**BE RICH**

**WEEK 2 DISCUSSION GUIDE**

**“SERVE”**

**READ**

This week we continued our “Be Rich” series, which is built around three ideas: give, serve and love. Be Rich is not about getting rich, it’s about learning how to be rich in love and good deeds. Our focus this week was on serving.

When it comes to serving we often ask, “What am I going to get out of this?”. If we are the ones being served it’s all about how well our needs are met. If we are the ones serving, it’s about what we get out of the experience. When we serve others, there is a benefit to us. Serving is proven to increase the moral of the person who is serving and to bring an overall better quality of life. These are great reasons to volunteer; however, if the only question we ask when volunteering is, “How is this going to benefit me?” then we’ve missed the point of serving.

To help us understand the true reason for serving, we took a look at a parable Jesus told, known as the parable of the good Samaritan. Parables, which are stories used to illustrate moral or spiritual lessons were a common form of communicating in the ancient world.

**Luke 10:25-29**

*“On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?” He answered, “’Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.” But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”.*

Jesus had already affirmed that his answer was correct, but the expert in the law was trying to figure out where to draw the line in the sand, what he needed to do to accomplish this. Other Jewish teachers often used the term neighbor to refer to fellow Israelites. With this inquiry, he is looking to find how far out this call to love others really extends. Jesus responds with this parable:

***Luke 10:30-37***

*“In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. “look after him,” he said, “and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.” “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”*

The priest and the Levite both decided to pass by on the other side of the road, apparently justifying other reasons for why they shouldn’t have to help the man. Their focus was on themselves. It didn’t benefit them to help this man. The Samaritan, an unlikely and despised character by Jesus’ Jewish listeners, has compassion and responds in the interest of the injured man. This Samaritan clearly gets the meaning and purpose of compassion and serving. He understands that serving is not always convenient and it’s not always to people we like.

A pivotal shift we must make when it comes to sacrificial and generous serving is to turn our focus from “What’s in the best interest of me?” to “What is in the best interest of them?”. We serve ultimately because Jesus served. We believe that Jesus is the hope of the world. Because Jesus is the hope of the world, we want others to know about this hope; we can best share that hope, by serving others.

**DISCUSS**

In what ways do you relate to the parable of the good Samaritan? Can you relate to the priest, the Levite, or the Samaritan?

Reflect on a time when someone had compassion on you and was generous in serving you. What did this look like? How did this impact you?

Think about someone in your life who regularly puts the interests of others before their own. What does this look like in their lives?

Bob Geoff is known for outrageous care and love, for putting his faith into action. In his book, *Love Does”,* he says ““…*we need to stop plotting the course and instead just land the plane on our plans to make a difference by getting to the “do” part of our faith.”*

How are you living out the “do” part of your faith by serving others?

In the message this week we were challenged to live out the “do” part of our faiths by responding with action to the question, “What are you going to do this week to bring hope to someone without?”.

Brainstorm with your group ways you can bring hope to someone without through serving.

We have many volunteer opportunities available specific to this series that can be found at fcchb.com/berich and also other ways you can volunteer at fcchb.com/local.

**PRAY FOR YOUR GROUP**

Pray that we would be a source of encouragement to each other to live out the “do” part of our faith through serving others.

**PRAY FOR FCC**

Pray that we would bring hope to those who are without hope through serving. Pray that we would follow Christ’s example, as he came not to be served but to serve, that this would daily impact how we love and serve others.

**PRAY FOR OUR GLOBAL PARTNERS**

Pray for FCC's global outreach partners in Chile as their country experiences social and political unrest. Pray for our partners' churches to be a beacon of hope and joy amidst the challenges Chile is facing.