

**Step 1** As a group talk about the ‘message taking’ function of the nervous system. Then, either fill in the chart below as a group or individually.



**The Leprosy Mission**  
Australia

Leprosy is a disease that makes the nerves in parts of the body stop being able to receive messages from, and send messages to, the brain.

Imagine the small things in life you would not be able to enjoy and the danger your body would be at risk of experiencing.

After your group has discussed this have a go at filling in the blank squares. Keep the basic sentence structures of “I can.... I cannot....”



<b>USUALLY MY BODY CAN</b>	<b>LEPROSY WILL MEAN</b>	<b>THEREFORE</b>
I can feel pain if I step on a prickle.	I cannot feel any pain if I step on a prickle.	Prickles will dig into my foot.
I can feel a hot iron.		
I can feel a stone in my shoe.		I will keep walking with the stone stuck between my foot and the shoe.
	I cannot feel pain if there is a stone in my shoe.	The stone will dig into my foot and I will develop an ulcer that may take many months to cure.
My brain can even without me knowing instruct my eyes to blink every few seconds to wash my eyes.		I will have lots of eye problems.
I can shut my eyes to sleep.		I will probably go blind.
	I cannot feel the soft fur.	I will miss out on some of the joy of holding an animal.
	I cannot feel the sharpness of the knife.	
If I injure myself I will feel pain and look to find why I am hurting.		

For the Group Leader to direct conversation toward the leprosy predicament of having no feeling due to damaged nerve endings, thus being constantly at risk.

USUALLY MY BODY CAN	LEPROSY WILL MEAN	THEREFORE
I can feel pain if I step on a prickle.	I cannot feel any pain if I step on a prickle.	Prickles will dig into my foot.
I can feel a hot iron.	<i>I cannot feel a hot iron.</i>	<i>I will burn myself without knowing.</i>
I can feel a stone in my shoe.	<i>I cannot feel there is a stone stuck in my shoe</i>	I will keep walking with the stone stuck between my foot and the shoe.
<i>I can feel pain and will know there is a stone there.</i>	I cannot feel pain if there is a stone in my shoe.	The stone will dig into my foot and I will develop an ulcer that may take many months to cure.
My brain can even without me knowing instruct my eyes to blink every few seconds to wash my eyes.	<i>My brain cannot get the message through to my eyelids to blink every few seconds to clean my eyes.</i>	I will have lots of eye problems.
I can shut my eyes to sleep.	<i>I cannot blink, so when I go to bed I cannot shut my eyes to sleep.</i>	I will go blind.
<i>I can feel if things are soft or hard and I know what 'soft' means.</i>	I cannot feel the soft fur.	I will miss out on some of the joy of holding an animal.
<i>I can feel the sharpness of the knife edge.</i>	I cannot feel the sharpness of the knife.	<i>I will be in danger of cutting myself.</i>
If I injure myself I will feel pain and look to find why I am hurting.	<i>If I injure myself my brain cannot receive the message and I will continue doing things without exploring the hurt.</i>	<i>I will make the original injury worse. The longer the injury is left untreated, the more damage is done and sometimes drastic things like amputations have to be done.</i>