

Week beginning: 6th Nov 2005

Theme: Discipleship – The laying on of hands.

Welcome: Have you ever injured your arm, hand or just your fingers? Life gets difficult doesn't it?! – Share your stories with your cell.

Worship: Don't forget to worship in your cell meeting. It is through worship that we draw near to God! (If you have musicians you can sing or listen/sing along with a worship CD or do something even more creative!) *Also – read together the Hymn 'Heal us Emmanuel' which is printed on page 2 then discuss the following:*

Discuss -

- Which needs healing more urgently – our physical condition or our unbelief?
- Which do you think God considers to be the priority and why?

Word: The bible makes it clear, through the Words of Jesus Christ, that believers will be given Power. (Mark 16:16-18) – Read the passage out loud together and stress the word will each time you come across it! (Use the NIV or GNB for this exercise)

Teaching Slot: The laying on of hands is part and parcel of a functioning body, drawing life from Jesus, the Head, and releasing and imparting that life via the hands. The Power of the Risen Christ to heal, to minister, or give blessing is resident in the lives of *every* Spirit-filled disciple of Jesus. That Power is released through the laying on of hands.

Discuss -

- Is there a difference between hearing the Gospel and responding to the Gospel? – If so, what is it?
- To what extent is it important that both the recipient and the one laying on hands have faith?
- Why is it important to wait for God's prompting before laying on hands?

Witness:

Begin to live in the Spirit of *belief* – Jesus calls for it from the Cross

Remember – Jesus was crucified by unbelievers. What could be a better witness to the world than to show them that our lives are based on complete trust in the words and actions of our Saviour.

- ✓ Share any experiences you have had which involved prayer and the laying on of hands.
- ✓ Read the following Hymn again - quietly and meditatively this time.
- ✓ Pray together asking the Holy Spirit for guidance. Does anyone in the cell clearly feel led to be prayed for? Does anyone in the cell clearly feel that God is calling them to pray and to lay hands on the individual needing prayer? Don't worry if the answer is no! Just follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit

Heal us, Emmanuel, hear our prayer
 We wait to feel Thy touch;
 Deep wounded souls to Thee repair,
 And Saviour, we are such.

Our faith is feeble, we confess
 We faintly trust Thy Word;
 But wilt Thou pity us the less?
 Be that far from Thee, Oh Lord!

Remember him who once applied
 With trembling for relief
 "Lord, I believe," with tears he cried;
 "O help my unbelief!"

She, too, who touched Thee in the press
 And healing virtue stole,
 Was answered, "Daughter, go in peace;
 Thy faith has made thee whole."

Like her, with hopes and fears we come
 To touch Thee if we may;
 O send us not despairing home;
 Send none unhealed away.