



Written by Jon and Judith Witt

How to love and serve your
village through the gospel

Love Your Village

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A 10 session group study designed to help those in rural Africa love and serve their community with the Gospel.

Written by Jon and Judith Witt

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Thanks

Dignity is thankful to Jesus for the life he gives that we explore in this book.

Dignity is thankful to each person and trust who has contributed to this work.

The work of Dignity

Dignity partners with those on the outskirts of society and inspires transformed lives and communities to bring freedom from poverty through relationship with Jesus. We achieve this primarily through Life Groups, locally led Christian community groups that equip people to walk closely with Jesus and to show his love to those around them. Through our work we are seeing people living amazing lives and being part of everyday miracles. Find out more at www.dignityonline.org.uk

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Biblical Quotations

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Guidance Symbols

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About 'Love Your Village'

Love Your Village is a 10 session study that aims to help you and a group of friends to consider how to Love Your Village practically with the Gospel. This book will help you to know why you should be involved in your community and help you to think about how to do it. The Bible gives us some very important thoughts that when we discuss together and put into action will help us to change the very place where we live.

About this material

This material is part of a movement that is spreading across nations. Christians and the community within a village are drawn together to study the Bible, grow in their relationship with Christ and learn how to make a difference in the place where they live.

The authors of this study believe that rather than bringing in many people and resources from outside, often the resources and people required to begin making a difference in the villages of rural Africa are actually found in the villages themselves.

We believe that these people will be mighty 'Oaks of Righteousness' within their own communities and friends. We simply want to plant as many 'Oaks' as we possibly can and help them to grow as best they can.

About the authors

Jon Paul Witt and his wife Judith currently live with their 3 children in Mkushi, Zambia. They lead an organisation called Dignity that is based in Zambia and the UK. Jon has worked in many countries within Africa and as an evangelist in the United Kingdom. Jon has an MA in Theology and earlier on in his life he also worked as a Software Engineer.

Judith is a Medical Doctor and great mother to 3 children. She has worked for many years in the United Kingdom as a General Practitioner, and has also worked in many African countries in various mission settings.

They both have a desire to see rural Africa transformed through the power of the Gospel working through those who inhabit the many villages, compounds and settlements of rural Africa.

About Dignity

Dignity was set up by Jon and some friends in 2007 and is dedicated to helping the rural churches and communities within Africa to grow in the knowledge and love of God. We believe that as people do this, they begin to step forward with hope, confidence and love to make change that will be felt in the physical world as well.

God's love and transformation always brings about change in the hearts of community as well as individual men and women. Dignity's aim is to plant what the Bible calls, "Oaks of Righteousness", in every village in rural Africa. We believe that these people will be those whom God uses to transform and improve everyone's life for the better, both here and in eternity.

That is no small aim and we need your help to make it happen.

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How to use this book

This book is designed to be used as a group study. Only the person leading the session needs a copy of the book. You should try to complete each session within 1.5 - 2 hours. If you find you need longer, you can always complete 1 session over 2 weeks.

We believe that whilst studying the material you will have ideas of things that you can do in your village. We encourage you just to get on and do them with anyone you can. Your village can be changed by you together with a few friends and family. With God you can do amazing things for everyone in your village.

How to lead a session

It is important that you involve everyone in the sessions. It is not simply a case of reading the session and telling people what they should do. We believe that every person has something unique to contribute and that God teaches us through those around us. Therefore, the sessions are written in such a way that people will all need to be involved. There are memory verses, questions, dramas, stories and discussions that will need everyone to take part.

As the group leader you need to steer the conversation and help it go in the right direction, but you do not need to do everything yourself.

You should encourage people who are shy and quiet to try and speak when they can. You should encourage people who are loud and talkative to give other people a chance to share their thoughts as well.

What you need for each session

The sessions are designed to be simple and not need a lot of resources. You will need:

- A copy of this book for the person leading the session
- A Bible (it is helpful if a few people in the group can bring a Bible as well, but it is not essential)
- Pens and paper, which are often used in the activities. You should encourage people to bring these from home.

Symbols to help you

To help you lead the sessions we include symbols to tell you what each section is. The symbols are shown below with their meanings. Take some time now to get to know what each symbol means and to look through a few sessions and see how the symbols are used. This will make it easier for you when you are leading a session.



Aim

Each section starts with an aim. This guides you in what you are teaching the group and what everyone should understand once they have done the session. You must always keep these aims in mind and ask yourself if you are helping people reach them. It is a good idea to start by sharing this with the group.



