



Reaching Out

Leaders copy





LESSON FOUR: Marina Walsh

Reaching Out

Intro and Welcome – Introduce yourself and the evening’s topic.

(Read Aloud) There are people in your life who need you.

They need you to notice them, acknowledge them, see them, be kind to them, help them, and encourage them.

They may not be members of your family or close friends, they could be people in your community who nobody wants to deal with, who society tries to ignore.

We can look on and say “Wow that is so sad, unfortunate, tragic,” we can even give some money to a good cause; however money does not necessarily change someone’s life.

Watch AV clip “Reaching Out” by Lauren Rei 5.07mins, then lead a group discussion on what they have just heard and what stands out for them).

(Read aloud) As women we can naturally be empathetic, we are designed that way. However that does not necessarily mean that having empathy will move us to act. As women of purpose with a God given vision we can take that step further and like Jesus did, have compassion. We then begin to really ‘see’ people and prepare ourselves to actually do something about it. That’s when lives are changed.



Jesus was moved with compassion:

Matthew 9:36 NLT – “When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”

Matthew 14:14 NLT – “Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick.”

(Read and discuss the following questions. Lead a group discussion for several minutes around these questions).

Q What does Compassion mean to you?

Q Why does compassion motivate us to do something for others?

Q How is compassion different to empathy? (You could pause on this question for a while as it could bring about quite a good discussion. Ask for examples of the difference between the two).

(Read aloud) **Compassion is an emotion that calls for an action.**

How often do we allow those moments of compassion to penetrate to our soul - that then results in action. When was the last time you played a part in changing someone's life?

1 John 3:17 – *“If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion – how can God’s love be in that person?”*

People change other people's lives – Jesus is a Person – He can change your life and He can change the life of the person next to you. Jesus can change the person you decide to “stop and see.” He can change the life of the person you go to school with who teases you, the critical co-worker, a friend, the person you dislike the most. You have the power to influence that person just as they can influence you. We need to get out of our bubble of comfort and show Jesus to these people.

Jesus didn't only hang out with His family and friends, He got out amongst the people who needed Him the most. (Discuss as a group the following questions, again take your time with these questions and generate a good discussion within the group).



Q What injustice stirs your heart? Sex trafficking, World hunger, Poverty, Refugees etc.

Q What 'need' is in front of you, in your spheres of influence?

(Continue reading).

In our midst are people, young and old who need to know God's love and you might just be the person God has appointed to show Him to them.

We almost need to 'market' Jesus. The no 1. marketing rule these days is: **Market like you have something people NEED to buy – rather than what we have to sell!**

We need to make Jesus desirable to people. They need to see Jesus in our lives in such a way that they 'want what we have.' For some people, no one has shown them Jesus, or not in a way that is relevant to them. (How can we make Jesus relevant to people today?).

(Discuss as a group how we can 'market,' or make Jesus more desirable to those around us).

(Read aloud) We need to step out of our comfort – busy bubble and reach out to the people around us. Ask yourself, when was the last time you brought someone to church or even into your home, your world and talked about what Jesus has done in your life?

When you see that person in need, turn around and say ‘wait up’ I know someone who can help you and your situation, this is how HE HELPED ME...

Offer to pray for them, letting them know who you are praying to (the one true God) and tell them what He can do in their life. We can get so caught up in our ways that we don’t often stop and think about the most beneficial option - not necessarily for ourselves but for those around us.



James 1:27 – *“Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.”*

We need to be ready to answer questions and clearly send out right messages and stand by them. We need to stand up for what is right and not let worldly opinion drown us out. We should be giving abundantly of our time and energy to others.

It starts with:

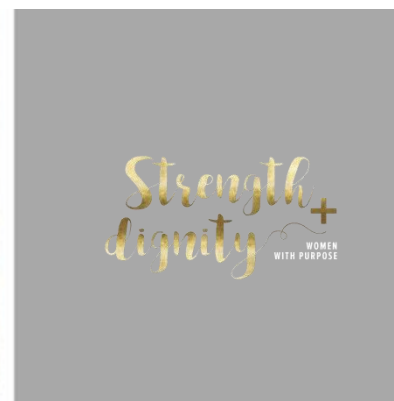
Invitation	Care and kindness
Connection	Food and conversation
Acceptance	Generosity
Unconditional love	Trust
Investment	Protection – fight for what is right.

Who is God highlighting in your life right now who you need to “see?”

Encourage the group to take a look at the extra study and website:

www.strengthanddignity.co.nz

Wrap up lesson four and give details for the time and date of next Strength and dignity – Women with Purpose session.





Extra Study –*Marina Walsh*

A man lame from birth was carried to the temple gates so he could beg from the people going into the temple. When he saw Peter and John he asked for money – Peter's reply was, "I don't have any silver and gold for you, but I'll give you what I do have, In the name of Jesus Christ, get up and walk!"

Then Peter took the lame man by the hand and helped him up. As he did, the man's feet and ankles were instantly healed and strengthened. He jumped up and stood on his feet and began to walk. Then walking, leaping and praising God, **he went into the temple with them.** All the people saw him and heard him praising God and were astounded when they realised he was the crippled beggar.

- This man had been defined his whole life by being lame, everyone knew who he was, he was the crippled beggar.
- Peter took hold of the situation and spoke healing into his life.
- He helped him up, took him by the hand. Peter saw the potential in him, he wasn't afraid to reach out and touch this man who society was walking by.
- Peter and John's faith must have influenced this man enough for him to reach out and take Peter's hand in return. We never know how much our faith and compassion can influence others and bring them into a place of healing or meeting Jesus for the first time.
- He was truly healed and went with Peter and John into the temple walking, leaping and praising God. All because Peter saw him, had compassion and gave him what he had to give through Jesus Christ.
- He praised God openly and people were amazed as they knew he was lame from birth and they were filled with wonder at what had happened. People watching on can be influenced by seeing the change in someone they know. The ripple effect just keeps going.

There are lame around us who need us to break out of our comfort bubble, to stop, to see them and turn around and offer them something worth having. Show them Jesus. We may not be able to change their circumstances, but we can change their life by introducing them to Jesus Christ. Telling them they have a God given purpose that He loves them and they are never alone.

www.strengthanddignity.co.nz for further reading and study.