



NEVER ALONE



ICE BREAKER

What is your favorite thing to do by yourself?



OVERVIEW OF WEEK 4: PROXIMITY

KEY PASSAGE: MARK 1:40-45, LUKE 5:12-14

The law of Moses says the impurity of a person with skin diseases transfers to those who touch them. For those with leprosy in that context, a more isolated existence is hard to imagine. Many layers of social expectation kept those with skin diseases on the outskirts of society. In this beautiful story, a leper risks everything to kneel in front of Jesus, begging to be healed. Instead of keeping his distance, Jesus touches the leper, bringing him healing and a path back into community. To those who are isolated: it's time to seek healing. It's time to tell others you need help and trust them to hear you with compassion. To Grace Church: this story is a reminder that we cannot heal isolation from a distance. We must pursue those who are isolated and move into their lives with healing and love.

Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out and touched him.

"I am willing," he said. "Be healed!"

Mark 1:41



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. We learn in the Gospels that people came to be healed. Why was coming close necessary for healing? What does that look like today?
2. Barry shared that "Proximity means more than just physical nearness; it means crossing the threshold of fear. Fear of losing status or esteem, fear of "catching" what the other person has, fear of what it might cost us." What are some practical ways we can show that we are willing to help "move in" to the broken place of isolation?
3. Describe how body language might honor or dishonor another.
4. When have you felt isolated? What actions by another have drawn you closer?
5. If you are isolated, what lies about your own worth are you believing?



RESOURCES

GRACECHURCH.US/HOPE

Find out more about group and family experiences or how to join a group.