

Growth Group Homework

For the week of April 21, 2013

This week's homework will focus on preparing us for Weekend of Service and beyond. We want to show our community God's love in very practical ways and pray that our projects, attitudes and words will have a great impact.

Next Week's Growth Group Homework – Because next week's regular weekend services are being cancelled so we can serve during the Weekend of Service, your Growth Group homework will be mailed and emailed to you. You can also access it online at northcoastchurch.com.

QUICK REVIEW: Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY:

1. Looking ahead to *Weekend of Service* or other opportunities you will have to serve, what are you looking forward to? What concerns, if any, do you have?

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. Our desire at North Coast is to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community; to be a church that intentionally serves and loves people so that they will see who Jesus is through our actions and words, and then be drawn to him. As you read the following passages, list any specific guidelines or tips that could influence our effectiveness in the weekend's projects.

Colossians 3:12, 17, 23-24

Ephesians 6:7

What does it look like to work "with all your heart"?

2. Loving and serving our neighbor means showing compassion for those who are in need (Mark 1:40-42; 6:34). 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.

Psalms 103:8-10

Jonah 3:1-10

Jonah was not able to understand God's compassion and let it shape his life. Check out Jonah 4:1-10. What things in your life could keep you from being a more compassionate person?

Agree/Disagree - Compassion is more of an action than a feeling.

3. This weekend we heard that until we are treated like a servant, we usually don't know what kind of servant we really are. Our hope for our service 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 and serve during Weekend of Service?

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?

POWER OF PRAYER

It's incredible to think that we are God's "Plan A" to spread the good news about him. Along with that big assignment, we also have big resources to help us out. God's presence and power are available to each of us through the Holy Spirit. Take some time at the end of your group meeting to pray for Weekend of Service:

- ⇒ That we can fill the final spots needed to complete all of the projects.
- ⇒ For the many details and gathering of resources that need to happen this week.
- ⇒ That everyone serving will catch the joy of serving and be flexible with servants' hearts.
- ⇒ For a job well done, timely completion of the projects along with physical safety of each individual and good judgment in the use of the many tools used.
- ⇒ That those we're serving will see the love of Jesus in us in words, actions and attitude.
- ⇒ That we can be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community, making an impact for Jesus.

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Colossians 3:12

12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. [NIV]

Colossians 3:17

17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. [NIV]

Colossians 3:23-24

23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. [NIV]

Ephesians 6:7

7 Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, [NIV]

What does it look like to work "with all your heart"?

2. Loving and serving our neighbor means showing compassion for those who are in need (Mark 1:40-42; 6:34).

Mark 1:40-42

Jesus Heals a Man With Leprosy

40 A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean."

41 Jesus was indignant. He reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" 42 Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed. [NIV]

Mark 6:34

34 When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things. [NIV]

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.

Psalms 103:8-10

8 The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.

9 He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever;

10 he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities. [NIV]

Jonah 3:1-10

Jonah Goes to Nineveh

1 Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: 2 "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you."

3 Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. 4 Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown." 5 The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

6 When Jonah's warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. 7 This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles:

Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. 8 But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. 9 Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish."

10 When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened. [NIV]

Jonah was not able to understand God's compassion and let it shape his life. Check out Jonah 4:1-10. What things in your life could keep you from being a more compassionate person?

Jonah 4:1-10

Jonah's Anger at the Lord's Compassion

1 But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. 2 He prayed to the Lord, "Isn't this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. 3 Now, Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live."

4 But the Lord replied, "Is it right for you to be angry?"

5 Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. 6 Then the Lord God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. 7 But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. 8 When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live."

9 But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?"

"It is," he said. "And I'm so angry I wish I were dead."

10 But the Lord said, "You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. [NIV]

Agree/Disagree - Compassion is more of an action than a feeling.

3. This weekend we heard that until we are treated like a servant, we usually don't know what kind of servant we really are. Our hope for our service 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 and serve during Weekend of Service?

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Paul's Use of His Freedom

19 Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. 20 To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. 21 To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. 23 I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings. [NIV]

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?

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