



Week Three

Opening Prayer

God, thank you for the gifts you give us — especially the gift of connection and the location you have placed us in. Help us to see the people around us and the place we find ourselves the way you do. Amen.

Talk It Over

This weekend we continued our series centering on the fact that Jesus followers are called to live as sent people who serve others. During this series, we are focusing our attention on what it means to love our community well. We want to be a church for our city. We want to be people who are with our city so we can serve our city.

- Tell us about a recent time you felt someone was with you and for you so well that they could serve you in a meaningful way.
- Have you ever offered someone some form of help or service only to later realize there was a better way you could have helped? Explain what went wrong and how you learned you could have been better.

Read Genesis 12:2-3 (NIV)

Central to this series and our church values is this idea that blessing is intended to flow through us. We see instructions about blessing flowing through a recipient to others in the story of Abraham, the nation of Israel, Jesus, and the church. While there are various reasons for this order and flow, this week we looked at two Biblical principles:

Blessing + serving = transformation

Blessing = serving = stagnation

- Looking at your own life, how have you see either of these equations play out?
- One of the benefits of sharing ourselves — our time, our skills, our abilities, our resources, our money, and so on — with others is it helps us to counterbalance ideas of entitlement, which tells us what we have is only for us. In what ways have you believed or bought into the idea that all you have is for your own benefit?
- What has helped you learn or understand life is about sharing and serving? If this is an idea you still struggle with, that is okay. Share wherever you are in this process.
- Think of the most generous, hospitable people you know. What are some of their reasons and motivations for being able to serve others?
- God offers us grace even when we aren't generous. Tell us about a time God showed you kindness even though you didn't act generously.

Read James 1:17 (Voice) and Ephesians 1:3 (NLT)

A key motivator in wanting to bless others is living aware of the blessing given to us.

- As a group, let's list off some of the ways we have been blessed by God.

(Content continued on the next page.)

- As a group, let's list off some of the ways we can actively look to bless others with what we have been blessed with.

Read John 13:1-5 (NIV)

To wash someone's feet was to humble yourself in an extreme way. This was the lowest status position or job you could have or do in this culture. Yet, it's just what Jesus does. Through this act of humility, Jesus helps give his followers a picture of what God's love is like. It's a love so big that it gives and serves in even the most humbling ways.

- What's the most radical act of love you have ever seen?
- What is a radical act of love you have been given?

Read John 13:12-17 (NIV)

Jesus came to serve and he asks his followers to do the same. The expectation laid out was simple: Those Jesus served would turn around and serve others. It's in our generosity of serving we show our love for God.

- Have you ever chosen to serve someone or to show love to someone because of your love of Jesus? Tell us about that experience.
- Serve Weekend is coming up. This is the weekend we intentionally and collectively go out and bless our city with the aim to live like Jesus. What service project did you choose to sign up for and why?

Read Romans 10:14-15 (NLT)

We serve out of love for Jesus and our desire to help others encounter and see the beauty of the Kingdom of God. While we serve demanding nothing in return, we should also serve aware that our love may open people up to hearing about the Good News of Jesus or the message that tells of a God who is for us, with us, and generous to us.

- In your own words, how would you explain the Good News message of Jesus?

Closing Prayer

Thank you for being a God who gives so generously. Help us to see the ways you serve us and empower us to turn around and serve others. We want to follow you well, love others well, and bring forth the Kingdom with you. Amen.

Group Logistics [A Reminder for New Groups]

Are there are details or questions we need to cover for next week? Are we meeting at the same time and place? Who is owning snacks? Are there childcare questions to cover?

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 pressured 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.