Memory Verse

Everyone should learn the memory verse and be able to recite it by the end of the session. You need to teach it to them by reading the memory verse and Bible reference aloud to the group. Then read it again but this time read it bit by bit, in small sections, getting the group to repeat each section after you. Repeat this process, gradually reading longer sections with the group repeating each section until everyone can recite the whole verse without your help. Encourage some people to try and repeat it on their own.



Story

Stories are a brilliant way to introduce subjects and to learn from

something that is familiar. Everyone enjoys hearing stories and they are easy to remember! When you tell the stories to the group, you should try to bring them to life by being dramatic. If there is someone in your group who is good at telling stories it would be good to ask them to tell the stories. You will need to ask them before the session and give them time to prepare.



Bible Knowledge

Every session has at least 1 Bible Passage to read, some have more. If there are people in your group who are good readers you could ask them to read these for you. You should ask them in advance so they can practise or say that they do not want to read. Remember that some people cannot read so asking them in front of people when they cannot say no may embarrass them.



Speaking

There are sections that need to be read aloud from the book. When you are going through these you should pause from time to time, especially after important points, and ask people if they have understood what you are saying. If they have not, you might need to repeat a section or discuss something to help them understand.



Discussion & Questions

Answering questions and discussing things helps people to learn and explore something for themselves. This helps them to remember it. When you see the question symbol it is important that you ask the group the question and encourage a few different people to give answers. Sometimes the questions are for discussion in smaller groups. If the session tells you to, you should divide people into groups of 3 or 4 and give them time to discuss the question. When the whole group comes back together you should allow time for each group to share one or two of the main points they discussed.

If there are a lot of questions or Bible references that people need you could encourage someone from each group to take a photograph of the questions using their mobile phone or prepare in advance by writing out extra copies of the questions.



Activity

People learn through having fun and by doing something. Activities help this to happen. You should involve everyone in the activities and encourage them to have fun while they are doing it!



Prayer

What God says directly to people is extremely important. We want to encourage your group to be praying with and for one another whenever possible. When you see this symbol you should ask people to pray. There are different ways of praying used throughout this book. Sometimes the group is asked to pray all together, sometimes in small groups and sometimes in pairs. Sometimes people are asked to shout loudly to God and at other times people are asked to pray quietly. It is important that you leave enough time for prayer and encourage people to listen to what God is saying.



An example for us to follow

The example of other people can inspire and encourage us. Each week we will read about a person whose life can be an example to us.



To do this week

Each week there is some homework for people to do. You should explain it carefully to make sure people understand it and then encourage people to do this during the week. At the start of each session, you should allow people some time to feed back on

whether they did the task they were given and how it went.

Bible passages and references

When you see a name and numbers underlined like this Psalm 1:4-6 it is referring you to a passage from the Bible. This particular one means you should read from the book of Psalms, chapter 1 verses 4 to 6.

Keeping children safe whilst at Life Groups

Together we came up with some simple rules so that our children are safe whether they are at home or with us at a Life Group. These rules are great to apply to other areas of our lives as well. Whether we are working in our fields, at church or with friends, God wants us to ensure that our children are safe.



Everyone who attends a group must make sure their children are safe at home and looked after by a responsible person or bring their children with them.



Group leaders must remind group members to be sure their children are safe at home and looked after by a responsible person and also make children welcome at the group.



Anyone in a group working with children must not work alone but with one or two more people. If it is two people, they must not be from the same family. (They must be from different families.)



Those working with children in a group must have been regularly attending a group for at least 3 months.



Group leaders and members must not take photographs of children when involved in Life Group activities.



If children are sharing food at group meetings, ensure it is safe for them to eat.



Group members visiting families in the community must go in pairs, for example 2 men to visit a man or 2 women to visit a woman.

1: God is Love



Aim

The aim of the session this week is for members of your group to get to know each other and to learn about God, who is love. First, take some minutes to allow everyone to greet one another in your group.



Memory Verse

Read the memory verse out loud to everyone in the group. Then help them to learn it by repeating it out loud many times, with the group repeating it after you.

And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them

1 John 4:16



Bible Knowledge

Read the Bible passage below out loud to everyone in the group. It is a story about how Jesus had compassion on many people.

Jesus has so much compassion that in one story he began weeping over a city.

To teach us about God, Jesus would often use stories. These stories are called parables. They use everyday examples to help us to understand what God is like.



