

Supplement
to the Video Program

Episode 3, *Tales from Bledlow Ridge*

The Outsider

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The Outsider

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. This is now the third program in the Bledlow Ridge series. If you saw either of the previous two (*The Intruder* or *The Rescuer*), what young people did you recognize who were in those earlier programs? How have they changed, not only physically, but in their attitudes?
2. Have there been times in your life when you really felt like an “outsider?” If you are comfortable talking about it, describe the circumstances.
3. Can you think of times when you might have made someone else feel excluded or unwanted? Did you attempt to do anything about it when you recognized what you were doing?
4. Matt Harrison was having trouble adjusting to his new school—why? What advice would you have given Matt in such a situation?
5. Alf was a man with a past history of glory and fame, yet he was living slovenly, without hope, as a bum. Why had he sunk so low?
6. What happened that made Alf finally come to life again?
7. Why did Matt decide to help Alf even if he had a hard time liking such a grumpy old man?
8. Read Jesus’ words in Matthew 25:31-46. How should these words affect our attitude and treatment of those less fortunate than ourselves?
9. In different ways, Matt and Alf helped each other, so that it really was difficult to tell who was helping whom. How can helping other people really become a way of helping yourself?

10. Galatians 5:13-15 describes what our relations with other believers should be. What actions and attitudes are commanded in these verses?
11. After Matt and Amy began visiting Alf, he cleaned up his house as well as himself and even burned his dirty, ragged clothes. In some ways this pictures the transformation which occurs when a person believes in the Lord Jesus Christ. II Corinthians 5:17 says that those in Christ are "new creatures." Many other Scriptures state this same truth. Read Colossians 3:8-17. What are the characteristics of the "old man"? What are the characteristics of the "new man"?
12. When Matt said he wasn't going to make the team, he said he was rubbish. Alf told him that was blasphemy. Why would such a statement be blasphemous?
13. Read Psalm 139:13-16 and Romans 8:31-32. How would these verses reassure Matt that he was indeed very important and valuable?
14. The "Matchless" symbol became a means of Matt's reminding himself he was someone special. What can you use to remind yourself that you are special in God's sight?
15. To whom did Alf tell Matt to apologize for saying he was rubbish?

How would such an apology have changed Matt's attitude about himself and about his situation at school?

16. Some actions of Matt had shown him to be selfish. It was when Matt looked at the cross in the road that he decided he had been selfish and needed to go see Alf again. Why would the cross have convicted Matt of his selfishness?

Read Philippians 2:3-8. What lessons does Jesus' life and death teach us about selfishness?

What attitude should Christians seek to have in place of selfishness?

17. Billy also had been selfish. What were the consequences of his selfishness, to others as well as himself?

18. All of us have a need to “belong,” to be loved and needed. Yet, Matt couldn’t force himself to be accepted by the crowd at school. His acceptance finally came not through self-seeking, but by living his life as the Lord had him to and giving himself to others. How would remembering this truth help you in your personal relations?
19. What does the New Testament tell us about our being accepted by God? See, for example, Ephesians 1:6 and Romans 5:1-2.
20. Does the Bible give us any guidance on how we are to treat outsiders, strangers, and the unwanted? Read Exodus 22:21 and 23:9. What was God teaching the people of Israel in these passages?
22. When you really feel like an outsider, what can you do to cope with the situation?
23. If one is a committed Christian, are there going to be times when one is inevitably going to be an “outsider”?

If you are using this program as a youth group activity, you may want to discuss the following:

- Do new people coming to your group ever feel excluded?
- What do you do to make newcomers feel welcome?
- Is there still more that can be done to make new people feel accepted and a part of your group?