

REACH OXFORD

NOVEMBER 7, 2021

PREPARATION

STUDY

Look over the guideline for the group discussion and ask the Holy Spirit to lead you.

PRAY

Pray for the members of your group and their openness to God's word.

LANDING POINT

No one impacts greatly without sacrificing significantly.

GROUP DISCUSSION

CONFIDENTIALITY | What's said in the group stays in the group

NO CROSS-TALK | Be considerate of others as they share. Refrain from side conversations and texting during group time.

NO FIXING | We are not in the group to fix each other. Jesus does that part.

SHARING | Be sensitive to the amount of time you share. Don't talk too much or too little. Every person brings something valuable to the group.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FROM SIGNIFICANT SACRIFICE

Nobody has ever impacted the world greatly who didn't sacrifice significantly. Think about the people who have left lasting marks on our history in America, people like Martin Luther King and Abraham Lincoln. Significant influence demands significant sacrifice. We understand this as we reflect on history but we can also see this at play when reflecting on our own stories.

Q: Who is someone in your life that has sacrificed greatly, and through their sacrifice you have been impacted significantly?

It is impactful to be on the receiving end of someone's sacrifice, but what does it look like to extend this kind of sacrifice? God wants you to impact the world greatly. He wants your life to make ripples and cause waves that outlive you.

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THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM

Abraham was a man that God used to impact the world. Abraham heard the call of God to leave home and follow God, he had faith to believe that God could do anything. Sacrifice was a part of Abraham's journey. A story that frequently comes to mind as we reflect on Abraham's life is the story of how he sacrificed his son, Isaac.

Ask someone to read Hebrews 11:17-19

God tested Abraham to see whether his love for God was stronger than his love for his son. The final standard of faith, its real proof, is a willingness to sacrifice. In fact, in Matthew 16:24, we see that Jesus called his disciples to a life of sacrifice.

Q: Read Matthew 16:24. What do you find most frequently stands in your way of sacrificing for God?
(ex., fear, comfort, time, distractions, faith)

Q: Why do you think Jesus calls his followers to radically deny themselves and follow Him?

God does not want something from you, He wants something for you.

SACRIFICE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO TRUST

Abraham was willing to sacrifice his son Isaac because he trusted God. Hebrews says that he believed God would raise him from the dead, that He would still keep His promise.

Q: Read Hebrews 11:19. What does Abraham's reasoning show us about what he believes about God?

Q: How have you seen the proportion of your faith in Jesus affect the steps of faith you are willing to take?
How can we grow in our faith and trust?

SACRIFICE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO GROW IN GRATITUDE

James 1:17 reminds us that if we have something to sacrifice, it is because God first gave it to us. Anything you are asked to give up, God has given to you. The ultimate gift that God has given us is our salvation through the death of Jesus. Through His death, we have been given life; through His sacrifice, we can find gratitude in our sacrifice.

Q: What should our response be to the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus?

Q: How does being filled with gratitude affect our ability to sacrifice?

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SACRIFICE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO STEP INTO GOD'S ECONOMY

Through Abraham's story of sacrifice, he was able to experience blessing.

Read Genesis 22:15-18

In the world's eyes, Abraham was taking a step of subtraction; in the economy of God, Abraham was taking a step towards multiplication. Abraham's blessing was for him, his family and ultimately for the nations.

Q: What do we learn about the economy of God from the blessing that Abraham received?

Q: What type of reward do we receive when we live sacrificially?

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Living a life of sacrifice is modeled through Abraham and, ultimately, Jesus. Living a life of sacrifice is spiritually what we are called to step into. But living sacrificially also gives us an on-ramp to being a part of the movement of God.

As a church, we are committed to the calling God has given us to reach the community of Oxford. We believe that constructing a permanent home will create a place for community to grow and lives to be changed. Sunday morning, many people from our body, maybe even some of you, took a step to give sacrificially to see spiritual ripples for years to come in Oxford.

Q: What do you pray that God would do over the months and years to come through Pinelake Oxford?

What do you believe God is calling you to do to be part of this movement?

What is He calling your group to do?

As you close your group, please spend time praying over **Reach Oxford**. Pray that through our churches sacrificial giving God will reach our community! Pray that the men and women who have stepped out in faith to give would experience immense spiritual blessing.

Visit reachoxford.org for sacrificial giving information, updates on the project, and to hear stories of life-change happening within our community.