The Story of the Lost Sheep (Luke 15:1-7)

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering round to hear Jesus. ²But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, 'This man welcomes sinners, and eats with them.'

³Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴'Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbours together and says, "Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep." ⁷I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who do not need to repent.

In the book of Matthew, this love that God has for his 'sheep' who are the people all around us is seen in how he weeps for the people of the city of Jerusalem, which is in modern day Israel.

Read Matthew 23:37 out loud to the group.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stoned those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing.

Jesus looked over the city of Jerusalem and remembered the sins of the people. He could see everything that everyone was doing. Even though they had killed those whom God had sent, he wanted to gather them like a hen gathers her chicks under her wings. He had compassion on them.

Was he filled with anger? Did he want to destroy the city? No! He was filled with compassion for the people there - like a mother hen. Often in the villages, we actually hate 'sinners'. We judge them and we want nothing to do with them. We drive them from our churches and even sometimes our villages. This is not the attitude of Jesus.

He saw them as needing care just like baby chicks or the lost sheep in the story. Chickens make good mothers. Even before they hatch they sit on the eggs and keep them warm. When the chicks are small they feed them and protect them under their wings. Jesus is like this with his people.

Even when we have sinned and run away from God he wants to know us and take care of us.

A mighty follower of Jesus called Paul the Apostle, said this about God's love in [Romans 5:8](#);

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

God did not wait for us to be good enough for him. He did not even wait for us to say sorry. He died for us even when we were sinners and we did not think about him.



Discussion

Get into small groups of 3 or 4 people. Discuss the following questions.

- What can this story teach us about the love of Jesus? What is love like?
- When was a time that you truly felt the love of God in your own life? Share it with other members of your group.
- Do we love people who do bad things and even hate us?
- Is it hard to love people when you get nothing in return?



Prayer

Get into groups of 2 or 3 people to pray. Each person should pray about the following things:

- Thank God for his love for you.
- Thank him that he knows the bad things you think and do but He still loves you.
- Pray for those by name that are hated or are seen as 'sinners' in your village.
- Thank him for the fact He made us all different and special.
- Thank him that He loves you and cares for you like a perfect father.



Memory Verse

Read the memory verse out loud to everyone in the group. Then help them to learn it by repeating it out loud many times, with the group repeating it after you.

And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them

1 John 4:16



An Example for us to Follow: Mother Theresa

Share this story with everyone to encourage them.

Mother Theresa was a Catholic nun who was born in Albania but spent most of her life in Calcutta, India helping the poor. She initially stayed within the mission station but felt God speak to her to leave the comforts there and live and work among people who had no food, bad health and were very poor.

It was difficult at first. She had no money and her life was hard. She was tempted to return to the easier life in the mission station. Instead she stayed and devoted her whole life to serving the poor. She believed that if you knew Christ it made your life richer and fuller, and that you were then able to help other people more.

She started schools, orphanages, places for those with leprosy and hospices to care for those who were dying. She continued her work with the poor almost until she died when she was 87 years old.

She dedicated her life to helping those less fortunate than herself. She did this because Jesus lived in her life and helped her to do it.



Discussion

- Does the story of Mother Theresa encourage you? Why does it encourage you?
- Do you think that in a small way in our village we could be like Mother Theresa?
- How can we do this?



To do this week

Each week there is some homework for us to go and do. This homework will help us to love people in our village and teach us to have an impact where we live.

This week you will need to meet and pray. You will need to discuss to make a time. If you meet for an hour that will be enough time.

When you meet spend some time talking about how you can show God's love to the people in your village. Then pray about what you have discussed and ask God to help you by not only showing you what to do, but how to do it as well.

2: God's Love Takes Action



Aim

To understand that God's love has to show itself by doing something practical with the people in your village.



Memory Verse

Read the memory verse out loud to everyone in the group. Then help them to learn it by repeating it out loud many times, with the group repeating it after you.

*And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death –
even death on a cross!*

Philippians 2:8



Bible Knowledge

The Bible story below is about Jesus dying on the cross. The Bible says that Jesus showed his love for us practically by doing this. Ask everyone in the group to close their eyes and as you read the story to imagine that this is being done for them.

Read this Bible passage out loud to the group.



The Crucifixion Story (Mark 15:16-39)

The soldiers mock Jesus

¹⁶The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. ¹⁷They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. ¹⁸And they began to call out to him, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' ¹⁹Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spat on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. ²⁰And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

The crucifixion of Jesus

²¹A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. ²²They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means 'the place of the skull'). ²³Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.

