



Vision and Commitment 2018  
A year to focus on discipleship

Every day, in  
everything  
&  
everywhere

## Discipleship Series Interactive Worship - Acting Out (Practising)

### Preparation

You will need:

- Small pieces of towelling, or a towel that can be cut up, for the reflection time.
- Paper figure cut-outs (Appendix 1), string, pens and pencils.
- Newspapers or a globe.

### Bible Passage

Luke 13:10-17

### Introduction

Ask a musical section to sing 'Compelled by Love' (Sing to the Lord Volume 10 Part 1) or play an instrumental track.

Whilst the music is playing, slowly bring in a bowl, fill it with water and drape a plain towel beside it. Then place a newspaper, globe or another object next to it that represents your community. Alternatively, ask different people of all ages to carry the different objects in and lay them at the front of the hall.

### Thought

Ask someone to read the following story based on Luke 13:10-17, 'acting it out' as they do so by standing up and bending over, if they can, so that they are looking at the floor. (Ask them to say the next words slowly):

*Imagine you had to stay like this all day, only seeing people's feet, every move an effort and living in constant discomfort. The lady in our story today had been bent over for 18 years. Imagine how she must have felt. Then Jesus comes to the synagogue to teach. He notices her and calls for her. 'Woman, you are set free!' She looks up. (They can stand now.)*

Can you feel a tiny bit of the relief she must have felt? In an instant her life was changed. Jesus had not only brought her healing, but she now had her dignity restored – and she had a future.

You would have thought that everyone would be rejoicing, but no. The synagogue leader was cross because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath. In that miraculous moment the synagogue leader could only obsess about the petty.

Jesus had a habit of upsetting those who put the regulations of religion before the transforming power of God. Ask if the congregation knows of examples of Jesus breaking





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the rules. (He ate with sinners, he allowed a disgraced woman to anoint him with oil, he touched the leper, he talked to women and children, he allowed his disciples to pick wheat on the Sabbath.)

People mattered to Jesus. It wasn't that he ignored the commands of the Old Testament; he didn't. He remained true to its intentions without allowing them to constrict his engagement with those in need.

We constantly see him stepping into people's lives and offering himself. 'What do you want me to do for you?' he asks a blind beggar (Luke 18:40 NIV).

Ask the congregation to discuss in small groups:

- What if every Christian asked their neighbour the same question?
- What would we look like?
- Would we even have time to sit here or would we be so busy serving the needs of our community? Does someone need a lift to the hospital? Does a young parent need a meal cooked? Does an elderly shut-in person need someone to talk to?
- How can we serve others? What could we be doing?

It's all very well praying for people but sometimes the Lord asks us to be the answer to our own prayers and do something. Servanthood was most clearly demonstrated when Jesus washed his own disciples' feet. They didn't dare ask him to do something so menial but he saw the need and took up the towel. If only we too could begin to serve as he served, give as he gave and love as he loved.

## Participation

Give each person a cut-out shape of a person (Appendix 1) or give them a plain piece of paper and ask them to draw around their hand. Ask them to personalise their shape with words or drawings that show their calling, as disciples, to live out their faith in a practical way.

String the shapes together, making clear that we are called to serve others.

## Worship

- Show the video *Vagrant* - <http://savn.tv/videos/Vagrant>
- SB 165 The Servant King
- SB 998 Beauty for brokenness
- SB 1001 Help us build

## Response

Provide a small square of towelling/cloth for people to pick up to remind them of the call to service.





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## Appendix 1

