

GROW YOUR HEART YOUR IMPACT

Title: Grow Your Heart, Grow Your Impact

Date: February 19, 2023

WORSHIP:

Option 1: In person gathering — assign someone to lead in worship or play two praise & worship songs from YouTube.

Option 2: Online gathering, at a public place, at the park, school campus or café — Ask three to four people to share testimonies of answered prayers or ask the question: What are you thankful to God about this past week?

Main Text: The Most Important Commandment
Luke 10:25-37

Key Verses: vv.27-28

"27 The man answered, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

28 "Right!" Jesus told him. "Do this and you will live!"

Quote:

"If the soul and the spirit are sound, the whole person is well. Our attitude to God determines the rest. If we really love Him we love our neighbour too." Morris, L. Luke: an introduction and commentary

Leader's Notes:

1. Start and end on time.
2. Facilitate discussions.
3. Give all attendees opportunities to share. Encourage participation.
4. Remind everyone that whatever shared in the group will be kept within the group.
5. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit if there's someone who you can lead to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior and be born again.

WELCOME: Greet everyone. Introduce yourself. Acknowledge guests/first-time visitors. Ask the group to take turns introducing themselves.

Ice-breaker Joke:-)

There is an old joke: A genie told a man, "I'll give you three wishes. Whatever I do for you, however, I must do twice as much for your worst enemy." Now the man thought about it, and about how horrible his worst enemy had been to him, and he finally decided on his three wishes. First, he wished for 1 billion dollars. He received a billion dollars, and his enemy received two billion. Then, he wished for a lavish mansion on a rugged coast. He received his mansion, but his enemy received one twice as large. And finally, he wished to be beaten half to death. (<https://milewis.wordpress.com/2010/07/11/the-good-samaritan/>)

WORD:

Love is the bedrock of the Christian message because the Bible is all about God's great love for the world as demonstrated in the death of His Son Jesus on the cross. What we Christians know and have experienced in Christ is what the world needs. I believe we need to do a better job of representing Christ to our world. Here are three things we need to know to best represent Christ in our daily lives.

1. Knowledge alone of God's word doesn't make a person loving- vv. 26-28

- The man who asked Jesus the question was an expert in the law of Moses. He asked a question to put Jesus to the test, not in the search of the truth and what Jesus will say. Jesus' reply to the lawyer was also a question to make him answer his own question. Jesus knew that the lawyer knows the answer and that he wasn't obedient to the great commandments he mentioned to Jesus.

- Sometimes, like the lawyer, many Christians are full of knowledge about God and His love and yet our homes, neighbourhoods and our world will not be touched by God's love by just what we know. **We need to be intentional to put to heart what the Bible teaches us and act on it.**

Read James 2:14-17

Application: Get your phones/ go to notes: List names of at least three to five people who you want to experience God's love (Whether a family member, co-worker, classmate, friend, etc.). **Pray for the names of people on your list this week.**

Q: Ask the Lord, "Lord Jesus, what do you want me to do for the people on my list so that they too can encounter Your love?"

2. Being religious doesn't automatically make a person loving - vv. 31-32

- Just like the lawyer, the priest and Levite in the story, were religious people. People who were assigned temple duties and saw their roles in temple worship as top priority. There's nothing wrong with being religious, in being devoted to our Christian beliefs and practices (reading the Bible, attending church services, serving at church, etc.), but God wants us to prioritize caring for people more than anything else. We need to be **intentional** like the Good Samaritan!

Read James 1:27

Application: Is there someone you know who needs an encouragement at this time? Text or call them this week.

Q: "What are other ways we can be intentional in caring for others?"

3. Choose to love God with all your being and you will become loving to your neighbors -

- The two Great Commandments are interconnected in such a way that if we love God with all of our being we will also live a life of loving those around us.

- When the Samaritan saw the dying man, he felt compassion for him. His heart was already full of love before he saw the man. This proves a point, that even a despised Samaritan can love the Lord more than the two religious Jewish religious people as demonstrated by his actions. This parable shocked the lawyer, because the Jews never thought of the Samaritans as true worshippers of God and Jesus commended the good Samaritan and told the lawyer to follow his example. **"Go and do the same."**

- The priest and Levite, avoided the dying man because he was a hindrance to their temple duties. They would be ceremonially unclean. Their inaction demonstrated their lack of love for God and for others because true love is demonstrated by action. Jesus showed His love by what He did and He calls us to show our love for Him and others through our actions as well. **Read I John 3:16.**

The love that God commands was already in the Samaritan's heart before he met the man lying on the side of the road. His actions revealed his heart filled with compassion. True love is not incidental, it is intentional.

Conclusion: There are so many lost and needy people all around us. What is lacking are Christians who have hearts full of love and ready to jump on every opportunity they see.

WORK: The Challenge & Closing prayer

Please take time in your smaller groups to pray for one another. If there are specific needs, take time to lift them up to God in prayer as well.