



B REVEALING WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

# Each of us is special to God



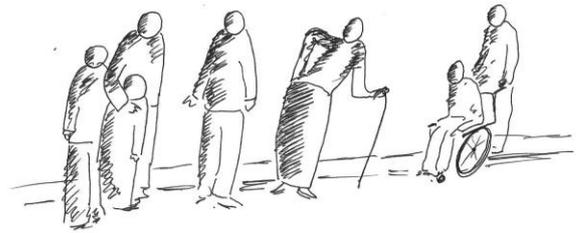
## Why use this Bible study?

This Bible study helps us see that God values each of us the same, and explores whether, and how, we can do the same.



## God values each of us

Many people feel they are failures. They may have failed to progress with their education; they may struggle to maintain their families; they may lack confidence because they lack outside knowledge. When others ask for their opinions, they may feel they have nothing to share. This lack of confidence goes against biblical teaching.



**Read Matthew 10:29-30 and Psalm 139:13-16.** Here we see just how much value God gives each one of us. Not one of us is worthless in God's sight. To him we are all special and valued.

**Read Luke 15:1-2.** Jesus was willing to mix with all kinds of people – no matter what others thought of them. This shows God's willingness to accept all people and our equal status before God. Jesus only condemned people if they claimed to be better than their neighbours (Luke 18:9-14). In our work with people and communities, we need to work with the poor and oppressed – not for them. We need to value each person and help them to feel more positively about themselves. We need to develop skills in listening and understanding.



## Key points

- All people, whatever their status, are of equal value to God. Pray that we will always see people as God sees them.



## Questions for discussion

- How good are you at listening to other people's concerns?
- Do you really listen and encourage people to share their concerns and help them work out what they should do? Or are you waiting for a pause in the conversation to give your advice?
- What would you like to be different in your life? What are you willing to do to bring about change? Do you need help and support from others? Or from God?

Awareness-raising

Children & youth

Climate & environment

Conflict & peace-building

Corruption & governance

Disaster risk management

Discrimination & inclusion

Food & livelihoods

Gender & sexual violence

Health & HIV

Influencing decision-makers

Migration & trafficking

Water, sanitation & hygiene

- How do you think of yourself? Do you regard your knowledge and training as something you have achieved through effort and hard work? Or do you regard your skills as a gift from God – to be shared freely with others?
- Consider how you treat the people in your community. Do you regard them as people with potential – or people with huge problems? How does God regard them?



## Notes

This Bible study is adapted from one written by Isobel Carter that was published in Tearfund (1996) *Footsteps 29: Participatory learning and action*

[http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/resources/publications/footsteps/footsteps\\_21-30/footsteps\\_29/](http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/resources/publications/footsteps/footsteps_21-30/footsteps_29/)

### 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 testing and counselling [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*]

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