

Thornbury Baptist Church
Small Group Discussion Questions

Talk Date: January 11th 2026

Talk title: Jesus in the House / The Isaiah Vision

Passage: Matt 8:14-17

Speaker: David Lawrence

Discussion Questions

1. 'Jesus arrived at Peter's house' (v14), where he was lodging during his early ministry in the Galilee region. How would group members feel about Jesus being their lodger? What might change – if anything – in household routines?
 - Is there a sense that Jesus does in fact lodge with each of us (Matthew 28:20b)?
2. Peter's mother-in-law is healed and immediately cooks for Jesus (15). She is the ideal disciple, exemplifying the idea of being 'saved to serve'. If she *hadn't* responded like that to her healing, what might Jesus have thought? Might the healing of the ten lepers give us a clue (Luke 17:11-19)?
3. Following on from the previous thought, Jesus didn't heal people to 'gain workers' or 'converts', because not everyone healed responded in that way. So why did he heal and bless people? See Matthew 9:36; 14:14; 15:32; 20:34?
 - Are there way that we can make serving other people conditional on their response? Why might we do that and are we ever right to do so?
4. Matthew records Jesus' healing ministry (v16) and makes a connection to God's long-awaited 'Servant', by quoting a version of Isaiah 53:4 in verse 17. In the talk David suggested that Matthew wanted us to see Jesus as God's 'Servant' who would be the key figure in bringing Isaiah's vision of a renewed earth into being. Look at Isaiah 11:1-9, which describes the work of God's anointed one (there called the 'Shoot' rather than the 'Servant'). What do you learn about him and about the scope of his work?
 - What strikes people from the 'Isaiah vision' laid out in Isaiah 11?
 - In what ways did Jesus outwork this vision in his own ministry?
 - How might this vision shape our lives together as church, and how might it shape our individual lives on our 'frontlines'?

Takeaway

What is the main thing each person is taking away from this discussion?

Spend time praying with one another in the light of your discussion.