

DAY 3

Psalm 145:8-13

Matthew 1:1-17



Starting Point

Christians in Indonesia live within a context of great diversity. Indonesia is a nation of over 17000 islands and 1340 ethnic groups. The churches are often separated along ethnic lines, and some may wound the unity of the Church by regarding themselves as sole guardians of the truth. There are those who are excluded and pushed to the margins. The scripture passages for today remind us that the love of God transcends the boundaries of ethnicity, culture, race, and religion. God is broken with those who are broken. God stands outside with those who are excluded. God includes everyone in the plan of salvation and none are left out.

Reflection

Born
Endangered
Love - withheld misdirected
misused hidden from me

Broken
Untended
Self - withheld misdirected
misused hidden from me

Rejected
Cast away
Place - withheld misdirected
misused hidden from me

Found
Harboured
Love - offered whole healthy
including me

Broken
Untended
Self - offered whole healthy
including me

Accepted
Welcomed
Place - offered whole healthy
including me

Pain
Acknowledged
Love - chosen given
accepted returned

The Lord is gracious and merciful to all (Psalm 145:8)

Healing
Started
Self - chosen given accepted returned

Wholeness
Sometimes
Place - chosen given
accepted returned

God
born
broken
rejected
Life - restored remade including me

Questions

- Where do you see God's grace and mercy in action?
- Who are those on the margins of your communities?
- What can you/we do to engage those who feel beyond God's reach?

Prayer

God of all humanity
your Son was born into a line
of men and women,
ordinary and extraordinary.
Some of them were remembered
for their great deeds,
others more for their sins.
Give us an open heart to share your
unbounded love,
and to embrace all who experience
discrimination.
Help us to grow in love beyond
prejudice and injustice.
Grant us the grace to respect the
uniqueness of each person,
so that in our diversity we may
experience unity.
This prayer we make in your
holy name. Amen

Go and Do (see www.ctbi.org.uk/goanddo)

God stands with those who are most marginalized. Consider how your churches might join with those who are most marginalized in our societies. Contact local organizations working to support destitute asylum seekers and find out how you can help best. Visit Go and Do to find out more.

Take action to ensure those who are displaced but excluded from the UN resolutions on rights of refugees are included and given the support they need. Visit Go and Do to find out more.