



Small Group Curriculum

Love Local: Jesus' Heart for the Hungry • WEEK 2 • Luke 4:14-21

This week we heard how Jesus brought his **good news to the poor**. He did this by meeting people where they were and offering them what they desperately needed. Jesus did the miraculous by stepping out of heaven and humbled himself to walk as a human and lay his hands on the sick, the lame, the deaf and he fed thousands at a time. Jesus then commissioned his followers to go and share the **good news** to the ends of the earth. While all of us may not be empowered by the Spirit to heal or multiply food, Jesus is very clear that the **good news** needs to be spread to all the image bearers of God. The purpose of Jesus' miracles were not just to touch those who were suffering, but that they would have a changed life and a story that starts with, "My life has been radically changed by Jesus when he...". This week we will look at how Jesus sees and wants to meet our own needs and calls us to meet the needs of others for the sake of His Kingdom.

REMINDERS

- **Maintenance for Moms** is in need of baked goods for Moms-giving on Saturday, November 22nd. More information and sign-ups can be found [here](#).
- **Be a Friend Community Outreach** is hosting a Thanksgiving Dinner for people who have been homeless and are now living in temporary, transitional housing. On November 23rd, they are in need of volunteers to cook, serve food, and spend time with the residents. For more information or to sign-up, visit the [website](#).
- The **Del Mar Giving Fund** will be available from November 2nd – December 31st. More information can be found [here](#).

ICEBREAKER

Go around your group and share what your childhood comfort food was. When you complained that you were hungry and wanted McDonalds and those that raised you replied with "We have McDonalds at home!" What was the off hand definitely not McDonalds thing that still satisfied your hunger pains. Maybe it was cold hotdogs or a microwaved tortilla with butter. Were you blessed with hot pockets and bagel bites? Or maybe a dry bag of crushed up top ramen? The cringier the better. Please share and maybe plan a potluck for your next group meeting.

AWAKENING

INTRODUCTION

The command from God to go and feed the hungry and care for those that are in need is not a new concept today, nor was it revolutionary in the days of Jesus. The command had been given long before (Zechariah 7:9–10). What is astonishing is Jesus ability to push far beyond the limitations of human care and administer true healing that is reminiscent of what it would look like in heaven;

'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'

Rev 21:4

We are incapable of accomplishing anything for the sake of the Kingdom in our own power. We need the name and the blood of Jesus to cover us in eternal grace and to be empowered by the Holy Spirit to accomplish Kingdom work. As we attempt to approach this calling, we must be steadfast in He who has empowered us. We must not serve with reluctance (2 Cor 9:7). We do not pay penance to God through charitable acts but in response to our own lives having been changed through our own "Because Jesus..." stories. This is our testimony.

DISCUSSION

Read: Acts 4:32-36

- How is this picture of the early church countercultural to today's climate?
- Why is it difficult for you to give freely of yourself to your brothers and sisters in Christ? What about those that don't follow Jesus?
- What barriers do you have from being able to give?

Read: Acts 5:1-10

- Was it not giving the full price of the field that was sold, or lying to the church and to the Holy Spirit that caused their death?
- Why is honesty and integrity with ourselves and with God important when it comes to giving?

Read: Mark 12:41-44

- What do the verses between Acts 5 and Mark 12 reveal to us about how God sees value in what we do and how we give?

(Don't skip this part) At times we must admit that we are the ones who are in need. It's possible that this is the reason that it is difficult to give. Too often we say, "no I'm fine, somebody probably needs the help more than I do." And in doing so we cut off the blessing of the Body of Christ. These needs can be financial, food based, clothing, housing, transportation, medical, psychological, spiritual or anything else you can think of.



Read: Matthew 11:28-30

- If we are to be a healthy church body, truly acting as brothers and sisters of Christ, adopted as children of God unto the Father through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus (Eph 1:5) then we must be a safe place for one another to bring our struggles. What makes you weary? What is it that burdens your soul?

RESPONSE

We must be willing to give and willing to receive. There is pride that needs to be broken in both elements and a heart of humility and love in its place. By doing this in the strength of the Holy Spirit, we can do as Jesus did within the gifts, talents and blessings that we have been given

- What do you need to ask for from your brothers and sisters in Christ?
- How can you help someone else with their needs or struggles?
- If you are unable to help somebody, do you know someone who might be able to? Can you connect them?
- If you are not ready to give from a heart of sincerity and honesty with full integrity before the Holy Spirit who sees all, would you pray for a willingness to do so? Reflect on all that Jesus has done for you in your life. While your eternity is secured through your faith in Jesus (John 3:16) Jesus will only change the parts of your heart and mind where you invite him to have complete control.

GROUP PRAYER

God would we see ourselves as you see us. May we realize that as your children, we are called and empowered to spread your good news by reaching out to those that are in need. Holy Spirit, do a work in us and through us to meet the physical needs of our community that they would also find redemption and identity in the name of Jesus. May we clothe them, feed them and bless them with our time and finances so that they would not doubt how deep and wide and long is your love for them. Jesus may we find the humility within ourselves to say that we have nothing without you. If we have needs, give us the courage and the safety to express them so that love and provision would abound within our church body. God, help us to love others because you have chosen to love us first. May the **good news** of Jesus infiltrate and radically change the hearts and minds of all those we come across. May they be added to your family as well. We pray all this in the name of Jesus,
Amen.