



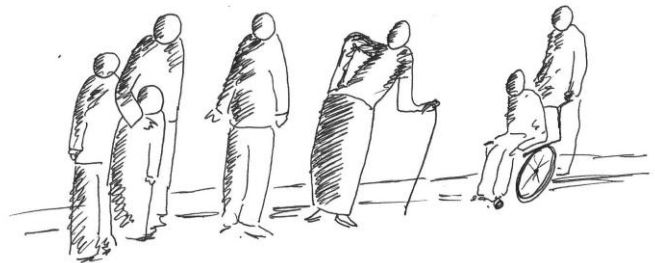
## B REVEALING WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

# Attitudes towards disease and difference



## Why use this Bible study?

This Bible study can help us explore some of our prejudices towards people who are different to us – whether they are unwell, disabled or of a different gender, age or ethnicity to us.



## Unclean, or accepted and loved?

**Read Luke 8:42b-48.** Since Old Testament times, women were believed to be unclean at the time of their monthly bleeding. As a result they stayed away from the temple during this time. According to the law of Moses (Leviticus 15), if Jesus was touched by a woman with bleeding it would make him unclean.



## Key points

- Jesus accepts all of us as we are.
- We should help the church and society to accept and love people who suffer from diseases, live with disabilities or are different from us in any way.



## Questions for discussion

- Why did Jesus not tell the woman off for touching him?
- This woman would have felt unclean for 12 years. How did Jesus respond to her?
- Do we sometimes make people living with HIV feel 'unclean' or rejected? Why? How can we change this?
- Why did Jesus make the woman come forward and admit she had touched him? What can we learn from this?
- How should we treat people who are different to us?
- Can you take time now to pray and think about someone who you don't get along with? Is this because they are a different gender, class, caste, religion, age, ability or temperament than you?
- What could you do to reconcile yourself with this person?

Awareness-raising

Children &amp; youth

Climate &amp; environment

Conflict &amp; peace-building

Corruption &amp; governance

Disaster risk management

Discrimination &amp; inclusion

Food &amp; livelihoods

Gender &amp; sexual violence

Health &amp; HIV

Influencing decision-makers

Migration &amp; trafficking

Water, sanitation &amp; hygiene

**B ATTITUDES TOWARDS DISEASE AND DIFFERENCE**

**Related tools**

- A1 – Revealing stigma towards people with disabilities: information for facilitators [A1: *Discrimination & inclusion-1*]
- A1 – Revealing HIV: information for facilitators [A1: *Health & HIV-1*]
- A1 – Revealing violence against women and girls: information for facilitators [A1: *Gender & sexual violence-1*]
- A2 – Understanding vulnerability and disability [A2: *Discrimination & inclusion-1*]
- A2 – HIV counselling and testing [A2: *Health & HIV-1*]
- A2 – How HIV spreads [A2: *Health & HIV-2*]
- A2 – My supporters: tackling HIV stigma [A2: *Health & HIV-3*]
- A2 – How HIV affects livelihoods [A2: *Health & HIV-4*]
- B – Loving the outcast (Bible study) [B: *Discrimination & inclusion-2*]
- B – Caring for widows and orphans (Bible study) [B: *Discrimination & inclusion-3*]
- B – Disabilities – knowing our true value (Bible study) [B: *Discrimination & inclusion-4*]
- B – HIV and AIDS and the glory of God (Bible study) [B: *Health & HIV-1*]

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