

The First Weekend of Service

Luke 10:1-20

A LOOK BACK AT THE VERY FIRST WEEKEND OF SERVICE

Getting Ready:

Luke 9:51-62

- ✓ Before they went out to serve, Jesus thinned the herd.

Serving Others:

Luke 10:1-17/ Matthew 4:23-24/ Matthew 26:6-15

- ✓ They weren't sent out just to do good deeds.
- ✓ They were sent out as Jesus' advance team.
- ✓ They focused on those who were open to their message.

Reporting Back:

Luke 10:17-21/ Mark 8:36-38/ 1 Peter 2:10-12

- ✓ The biggest problem we face is our eternity problem.

WHY IT NEEDS TO HAPPEN AGAIN AND AGAIN

- Words without good deeds lack credibility.

Good deeds without words lack eternal impact.

- Genuine spirituality loves God AND our neighbor.

That means we need both obedience & compassion.

Matthew 22:36-40/ John 14:15/ Matthew 7:12

- What we do throughout the year is far more important than anything we'll ever do on a weekend.

James 1:22-27

TAKING IT HOME

Jesus distilled our job description as His followers down to this: Love God with all you've got and love others as you love yourself. (Paraphrase of Matthew 22:35-40.) We also know that "what we do throughout the year is far more important than anything we'll ever do on a weekend." Take some time to think and pray about where we go from here and how we can continue to do what God wants us to do. Jot down some of your ideas here.

Prayer Requests

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What we do throughout the _____ is far more important than anything we'll ever do _____.

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Growth Group Homework

For the week of November 2, 2008

QUICK REVIEW: Take a look at your sermon notes and maybe even check out a few of the Scriptures listed on Pastor Larry's outline. Was there a point in the sermon, a verse, or anything from the Weekend of Service video clips that surprised you, motivated you, or caused you to think differently?

MY STORY

1. Can you think of a time when somebody helped you out, served you, or met a need of yours that you couldn't meet on your own? If so, how did it feel and how did you respond?

What difference, if any, did it make in your life?

2. Have you ever had the feeling that God was nudging you to help someone or do something that was outside your comfort zone? What typically goes through your head in those times? If you have an example, consider sharing it with your group.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Jesus made it clear to His disciples that they should focus their efforts on spreading the Good News to those who were "open to their message." Today we have the same mission as those early disciples. Our job is to spread the Good News of God's love. Paul revealed his strategy to do this in 1 Corinthians 9:19-23. How could this teaching impact the way we minister to others?

What might it look like in your life to be a "slave to everyone, to win as many as possible"?

What risks, if any, do you see in Paul's strategy?

What does Jesus' parable in Mark 4:14-20 teach us about what to expect as we go about this mission?

What are some different ways we can "sow the word"?

2. This weekend we looked back at a story where Jesus sent an "advance team" of His followers into communities to serve, teach, and share God's love in many ways. A similar event is recorded in Mark 6:7-13 and Mark 6:30-44.

What can we learn about making the most of every opportunity from Jesus' example in this story?

Why do you think He kept on teaching and serving even though He knew his disciples needed some rest?

3. Pastor Larry pointed out that part of loving our neighbor means having compassion for those who are in need. How would you rate yourself on a compassion scale of 1-10? (My rating = _____.) Now read the following verses about God's compassion and write down how each passage might help you improve or sustain your rating?

Micah 7:18-19

Jonah 3:1-10

Jonah was not able to see God's compassion and let it shape his life. Check out Jonah 4:1-3. What things in your life could keep you from being a more compassionate person?