

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of April 19, 2015

*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 weekend's worship 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](http://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. In light of Larry's sermon, how would you answer someone who asked you this weekend, "Why are you doing this project?"

2. If you have participated in any of our previous Weekends of Service, what has been a highlight of your experience? If you haven't participated in a previous Weekend of Service, what has been a highlight of serving others?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. We will all bring our own unique expectations into this weekend's projects. Regardless of how our experience matches up with those expectations, it will be our attitudes and actions that will make the difference. How can the following verses shape your attitude and actions throughout this experience?

### Philippians 2:5-8

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in very nature God,

did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

7 rather, he made himself nothing

by taking the very nature of a servant,

being made in human likeness.

8 And being found in appearance as a man,

he humbled himself

by becoming obedient to death—

even death on a cross! [NIV]

### Colossians 3:12 & 17

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

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]

### 1 Peter 3:15

15 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, [NIV]

Why would it be important to keep these verses in mind while you serve?

2. Throughout history, the influence of God's people on the world around them has been directly related to their love of God and others. Sociologist Rodney Stark researched and wrote about how the early Christians had such an impact on the world around them. A fellow author summarized Stark's findings like this:

*"Stark was puzzled at how a marginalized, persecuted, often uneducated group of people were able not only to survive, but thrive....He concludes that a key reason was their willingness to sacrifice themselves out of love for each other and for their world. This sacrifice released an explosion of light and heat the world had never known." - Shaunti Feldhahn*

What's your initial reaction to this quote?

What guidelines or tips do you see in Colossians 3:23-24 and 1 Peter 2:12 that could influence our effectiveness in serving others?

What difference can it make when a community of believers shows love for their neighbors?

3. We heard this weekend that we can't claim to love God if we don't love our neighbor. Loving our neighbor often involves showing compassion for those who are spiritually lost and in need. What do we learn in the following passages about Jesus' attitude toward lost people who are in need?

**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]

**Matthew 9:35-38**

*The Workers Are Few*

35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." [NIV]

How do you find yourself normally responding to people who are "like sheep without a shepherd?"

**POWER OF PRAYER**

This weekend we have the incredible opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community. Take some time at the end of your group meeting to pray for Weekend of Service:



- ⇒ That everyone serving will catch the joy of serving and be flexible with servants' hearts.
- ⇒ 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.
- ⇒ 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 through our words, actions and attitude.

⇒ That we can be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community, making an impact for Jesus.

**WEEKEND  
OF  
SERVICE**

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY  
APRIL 25 - 26, 2015**

### **FINAL NOTES & REMINDERS FOR THE *WEEKEND OF SERVICE***

- **Last-minute sign-ups** – We have projects that can still use help. Online sign-ups are open until 9pm Friday, April 24. So if you know someone still wanting to serve, have them sign up! Register online at [weekendofservice.com](http://weekendofservice.com).
- **Let us help place you!** – Can't decide which project to do? Visit the website and click the "Let us help place you" button and we'll place you on a project with a significant need.
- **Where to meet for projects** – Go directly to your project location. ***We are not meeting at North Coast Church.*** See [weekendofservice.com](http://weekendofservice.com) for exact location. If the project or shift is not currently showing on the site, it will be back up on Wednesday, April 22, so you can view the details.
- **How to find your Project Manager** – All Project Managers will be wearing bright yellow or maroon *Weekend of Service* T-shirts. On large projects, look for Project Hosts wearing lime green shirts.
- **What to bring** – Your own water, *Weekend of Service* T-shirt or clothes you can get dirty, a ready-to-serve attitude, and anything else that would be useful on your project such as gardening tools, paint supplies, brushes and rollers, cleaning supplies, buckets, brooms, tools, electrical cords, etc. - most of all, we NEED wheelbarrows! Mark everything with your name so you can take it home with you!
- **Need a *Weekend of Service* T-shirt?** – Get your *Weekend of Service* T-shirt for \$5 at the church office during regular business hours throughout the week.
- **Free Childcare (0-5 yrs) by reservation only** is available on the Vista Campus, Sunday morning, 7:30am -12:30pm. Register @ [weekendofservice.com](http://weekendofservice.com). Sign up by 5pm Wednesday, April 22.
- **Questions during the weekend** – There will be an operator available all weekend at the church office (760) 724-6700.
- **Praises and prayer requests** – We have a prayer team praying the entire weekend while we're serving. If you have a praise or prayer request to share, you can call the church office at (760) 724-6700 or send an e-mail to [news@northcoastchurch.com](mailto:news@northcoastchurch.com). It would be great to hear from you!
- **Social Media** – We'd love to see pictures and posts about your Weekend of Service experience! Share them with us:  
 [facebook.com/NorthCoastChurchVista](https://facebook.com/NorthCoastChurchVista) •  [#weekendofservice](https://twitter.com/weekendofservice)