do they need this?
- What activities do the children do as a part of their student life?
- As a family, pray for Ainsley and the children at African Hearts.
- Ministries like African Hearts rely on the giving of generous people to continue. As a family, what would you be willing to sacrifice so you can give to Gateway Beyond in the next year?

THIS IS THE LAST WEEK IN THE SERIES!

Plan something special with your life group to celebrate what God is doing.

Some ideas include:

- An international food pot luck dinner. Share a meal together and celebrate the diversity of food that we enjoy from around the world. Pray for the nations as you enjoy their cuisine.
- A prayer walk. Meet at a look out or a park in your community and pray together for your city.
- Visit your city. Be a tourist in your own town. Enjoy what your community has to offer, praise God, and pray for Him to reach the lost people in your community.
- Visit a different Gateway Campus. Arrange with your group to go to a service at a different campus one Sunday soon. This will help you pray for the Gateway Campuses around our city.

NO *city* IS BEYOND REACH

Paul knew that if the gospel was to reach more people, then the church needed to spread beyond the boundaries of Jerusalem and to the major cities of the Roman Empire, because cities are not just places filled with many people, but they are also places of great influence.

Name and discuss some of the reasons why cities are places of great influence. How is this an advantage to the mission of the church?

We read that after preaching the gospel in the great city of Athens, Paul moves on to another significant city of the time – Corinth. Like Athens, Corinth was a city of religious idol worship and far from Jesus. But in this context, Paul is joined by a devoted band of ordinary, faithful men and women, who commit themselves to establishing a new church by preaching the saving message of Jesus.

 **Read Acts 18:1-4**

What are some of the reasons why Paul, Priscilla and Aquila work so well together? What did they have in common?

As a result of establishing a new church, many people, families and whole communities find hope and healing when they hear the saving message of Jesus. A new worshipping community is established in Corinth.

 **Read Acts 18:5-8**

What is Paul's response to the opposition he encounters in the synagogue? What can we learn from this?

If we are going to see our city and its people reached, it will require great investment and commitment from many people to see many saved. It is going to take an investment of committed people. It is going to take an investment of money and resources. It is going to take an investment of time. It is going to take hard work. It is going to take the faithful preaching of the gospel.

It is going to require a great investment to see our city saved. What is the risk if we are not prepared to make the investment?

Our city with its many people, families and communities, is not beyond the reach of God's saving love. We all have a part to play to share the good news and to be the Church we are commissioned to be, so more and more people in our city can hear the life changing message of Jesus.

 **Read Acts 18:9-11**

What are some of the reasons why Paul needs confirmation to continue ministry in Corinth?

Have you ever been at the point of giving up? Have you received a word from God at the moment you needed it most? Share your experience with the group.

When you give to Gateway Beyond you are supporting the work of people like Morris Lee, who has been training leaders for 40 years to

spread the gospel in the most densely populated nation on earth, and to see the Gateway City campus established in the fastest growing residential area in Queensland.



What are the needs of the people you live, work and laugh with? What is God calling you to do to share the life changing message of Jesus? How can you partner with Gateway Beyond to see the people in your city saved?

FAMILY CHALLENGE:

God Loves Cities

God loves cities because lots of people live in cities.

*"You are the light of the world.
A city set on a hill cannot be hidden."
Matthew 5:14*

Go into Google maps and search for your city (eg: Brisbane, Redlands, Logan, Gold Coast). Can you find the following places without doing a specific google search for them?

- Your local school
- The Library
- A Hospital
- The Police Station
- Your house

How many houses do you think there are in your city? God loves every person living in every house in your city. With the Google map still open, pray for your city. Pray that more and more people will learn about Jesus.



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