

# Week 3

## Bible Study - Loving your community

Over the past two weeks we have looked at the character and example of God as the one who is love and models love for us. As a consequence of this we should be incredibly grateful and so we look to see how we can show love like God's to the world.

What sort of society do we live in? What aspects of that society can Christians affirm? What are some of the difficulties?

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Why should we care for a world that has rejected God?

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*Read Jeremiah 29:1-7. When God's people were sent into exile in Babylon, God spoke through the prophet Jeremiah and gave them this instruction on how to live in a foreign land.*

What does God instruct the exiles in Babylon to do? Why are they to do it?

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How is our life in the modern world similar to their situation? What does this mean for us as we live in our community?

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*Read Matthew 5:13-16. In his famous Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches his disciples who are also living in a world where they are different.*

Jesus describes the disciples as the salt of the earth and the light of the world. What effect do salt and light have on their immediate surrounds? What do these metaphors teach us about being Jesus' disciples?

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What relevance do these metaphors have for us as we live in modern Australia? How are we able to be salt and light?

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Think about our local community. What are some of the needs around us? How might we be able to help meet those needs and similar needs across our city?

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How has *Share the Benefit* challenged you in thinking about the needs of people in Australia who are struggling?

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## **Share the Benefit insights**

Share within your group:

- your experience of living on the STB benefit amount during the last week
- was it as you expected – if not, what surprises were there?
- have any of your attitudes or thoughts changed?

## **Prayer focus – Partnerships with parishes**

An essential outworking of Anglicare’s vision is to be in mutually-beneficial partnerships with local churches. While partnerships look and operate differently, each is fuelled by a desire to reach out effectively with Christ’s love in word and deed and to connect those being served by Anglicare with a local church.

### **Pray:**

- That our partnerships will enhance the scope and reach of Christian care.
- For Christians in local churches to be increasingly empowered and equipped as passionate agents of change in their communities.
- That the delivery of services in partnership with parishes will make a real and lasting difference to the lives of people in need.

## **Share the Benefit – what now?**

Participation in *Share the Benefit* challenges us to think about the impacts of poverty and what life is like for people in difficult circumstances.

How can we as a church and as individuals respond to need in our local community?

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If your church is interested in discussing this further Anglicare can help you identify ways to strengthen your own ministries in this area. Please contact us at [partnerships@anglicare.org.au](mailto:partnerships@anglicare.org.au)