

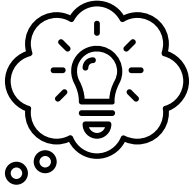
P.S.

ACCEPTED

1

POOR WOMAN

THINK:



Did you know that 30.4 million people in SA live in poverty and 7.2 million in extreme poverty? If you have a house to live in, running water, electricity, and enough food, you are one of the 40% of the richest people in the country. (Statistics South Africa Report)

- Who are the rich and the poor in your community?
- In how many different ways can someone be “poor”?

LISTEN:



Read Mark 12:41-44

Did you know that widows in those times were very vulnerable with no-one to provide for them?

SHARE:



- What do you think could be this widow’s history?
- Who is God for her?
- What is surprisingly different in this story?
- How does the story influence your life?

LIVE:



- How can you help someone this week that is physically poor? Decide to share your lunch or donate an item out of your cupboard.

PRAY:



- Pray for someone who is emotionally “poor”.

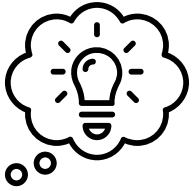


INFLUENCER

2

TEENAGE BOY

THINK:



“Leadership is not about a title. It’s about impact, influence, and inspiration.” Robin S. Sharma

- Who in your community has leadership positions?
- Can you think of people who influence others without a title, position or without being older?



LISTEN:

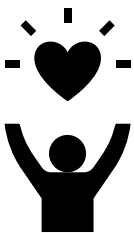
Read 1 Timothy 4:12-16

Did you know that Timothy was not only a teenager, but also a church leader? Paul was his mentor who supported him.



SHARE:

- How is God using Timothy?
- What is surprisingly different in this story?
- How does the story influence your life?



LIVE

- Think of an average week in your life and the people you come in contact with. How can you influence your friends, sports team, family, Christian group, neighbours, etc.? Also ask God for whom you can be a mentor.



PRAY:

- Pray for prefects, teachers, pastors, and other leaders in your community

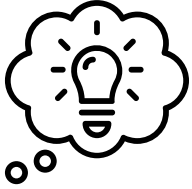
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INCLUDED

FOREIGNER

3

THINK:



Did you know that 65 million people are displaced in the world, in other words they live as refugees in other countries? (www.unhcr.org)

- How many different cultures, languages and religions in your community can you name?
- What perceptions do people have of other groups?



LISTEN:

Read Acts 8:26-40

Did you know that Ethiopia is home to one of the oldest Christian churches in the world.

SHARE:



- How many facts about the Ethiopian can you find in the story? You can also use the internet for background.
- Why do you think the Ethiopian was reading from the Old Testament?
- What is surprisingly different in this story?
- In which way can you relate to the Ethiopian? And to Philip?
- How does the story influence your life?



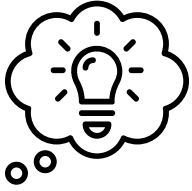
LIVE:

- Get to know someone from a different culture, language group, or religion. Ask them about the meaning of their name, their family and their dreams for their future.



PRAY:

- Pray for people that are easily excluded by your church or friends. Pray for opportunities to share Jesus' love with them.

**THINK:**

- What makes someone an insider or an outsider?
- When do you consider someone an outcast?

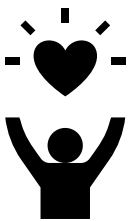
**LISTEN:**

Read John 4:1-26 and 39-42

Did you know the Jews referred to the Samaritans as “dogs,” or “half-breeds”?
They did not like to interact with each other.

**SHARE:**

- What do you find interesting about Jesus' attitude towards, and interaction with the “bad reputation” Samaritan woman?
- Try to imagine the woman's thoughts and emotions during and after her encounter with Jesus. How would you have felt?
- How did her interaction with Jesus turn her life around and ultimately change her reputation?

**LIVE:**

- What kind of reputation do you have?
- What things in your life contribute to this reputation? Is there something you need to change?

**PRAY:**

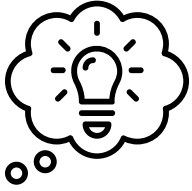
- Ask Jesus to change those things in your life that may give you a bad reputation in the hearts and minds of others.

