

One for All...
LifeGroup Lesson
February 4, 2018
Luke 10:1-7

OPENING PRAYER:

O Lord our God and Savior, who sent the disciples and apostles to the very ends of the earth to teach and proclaim your message, to heal all illnesses and to reveal the mysteries of the faith which have been hidden from humankind since the creation of the earth, send us your blessing and enlighten our understanding, and may we be given the gift of final perseverance. By your Spirit, enable us to do and to act in accordance with your commands as set out in the gospel, and may the fruit of the gospel be increased in us many times over. *(Adapted from a prayer from the Ethiopian Liturgy)*

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD

- What did you agree/disagree with the LifeGroup?
- What is your first reaction to seeing a homeless person on the street or seeing a news story on the homeless?
- If you had to sell something door to door, what would you choose?

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:

A missional church doesn't just give money, but serves others and offers the gospel of Jesus Christ. We do social justice to bring about God's Kingdom here on earth AND to spread the message of salvation. Ancient Israelites struggled with going through the motions of worship and serving God's people. Read Isaiah 58:1-9a.

- What do you think of these words from God delivered by the prophet Isaiah?
- In what ways did God's people seem to do the right thing? How did they spoil it?
- If their fasting had been sincere, what would have been different about their relationship with others?
- Note the relationship between the 'yoke of oppression' and the 'pointing finger'. Where should God's people be looking to discover and remove oppression?
- In what religious activities do you find yourself just going through the motions: attending church? Reading the Bible? Praying? Communion? Fasting? etc.
- How should these activities impact us individually and as a community? How are they affecting you now?
- Do you know any role models of this combination of piety and practical concern for others? How has their example affected you?

Read Luke 10:1-7.

- Why do you think Jesus sent them out two by two? Why do you think he would have sent them traveling light?
- Jesus has them praying first before they make any particular efforts/ministry. What does this say to you?
- How do you feel about harvesting where you live? What kind of emotions does this thought bring to mind? Walk through that with the group ... what steps could you take to begin a relationship in disciple making?

MORE TO PONDER:

*For a Christian, Jesus is the man in whom it has indeed become manifest that revolution and conversion cannot be separated in man's search for experiential transcendence. His appearance in our midst has made it undeniably clear that changing the human heart and changing human society are not separate tasks, but are as interconnected as the two beams of the cross. Jesus was a revolutionary, who did not become an extremist, since He did not offer an ideology, but Himself. He was also a mystic, who did not use His intimate relationship with God to avoid the social evils of His time, but shocked His milieu to the point of being executed as a rebel. In this sense He also remains for nuclear man, the ways to liberation and freedom. ---Henri Nouwen, *The Wounded Healer**

- What strikes you about this passage?
- What do you understand Nouwen to be saying "changing the human heart and changing human society are not separate tasks, but interconnected...?"
- What do you hear in his words, "[Jesus] shocked His milieu to the point of being executed as a rebel"?

- What would it look like for you and your church to be shocking and considered a rebel? How would that feel to you?
- How can your church be in mission and connect it to the love of Jesus and making disciples?

NEXT STEPS:

- How will your life be different based upon what you have learned in this week's scripture, lesson and/or LifeTalk?
- How can you imitate your role model (from the question above) this week?
- Fast from food or other activities of self-fulfillment for one day this week. Decide how you can use that spiritual activity to help satisfy the needs of the oppressed and hungry?
- How can your small group move beyond the walls of the church into mission?

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Source and goal of community, whose will it is that all your people enjoy fullness of life; May we be builders of community, caring for your good earth here and worldwide. And as partners with the poor, signs of your ever-friendly love; That we may delight in diversity and choose solidarity. For you are in community with us, our God forever. Let us worship God. -From Laughter, Silence & Shouting: An Anthology of Women's Prayers