

Life Group Notes

Wonderfully Made

In Sunday's service, we celebrated harvest and explore the work of BMS World Mission at the Hope Home in Thailand. Here, BMS mission worker Judy Cook, and a team of helpers, are helping children with disabilities to live as full a life as is possible.

Read Psalm 139:13-18

Questions for discussion

1. How do these verses from Psalm 139 make you feel? What do they say about how God values you?
2. The psalm-writer praises God because 'I am fearfully and wonderfully made'. 'Fearfully' conveys a sense of being frightened at what is to come, and standing in awe at that tiny creation. How does that relate to being a parent or carer?
3. Tim recounted his experience of caring for a young man of 16 with severe learning and physical disabilities at a Respite Care Centre. The young man's father (a vicar) posed the question, 'If we are all made in the image of God, does that mean that God is both able and somehow disabled?' How do you respond to this question?

Read John 9:1-11

4. In Thailand, a disabled child is a stigma for parents and community. The parents are suspected of having sinned, and it is assumed that they are being punished. How does Jesus respond when the disciples make this assumption about the man born blind? How would you have responded?
5. The Message paraphrase of John 9:3 has Jesus saying: 'You're asking the wrong question. You're looking for someone to blame. There is no such cause-effect here. Look instead for what God can do.' What should we be looking for God to do for those with disabilities? How could that involve us?
6. As Jesus ministers to the man born blind, he gets his hands dirty by making some mud and caking it on the man's eyes. Are people reluctant to get their hands dirty and help? Why or why not?
7. The goal of Jesus' mission and ministry is that people might have life to the full (John 10:10). How can we journey together towards something closer to our full potential? How do help all in our church to do that, whether disabled or non-disabled?

To finish

Each one of us is unique and made in the image of God. That tells us that there is a lot of diversity in God! In your prayers, give thanks for one another's uniqueness, perhaps celebrating particular gifts that individuals have. Remember, we are 'fearfully and wonderfully made' by our awesome Creator God!

Tim Edworthy
18/9/17