P.S.

CALLED

SIMPLE FISHERMAN

5



THINK:

- Think of people in your community who are seen as either very important or as very unimportant.
- What is the reason for this perception of these two kinds of people?



LISTEN:

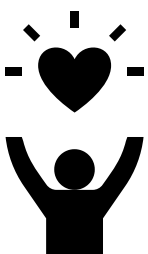
Read Luke 5:1-11



SHARE:

Did you know that Peter, Andrew, James, and John were simple fishermen? They probably didn't have any formal education. Maths was not their strength!

- Why do you think Jesus chose fishermen to become his disciples?
- What is surprisingly different in this story?



LIVE:

- Think of an occasion where someone in your school that was labelled as not “good enough” or not “important enough” made a difference.
- What “labels” have people given you? How does Jesus see you?
- What must change in you to see all people equal and without labels?



PRAY:

- Pray for a change in your attitude towards the so called less important people. Thank Him for using all kinds of people!

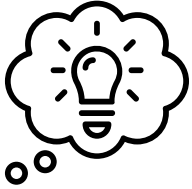


KNOWN

A SHORT RICH MAN

6

THINK:



542 billion US dollars will be spent worldwide in 2018 on advertising. How important is stuff to you?

How does money, success and fame form your identity?



LISTEN:

Read Luke 19:1-10

SHARE:



- What labels did people give Zacchaeus?
- What are the things people say about you?
- What is surprisingly different in this story?
- How does the story influence your life?



LIVE:

- How can you set something right that you have wronged in the past? Decide to forgive someone or give away something or spend time with someone as a gesture.



PRAY:

- Write down the different “labels” that describes your identity in Christ and reflect on them in prayer... new... accepted...forgiven...



FOLLOWER⁷

ARABIAN, INDIAN, CHINESE



THINK:

Tell a story of someone from a different religion that taught you something.



LISTEN:

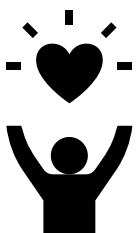
Read Matthew 2: 1-12

Did you know that Magi were educated, affluent people from Eastern countries who served kings in palaces with their wisdom? We don't know where they come from, but it could be Arabia, India or even China!



SHARE:

- Why do you think this surprisingly different story of eastern people following a star is included in the Bible?
- How does God use the Magi (wise men) in this story?
- What do you think happened to them when they returned home?
- How does this story influence the way you think about other religions?



LIVE:

• Get to know someone from a different religion. Acknowledge the good they are doing, show respect and share your own faith story.



PRAY:

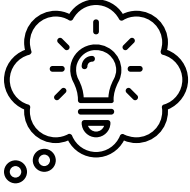
- Praise Jesus and give Him gifts of thanksgiving.

P.S.

CHOSEN

8

TEENAGE GIRL



THINK:

Think of an occasion that meant a lot to you, when someone was faithful to you.

What did that person do to show their faithfulness?



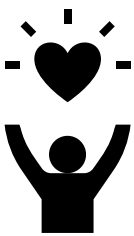
LISTEN:

Read Luke 2:1-7



SHARE:

- Why do you think Mary agreed to God's plan?
- How was Mary's life influenced by her obedience to God?
- How does this story inspire you?



LIVE:

- Think of ways we can live out our faith.
- Find someone whose faithfulness to God encourages and motivates you to persevere.



PRAY:

- Pray for patience and strength from God to help us persevere in faith.

THINK:

More than 200 000 people in South Africa live on the street. Think of people that are a part of your everyday life that you do not acknowledge: the beggar at the street corner, the old lady selling newspapers or even some of the teens in your school.

- Why do we see people who live or work on the street as strangers?
- Who do you see as your neighbours?

LISTEN:

Read Luke 10:25-35

Did you know that Samaritans and Jews were enemies? They saw each other as strangers. They would never talk to each other, let alone help each other.

SHARE:

- Why does the man want to know who his neighbour is?
- Why are the Samaritan's actions surprisingly different?
- How does the story influence your life?

LIVE:

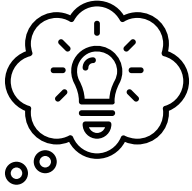
- Greet strangers who you encounter this week and ask them their names.

