

THE STORM BEFORE THE CALM
Week 3: "I Am Willing"
May 3rd, 2020

OPENING PRAYER

Have someone in the group invite God's Holy Spirit into our presence. Pray for your encounter with God's Word. Ask God to open your heart and mind to some new understanding and especially to a new way of life.

SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES

~Safe Group	~Silence	~Sharing
~Confidentiality	~No Cross Talk	~Self-Aware
~Listen	~No Fixing	~"I" Statements
~Pause	~No Rescuing	~Handle Conflict Biblically

"GETTING TO KNOW YOU"

Go around the room and briefly share your answer to the following question:

This week we opened with a note about John Krasinski and the "Some Good News" program he creates each week. Can you briefly share "some good news" you have witnessed or experienced in this Covid-19 season?

INTRODUCTION

Good News is a wonderful thing! This week's message and our biblical narrative and story come from a powerful interaction Jesus has with a man who has leprosy. The title of our study comes from the words of Jesus "***I Am Willing***". These words came as Good News to this desperate man!

Listen to our story and consider what the result is of Jesus' willingness as we continue in our series ***The Storm Before the Calm: Lessons on Survival from a Leader Who Lives.***

Bible Storytelling: Matthew 8:1-4

- Tell the Story: This week's story will be told by one of our group members.
- Examine the Story: Looking at Matthew 8:1-4 in your Bible, what did the storyteller add or omit in their retelling? Does anything else stand out to you?
- Read the story: Have someone in your group read the passage of scripture as everyone else follows along in their Bible.

DISCUSSION:

Go around the room and share from your heart, remembering the group guidelines.

- **What is the spiritual significance of "leprosy" in scripture? How is the Covid-19 virus similar?**
- **What are the characteristics of the man and his actions in Verse 2? What do they symbolize?**
- **Why is it important that Jesus "*reached out his hand and touched the man*"? How does this represent what Jesus has done for us? What is the result of Jesus' willingness?**
- **If time allows, have someone read Leviticus 14:1-7. Discuss the symbolism of this passage and how it applies to our lives.**
- **How have you personally experienced Jesus' declaration; "*I am willing...be clean!*"?**

CLOSING PRAYER-Spend some time in prayer, pray for the season we are in, for those that may be affected, for the community, for our world. Pray for one another, for those that might be absent and for prayer requests.