²⁵It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶The written notice of the charge against him read: THE KING OF THE JEWS. ²⁷They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, 'So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰come down from the cross and save yourself!' ³¹In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. 'He saved others,' they said, 'but he can't save himself!' ³²Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe.' Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

The death of Jesus

³³At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' (which means 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'). ³⁵When some of those standing near heard this, they said, 'Listen, he's calling Elijah.' ³⁶Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. 'Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down,' he said. ³⁷With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. ³⁸The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. ³⁹And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, 'Surely this man was the Son of God!'

Often in our village people will say nice things to show respect to someone. Sometimes we will even say things that are not true to avoid disappointing a guest or a relative. God's love does not just say nice things. God's love gets involved and does something for us,

even giving his own son Jesus for us.

If we read this passage in isolation without looking at the rest of the Bible it would seem like a disaster. The hero of the story has died. It is finished. End of story... but we do not read this passage without the rest of the story.

In John 3:16 Jesus explains,

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

God could see that we were in trouble, and because of this he was willing to give us his own son as a sacrifice for our sin. He died for us. He took the punishment for our sins instead of us.

We are meant to be like this. When we know God's love it is natural and right for us to show God's love practically. This means helping people and loving them with action. Becoming a Christian changes you inside and this should show itself by what you say and do

Being a Christian is not just about going to church. In fact the building we go to is only a building. The true church is the meeting of God's people and the action that they take together.

God's love is more than just a theory; it is something that can bring change. It means that we must love those who no-one loves, it means we must serve and help our community. We have no option in this. This is what a Christian does.

Are we prepared to be one of those people that God can use to

show His love?



Memory Verse

Read the memory verse out loud to everyone in the group. Then help them to learn it by repeating it out loud many times, with the group repeating it after you.

*And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death –
even death on a cross!*

Philippians 2:8



Discussion

Get into small groups of 3 or 4 people. Discuss the following questions.

- Jesus 'humbled himself'. What does this mean for us?
- What sort of things did Jesus do? Did people like him for it? (If you are not sure what Jesus did, have a look at the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John in the Bible).



An Example for us to Follow: Maximillian Kolbe

Share this story with everyone to encourage them.

Maximillian Kolbe was being held as a prisoner by the Germans during World War 2. In July 1941, a man from Kolbe's barracks vanished. In order to deter further escape attempts...the deputy camp commander decided to pick 10 men from the same barracks to be starved to death in "Block 13", which was notorious for torture. One of the selected men...cried out, "My wife! My children!" Kolbe volunteered to take his place.

In the starvation cell, he celebrated a Christian service each day for as long as he was able and gave Holy Communion to the prisoners secretly during the course of the day; the bread given to prisoners was unleavened and so could be used in the Communion, and sympathetic guards gave him materials, including wine that he could use.

He led the other condemned men in song and prayer. After three weeks of dehydration and starvation, only Kolbe and three others remained alive. He encouraged others by telling them that they would soon be...in Heaven. Each time the guards checked on him, he was standing or kneeling in the middle of the cell and looking calmly at those who entered. When Kolbe was the last survivor, he was killed with an injection of carbolic acid. Some who were present at the injection say that he raised his left arm and calmly waited for the injection.¹

The man who had disappeared was later found drowned in the camp latrine.



Discussion

Get into small groups of 3 or 4 people. Discuss the following questions.

- How did Maximillian show God's love?
- What do you think that the prisoner who was saved thought?
- What stops us from loving people in everyday life? We may not need to die for someone, but maybe we need to give some time or labour to someone to help them. For example,

¹ Unknown (22 April 2020), *Maximilian Kolbe* [ONLINE] Available at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maximilian_Kolbe [Accessed 28 April 2020]

you could help with someone else's fields.



Prayer

Silent individual prayer

Encourage people to sit quietly for 5 minutes in a time of repentance. Ask them to say sorry for their selfishness and self centredness. Then ask Jesus how we can show love to others. Be humble in your prayers.

Pray for each other in pairs

Then get people into pairs and ask them to pray for each other that they will be able to give their life to others. Be specific in your prayers. If someone wants to help find food for the poor, pray for this. If someone wants to help show God's mercy in a situation, pray for that. If someone does not know what to pray for, ask the Holy Spirit to guide you.



Memory Verse

Read the memory verse out loud to everyone in the group. Then help them to learn it by repeating it out loud many times, with the group repeating it after you.

*And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death –
even death on a cross!*

Philippians 2:8



To do this week

Discuss when to meet this week to pray and talk. You will need to meet for an hour.