PRAY:

- Pray for people in need in your community and ask God to make you their "neighbour"

P.S. SERVANT LEADER¹⁰

TWO BROTHERS



THINK:

- Can you think of people using relationships to gain power, popularity, or a following in your community or school?
- Where do you see signs of corruption?
- Are there people who abuse their position for selfish reasons?



LISTEN:

Read Mark 10:35-45



SHARE:

- Why do you think James and John asked Jesus this?
- How to do power, influence, and leadership work surprisingly differently for followers of Jesus?
- In which way can you relate to James and John? How high do you value power, fame and popularity?
- How does the story challenge you to think differently?



LIVE:

- How can you lead by being a servant-leader?
- Think of practical ways in which you can serve at your home and school?

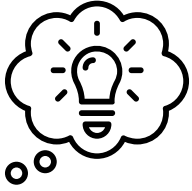


PRAY:

- Thank Jesus for setting an example. Pray that you will be a humble and willing servant.

P.S. FORGIVEN¹¹

PARTY ANIMAL



THINK:

Did you know that South Africa is ranked as the third biggest drinking nation in Africa? Drinking can lead to sexual assaults and rape. About 4 out of 10 teenagers between grade 9 and 11 have had sex, with 2 of the 4 having more than 3 sexual partners.

- What does it mean to be a “party animal” in your school?
- Why do you think people need to make themselves feel better by doing these kinds of things?



LISTEN:

Read Luke 15:11-32



SHARE:

- What caused the youngest son to make the choices he did?
- Who is God for him?
- What is surprisingly different in this story?
- In what ways do you identify with the different sons' choices?
- How does the story influence the way in which you make choices?



LIVE:

- Get to know a “party animal” in your school and their story.



PRAY:

- Pray for people who need second chances, whose choices took them into bad places.



FRIEND

BUSINESS WOMAN

12

THINK:



- What does it mean to be hospitable? Tell a story when someone that you did not know well showed you hospitality.
- OR: Share of a time when you were hospitable towards someone else.

LISTEN:



Read Acts 16:13-15 and 40

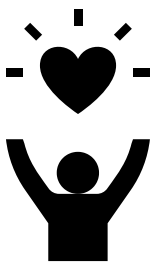
Did you know that Lydia was a successful business woman? She stood strong in a “man’s world”.

SHARE:



- God opened Lydia’s heart to Paul’s message. What must happen in your life to be “open” to God’s Word?
- How do you think Lydia’s life changed when she accepted the message from God?
- How can hospitality be surprisingly effective to share God’s love?

LIVE:

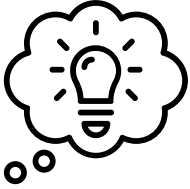


- At the start of this Bible study you shared your story about someone who was very hospitable towards you and made you feel comfortable.
 - o What was the reason for this person acting in such away towards you?
 - o Or the reason for you acting the way you did toward someone else?
- How can you be hospitable towards strangers?
- Make a decision to be hospitable towards someone that is not necessarily a friend.



PRAY:

- Ask God to become a hospitable person towards others, even strangers. Pray for Christians to show more love and acceptance towards others.

THINK:

Did you know that South Africa is known for its extreme income inequality, which is one of the highest in the world? 10% of the population earn around 55%–60% of all income.

- When would you consider someone to be extremely rich?
- When would you consider someone to be important and of influence in your community?

**LISTEN:**

Read Matthew 19:16-26

SHARE:

- With what preconceived ideas did this rich young man come to Jesus?
- In verse 20 the young man replied: “All these (Commandments) I have kept.”
- Do you think he thought of himself spiritually on a higher level than others or do you think he thought he could do everything by himself to receive eternal life?
- Put yourself in this man’s situation. How will you feel and react if Jesus says to you: “Go and sell all your possessions and give to the poor. Then come and follow me”

**LIVE:**

- What are the things you spend your money and time on? What are your highest priorities? Which of them can stand in your way to fully commit yourself to Jesus?

**PRAY:**

- Ask that Jesus will show you how to prioritise the things in your life so that Jesus will be first.