



Week Three

Opening Prayer

God, thank you for using this series to stretch us, empower us, and equip us. Thank you for also giving us the gift of community and friendship. Help us to hear how we can join you on your mission. Amen.

Talk It Over

This weekend we continued the Hero Maker series that invites each of us to use the power and influence we have — be it social, financial, organizational, relational power or influence — to help others. In a world that teaches us to try and be the hero, these ideas of lifting others up and empowering others to be the hero stand in contrast to cultural norms. In turn, our big series question has been: Will I use my power and influence to elevate myself or to leverage others?

- Tell us about someone you saw use their power for good this week.
- Today we are talking about investing in others.
 - Who invested in you this week?
 - Who did you invest in this week?

Read Galatians 6:9 (NLT)

While we are called to invest in others, the reality is it can be hard and tiring to live trying to do good. Sometimes doing good can get hard because the needs of the world feel too daunting. Sometimes we can get tired of doing good because our life feels too hard or we are too busy. Or maybe we stop trying to do good because those we love are struggling too much and they are our focus. Whatever may cause us to get weary, the Apostle Paul encourages us to keep on going.

- What generally keeps you from investing in others or doing good?

Read Galatians 6:10 (NLT)

The church — also known as the body of Christ or those who follow Jesus — should be people who do good for others.

- When you find yourself aware of other people's needs what is your natural bent? To lean in and offer help or to pull away? Why do you think this is your bent?
- Tell us about a time you were tired of doing the right thing or what was good, but you stayed the course.
- Describe a time when you saw people come alongside someone to love, support, and care for their needs. Consider, what people did that stood out to you? What were the various acts of love you saw? How did people show their support?
- How difficult or easy is it for you to accept the help of others?

Read Galatians 6:2-3 (NLT)

Following Jesus doesn't remove us from the hurts and pains of life. Jesus does promise to be with us through the Holy Spirit and through the body, or community, of Christ.

(Content continued on the next page.)

- Allowing others to invest in us means letting people know our needs. We have to be known to be loved. This season, how are you doing at letting people know the ways in which you are struggling and winning?
- When is it easiest to let people know about your needs? More specifically, who are the people and what are the relationships that you open up to?
- What are some practical steps or lessons you have learned that have helped you realize you need to make people aware of your needs?

Read John 13:34-35

John 13:34-25 is the “new law” referenced in Galatians 6:3 verse mentioned above. This new law captures the idea that we are called to love others. And while loving everyone is a good goal, sometimes there is unique power in doing for one what we wish we could do for all. The ‘one’ maybe a person, a cause, or an organization.

To help us invest in someone well or to focus our efforts, here are three simple ideas to consider:

One — Invest deep, rather than wide.

Two — Invest long-term, rather than short-term.

Three — Invest time, not just money. (The idea here is not that investing money is bad. But rather that we should also look for ways we can invest ourselves by getting involved. Our personal involvement or our engagement enables us to care in deeper ways. Our involvement changes us.)

- Which of these three ideas is the most difficult for you naturally to do?
- Which of these three ideas is more your natural style?
- In light of these three ideas, what do you feel most led to include or remember moving forward? Why?

This week’s bottom line said, “I cannot change the whole world, but I can change someone’s world”.

- Who has changed your life recently? What did they do?
- Who in your life can you focus on and invest more in? If you are already focusing on the one, tell us about that process.

Closing Prayer

God, thank you for giving us the gift of each other and for inviting us to participate in your mission. Please help us to see the person or cause you are inviting us to focus on. Help us to focus our efforts in meaningful ways. Amen.

How To Use this Discussion Guide

The guide is meant to serve you and your group as you intentionally create space to grow in friendship and faith. Use the guide as a tool to help your unique group.

With that in mind, consider reviewing the guide before your group to see if some content or questions might resonate more or less with your group. Don’t feel pressure to read all the content or to hit all the questions. The guide is not meant to be something you power through for the sake of completing. Pick the content from the guide you feel will help foster friendship and faith in your specific group.

In addition, spend some time praying for your group each week, preparing your heart, and asking God for wisdom and guidance as you lead.