When you meet you need to make a list of everyone in your village who:

- Doesn't go to church
- Is very poor in your village. These people should be the poorest people.

When you have made your list, pray for each person by name. Pray that God will help them and provide for them. Pray that God will use you to do this.

3: You are God's Child



Aim

The aim of this session is to help us all to understand that we are God's children. Just like being in a normal family, being a child of God has some privileges but also some responsibilities. In this session we will learn about some of them.



Memory Verse

Read the memory verse out loud to everyone in the group. Then help them to learn it by repeating it out loud many times, with the group repeating it after you.

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a

husband's will, but born of God.

John 1:12-13



Discussion

Get into small groups of 3 or 4 people. Discuss the following questions.

- Talk about and make a list of all the things that a father or mother does for their children.
- Do you believe God does these things for us his children? How does he do this?
- After some time, encourage feedback from small groups to everybody else. This will be an encouraging time.



Bible Knowledge

Read this Bible passage out loud to the group.



Living by the Spirit (Galatians 5:16-26)

¹⁶So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

¹⁹The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit

the kingdom of God.

²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

This passage was written by the Apostle Paul, to some local Christians in a province called Galatia. These Christians were really trying to live the right way; like children of God. The Apostle Paul wanted to help them to live the right way so he gave them some advice.

He said that there are two ways to live. One way is to be self-centered, looking after our own needs and desires, which leads to problems and all kinds of sin in our life. This is not living like a child of God.

The other way is to live by the Spirit - to give up our life of sin and to live like a child of God. To help us to know what this is like, Paul listed 9 fruits of the Spirit. Just like a tree produces fruit in season, so Paul the apostle thought that people do as well.

A child of God is someone who is known by God and has these 'fruits' in their life. Someone who is not a child of God does not have these fruits in their life. You can tell if someone is truly a Christian by what they do, not by what they say. Even going to Church every week does not necessarily mean you are a child of God.

There is something special about the fruits that God wants to grow in his children's lives. All of the fruits affect other people. Let us think about two of them as an example.

1) Gentleness

It is hard to be gentle with ourselves. We can only be gentle with other people. That means people in our village or people in our family. It always affects someone else.

2) Kindness

The idea of kindness is not to be kind to yourself. No! This is being kind to other people, helping them, giving to them and serving them.

To **not** live like a child of God is to be jealous, selfish and wanting to further your own life before others. To **be** a child of God is to be the opposite, to live your life for others.

Not every child of God gets everything right, we will only do that in heaven, but the direction of our life must be towards what God wants us to be like.

Another example the Bible uses is light and dark. God's children are meant to be people of light. When the moon is not out, the bush can be very dark. A torch or a candle can be seen from a long distance. The light can light up a room and the darkness goes away.

This is what children of God, or as the Bible calls us, "the light of the world" are meant to be like.

Read Matthew 5:14-16 out loud to the group. These verses tell us to be the people of light in our village.

¹⁴You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.



Discussion

Get into small groups of 3 or 4 people. Discuss the following.

Talk about every fruit of the Spirit and make a list of how each one can be shown in our lives and in our village.

The fruits of the Spirit are: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.



Memory Verse

Read the memory verse out loud to everyone in the group. Then help them to learn it by repeating it out loud many times, with the group repeating it after you.

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

John 1:12-13



An Example for us to Follow: The Kind Couple

Share this story with everyone to encourage them.

This is a story of a man I once met in Scotland, who was living in darkness and then came to be living in the light. I've changed his

name to protect his identity.

Luke was a man who had grown up in a family where he was shown little love. As his father and mother had not shown him much love, this created a lot of bad feelings of being unloved in his life. As he grew up he looked for ways to fill this gap of love.

He turned to drugs to make himself feel better. Soon he was addicted to opium. It took over his life. He was addicted and could not stop taking the opium. It made him feel better. The problem was that to pay for the opium he had to start stealing from people. He would then sell the stolen possessions to get money to buy the opium that he was addicted to.

After some time the police caught him stealing and he was in and out of jail.

What could he do now? He had no job and no hope.

An elderly Christian couple showed him a different way to live. They showed him the love of Jesus. They did not just tell him about the love of Jesus but showed him with actions.

They took this young man into their home, cared for him and prayed for him. He saw that the love of Jesus could make a difference. He gave up taking drugs and instead chose to live his life for Jesus. This is a young man whose life has been completely changed by Jesus. It was made possible by Christians who lived like children of God and showed him the love that God has for His children.



