

DISCOVERIES FOR SEED COMMUNITIES - SPECIAL NEEDS

SPECIAL NEEDS – **SELF-ESTEEM** – “No matter what others do to show their love for me, I just can’t seem to accept it. People say that since God created me I’m special. I want to believe that, but I’m having a hard time feeling it.”

1 – By Design	Created in his image	Genesis 1:1-2:3
2 – Accepted by God	Jesus and Zacchaeus	Luke 19:1-10
3 – Chosen by God	David chosen for his ‘heart’	I Samuel 16:1-13
4 – Healthy Humility	A Pharisee and a tax collector	Luke 18:9-14
5 – Gifted and Endowed	God empowers Moses	Exodus 4:1-17
6 – Making a Contribution	The widow’s offering	Mark 12:41-44

SPECIAL NEEDS – **FINANCIAL STRESS** – “My house isn’t paid for. And I’ve got all these other loans to pay off. And now these credit card bills. How did I get myself into this mess? I could ask a relative for a loan, but I would rather die than admit I’ve blown it. What do I do?”

1 – Hard Times	Hitting bottom	Luke 15:11-32
2 – Facing the Stress	Jesus faces pressure	Luke 4:14-30
3 – Taking Responsibility	Parable of the talents	Matthew 25:14-30
4 – Tough Decisions	Parable of the shrewd manager	Luke 16:1-15
5 – Mutual Aid	Believers share their possessions	Acts 4:32-37
6 – In God We Trust	The widow’s oil	2 Kings 4:1-7

SPECIAL NEEDS – **LIVING WITH PAIN** – “I feel like I’m dragging a ball and chain around with me. How can I deal each day with the pain I’m in, plus the guilt I feel for being such a burden to others?”

1 – Where is God When I Hurt?	The pool paralytic	John 5:1-15
2 – Pain and Blame	Why was he born blind?	John 9:1-34
3 – Pain and Shame	Jesus heals an ‘unclean’ woman	Mark 5:24-34
4 – Pain and Comfort	Four friends who cared	Mark 2:1-12
5 – Pain and Perspective	The suffering of Job	Job 2:1-10
6 – Pain and Persistence	Parable of the persistent widow	Luke 18:1-8

SPECIAL NEEDS – CAREGIVERS – “I want to help any way I can, but their constant demands are so draining on me. How can I care for others without burning out myself?”

1– Taking a Break	Manna and the Sabbath	Exodus 16:1-35
2– Dealing with Demands	Moses gets weary	Exodus 17:1-16
3– Sharing the Load	Moses decides to delegate	Exodus 18:1-27
4– Setting Limits	Mary chooses what’s better	Luke 10:38-42
5– Surviving the Stress	Jesus withdraws to pray	Mark 1:29-39
6– Heeding the Call	The sheep and the goats	Matthew 25:31-46

SPECIAL NEEDS – EMPTY NESTERS-WHEN THE KIDS ARE GONE – “I guess I wasn’t prepared for the kids being gone. It’s like part of my identity went with them. I feel like it’s halftime and a whole new strategy needs to be made for the second half of life.”

1 – Tough Times	Naomi: a bitter empty nester	Ruth 1:1-22
2 – New Perspective	Naomi gets a grandson	Ruth 4:1-22
3 – Looking Ahead	Parable of the rich fool	Luke 12:13-21
4 – Hearing God	The call of Abram	Genesis 11:27-12:9
5 – Investing Yourself	Moses and the burning bush	Exodus 3:1-22
6 – Taking Risks	Peter steps out of the boat	Matthew 14:22-33

SPECIAL NEEDS – GROWING OLDER – “Others may say I’m too old, but I want to feel like the best is yet to come! How can I look back with gratitude, and look ahead by passing on to someone else what I’ve learned?”

1 – Faith Journey	The call of Abram	Genesis 11:27-12:9
2 – Never Too Old	Noah builds a boat	Genesis 6:5-7:12
3 – The Power of Blessing	Simeon and Anna bless Jesus	Luke 2:21-40
4 – Leaving a Legacy	Moses commissions Joshua	Numbers 27:12-23
5 – Looking Back	Remembering God’s faithfulness	Joshua 23:1-16
6 – Looking Ahead	Jesus raises Lazarus	John 11:1-44