TAKEAWAY

EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE

Part Nineteen: Acts 9:32-42

At Maybridge we want to be a church of disciples who make disciples – we hope this takeaway session encourages practical outcomes in the lives of the individuals in your group. The focus of group discussion should be on becoming 'doers of the word' and not just hearers or people who enjoy a good discussion!

SHARE

- If you had a completely free day to do something for someone else, what would you choose to do?
- Have you ever experienced a time when a seemingly small task, act of kindness or serving role later turned out to be more significant than you first thought?

INTRODUCTION

The book of Acts shares the account of the early church as they take the gospel, which is *for* everyone everywhere, *to* everyone everywhere. In the latter part of chapter nine, Luke turns again to Peter's story, and two miraculous encounters with individuals considered insignificant by society and yet, both resulted in their entire towns turning to the Lord...

READ

Acts 9:32-42

DISCUSS

What stands out to you most from the stories of Aeneas and Tabitha at first reading?
What do these two stories have in common? What is different about them?

Both stories (Aeneas and Tabitha) end with people turning to Jesus. Why do you think Luke is more interested in this outcome than simply describing the miracles themselves?

Aeneas and Tabitha were both people who might easily have been overlooked by wider society. Why do you think God so often works through people who aren't considered particularly important?

When the disciples called for Peter, they weren't expecting a resurrection; they just wanted him to mourn with them. Have you ever experienced a moment where God did something completely unexpected in a situation you thought was already "over"?

In both stories, Luke doesn't dwell on the mechanics of the miracles; instead, he emphasizes that "many people believed in the Lord." How do everyday acts of mercy (like Tabitha's sewing) and moments of miracle (like Peter's prayers) work together to fuel God's mission in our own neighbourhoods?

God deliberately builds His kingdom through overlooked people—a paralysed man and a quiet seamstress—rather than just the bold, upfront communicators. If you ever feel like you aren't "important" or don't want the spotlight, how does this passage encourage you about how God views and uses you?

Where is one specific place in your regular week right now where showing mercy could become an "instinct" rather than an occasional duty?

Christians often sit on opposite ends of the spectrum regarding miracles—either expecting them on demand if we have enough faith, or assuming they stopped in the first century. Where do you naturally lean, and what challenges or encourages you about viewing miracles as "previews rather than finalities"?

How does the promise that *"with Jesus everyone will one day be healed—now or later"* help us pray boldly for miracles today without losing our faith when healing doesn't happen immediately?

The word *mission* can sometimes feel cringe-worthy or imperialistic, yet Jesus' mission is about meeting broken people, expelling darkness, and lifting up the poor. How does seeing Tabitha's sewing as a vital part of God's mission change the way you view your own work or skills?

Why does the church need to take hold of all three 'M's? (Mercy – concern for the poor. Miracles – relying on God to change hearts. Mission – taking initiative to represent Jesus to the world.) What is lost if one is missing?

TRY OUT

- What is one specific action in your regular weekly routine that you can take to show mercy to those around you? Report back how it went next week.
- Make an impact on your community – Both miracles resulted in entire towns turning to the Lord (verses 35 and 42). Spend a few minutes praying together for one practical way your group can serve your local community this month so that people see Jesus through your actions.

PRAY

- Pray that we, as individuals and a church community, will follow the Holy Spirit's promptings as we seek to live out Jesus' mission of meeting broken people, expelling darkness, and lifting up the poor.