

40 Days of Community Session 2

Last Week Recap – Love is the main thing!

This Week – Reaching Out Together! Genuine love takes action to reach others!

1 Corinthians 13:4 Love is patient, love is kind *and* is not jealous; love does not brag *and* is not arrogant,

Mark 6:33 *The people* saw them going, and many recognized *them* and ran there together on foot from all the cities and got there ahead of them. ³⁴ When Jesus went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and He felt compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and He began to teach them many things. ³⁵ When it was already quite late, His disciples came to Him and said, "This place is desolate and it is already quite late; (Mar 6:33 NAU)send them away so that they may go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." ³⁷ But He answered them, "You give them *something* to eat!" And they said to Him, "Shall we go and spend two hundred denarii on bread and give them *something* to eat?" ³⁸ And He said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go look!" And when they found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." ³⁹ And He commanded them all to sit down by groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰ They sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. ⁴¹ And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He blessed *the food* and broke the loaves and He kept giving *them* to the disciples to set before them; and He divided up the two fish among them all. ⁴² They all ate and were satisfied, ⁴³ and they picked up twelve full baskets of the broken pieces, and also of the fish. ⁴⁴ There were five thousand men who ate the loaves.

Meeting the Needs of Others

Recognize _____.

Take _____.

2 Corinthians 12:9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

Get _____.

Measure the _____.

Prepare your _____.

2 Corinthians 9:11 you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.

Be _____.

James 1:22 But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

2 Corinthians 9:13 Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God for *your* obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all,

Discuss –

1. James 1:22 tells us it's not enough just to know truth. We have to put it into practice. And 2 Corinthians 9:13 says our deeds should be "*as good as our doctrine.*" What does this mean on a practical level? How do these truths relate to sharing your faith?
2. In the video, we heard, "God wants to use your small group to reach the world for Jesus Christ. If you want to know God's plan for solving the world's problems, take a look at your small group! You are it. You are God's plan...God works through his people—through physical, tangible demonstrations of compassion, mercy and care." What do you think about that statement? Does it excite you, scare you, or overwhelm you? Why?

Week 1 Challenge (Discuss these in your Bible Fellowship Group on Sunday Morning, April 25)

- List some folks whom you encounter in your work, your neighbors, family, friends, etc. who do not attend and perhaps do not know Jesus as their Savior.
- Take a few minutes during your Bible Fellowship Group meeting on Sunday, April 25 and share the names you have written down. Pray together for these folks and invite them to join you in your Bible Fellowship Group.

Week 2 Challenge (Discuss these in your Bible Fellowship Group on Sunday Morning, May 2)

- Choose someone in the church and find a way to let them know that you love them. It can be a Bible Fellowship Group Teacher, another worker in church or just another person that you believe would be blessed by an expression of love to them. You can share an encouraging card, a gift card, pray with them or some other way to bless them.
- Talk about in your small group what you can do to be prepared for guests each Sunday. Determine what you can do to help new attenders in your group to feel like they belong. Spend a few minutes praying and ask God to help your small group to reach others and ask God to prepare the hearts of those you will invite.
- Plan an event to be done in the next 4-6 weeks where you invite members who are not attending and prospects to come and enjoy some fellowship. Intentionally invite and prepare for new people that may attend. Divide up the tasks – planning, food, invitations, set up, clean up and follow up with all of those who attend.