

# How Jesus used situations

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## 1 Context

Monday evenings (once a month) in April, May and June!

To help us in our thinking, as a church, about new ways to reach out to people we will be looking at three different ways in which Jesus did that:

1. How Jesus used scripture (30<sup>th</sup> April)
2. How Jesus used stories (21<sup>st</sup> May)
3. **How Jesus used situations (25<sup>th</sup> June)**

And reflecting on the example of Jesus we will think about how we can do similar things in our context today.

These sessions will be at Belgrave and will start at 7:30pm. For each session there will be some preparatory “homework” and then opportunities to share and discuss together on the evening itself. Please come and join us as we seek to learn together and apply what we have learned to our lives.

## 2 Preparatory Homework

In his life and ministry, Jesus became involved in a number of interesting / challenging situations. We’re going to think about three of them – to see how Jesus used these situations, to think about how we can use the situations we find ourselves in to point people to Him.

Please read the three accounts of situations Jesus was involved in, reflect on what they are saying and think about the questions. And we’ll explore them together on 25<sup>th</sup> June.

### 2.1 Jesus and his family

*Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, ‘He is out of his mind.’ (Mark 3:20–21)*

*Then Jesus’ mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. A crowd was sitting round him, and they told him, ‘Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you.’ ‘Who are my mother and my brothers?’ he asked. Then he looked at those seated in a circle round him and said, ‘Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.’ (Mark 3:31–35)*

### 2.2 Jesus and “current affairs”

*Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. Jesus answered, ‘Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.’ (Luke 13:1–5)*

### 2.3 Jesus and challenge

*As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, 'Jesus, Master, have pity on us!' When he saw them, he said, 'Go, show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went, they were cleansed. One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, 'Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?' Then he said to him, 'Rise and go; your faith has made you well.'* (Luke 17:12–19)

### 2.4 Questions

- 1) In what ways does Jesus use these situations to develop people's understanding?
  
- 2) Why do you think Jesus responded to these situations in this way? What was his motive in doing so?
  
- 3) To what "areas of life" to these situations relate?
  
- 4) What would be some modern-day equivalents to these situations?
  
- 5) How helpful would you find / have you found this type of approach?
  
- 6) How easy do you find it to use real-life situations to point people to Jesus?

## 3 Exercise (to be done in small groups)

Think of a current situation – one in the news, one that is affecting you personally – and discuss how you could use that to point people to Jesus, to challenge, to encourage people to grow in their faith.

We'll spend some time on this in smaller groups and then share the results with each other.

## 4 Finally

Has what we have done this evening encouraged us to use situations more when seeking to reach others? If so, how might we develop this further, so we can use it more effectively?