Prayer

Split up into pairs and share with the other the 'fruit of the Spirit'

that we struggle with most. Ask them which one is weakest in their life?

In pairs, pray that the weak fruit would become stronger in our lives.



Memory Verse

Read the memory verse out loud to everyone in the group. Then help them to learn it by repeating it out loud many times, with the group repeating it after you.

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

John 1:12-13



To do this week

Take out your list of people that you made last week. Make a time this week when your small group can go and visit at least some of these people if not all of them. Here are some ideas of what you could do when you visit them:

- Why don't you share some of what you learnt in Session 2 about Jesus dying for them?
- You could take a small gift to help them
- If there is a small practical task that you can help them with, you could do it.
- You could pray for them before you leave.

When you visit them, ask them for ways in which they need help and write them down. Take care not to lose the notes that you have written down.

4: Give Like the Macedonian Church



Aim

To learn what the Bible says about giving money and be challenged to be more generous with our own money and possessions.



Memory Verse

Read the memory verse out loud to everyone in the group. Then help them to learn it by repeating it out loud many times, with the group repeating it after you.

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:19-21



Bible Knowledge

Read this Bible passage out loud to the group.



The Example of the Widow's Offering (Mark 12:41-44)

⁴¹Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. ⁴²But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few pence.

⁴³Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. ⁴⁴They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything – all she had to live on.'

Jesus was watching the money being put in the offering. He saw many rich people put in large amounts of money but these were not the ones he praised. Instead he explained to his disciples that the widow's offering was the best.

Sometimes in Africa we use the excuse that we are poor so that we do not give. **Being poor is not a reason to not give.** God knows we have little but still wants us to give. He has promised us that He will provide for us and has told us not to worry. Trust him and ask Him what he wants you to give. Then be brave, step out in faith and give as he commands you. The widow was not rich and yet she gave what she had.



The Example of the Macedonian Church (2 Corinthians 8:1-7)

¹And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. ²In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their

extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. ³For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. ⁵And they exceeded our expectations: they gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. ⁶So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. ⁷But since you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you – see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

A powerful follower of Jesus called the Apostle Paul established the Church in Macedonia. They were a church made up of poor people. They had faced many troubles and did not have much money or many possessions.

However, they were also generous. They were more generous than others expected them to be. They did not just give what they had spare. They did not just give what would be easy for them. They gave more than they had. They were praised for the way they gave generously.

It was not about just one person giving though; it was about a whole group of believers giving together.

Often it is difficult to do something on our own, but together we can do great things. Maybe you think 'what is the point of me giving when I can only give a small amount.' That small amount may not change things alone but if you put the gift together with others then that small amount becomes more.



Discussion

Get into small groups of 3 or 4 people. Discuss the following questions.

- Does God notice if we can only manage to give a small gift? Is it still worth giving?
- Out of the severest trial and poverty the Macedonian Church gave to the needs of others. This is a fantastic example for us. What problems do we face that make us delay giving?
- Did the Macedonian church delay its giving?
- Did giving increase the suffering of the Macedonian church?



Memory Verse

Read the memory verse out loud to everyone in the group. Then help them to learn it by repeating it out loud many times, with the group repeating it after you.

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:19-21



An Example for us to Follow: Giving to a Funeral

Share this story with everyone to encourage them.

In Luapula Province of Zambia there is a group of Christians who meet in the community once per week. They are from different denominations and different traditions. They are all villagers.

One day they found a bus driver had died suddenly in their village whilst away from home. He was from Lusaka the capital city, at least 1000km away. There was no family around to take care of the body and funeral arrangements, so the group decided to step in and help.

Some members got involved in finding the family so a funeral could take place. They also gave money from the group to help with the funeral expenses. All of this they were doing for a complete stranger.

The group has also assisted in funerals for other people in their community, even those who do not go to church. The group members are just normal everyday Christians and they don't have lots of money. They just saw a need and decided together they could meet that need.

Look around you. You will see plenty of needs. What is God calling you to do? Yes, it may be you he wants to meet that need. Do not wait for someone else to come along. God can use you!



Discussion

Get into small groups of 3 or 4 people. Discuss the following questions.

- Our normal thinking says that if you give something away you will miss it. Our thinking also says that the more money and things we have the happier we are. Is this true or false and what does the Bible have to say about it?
- Have you ever received a gift of relish, food or money when you really needed it? Share with the others in your group what happened. If you believe and have seen that God provides, does it make it easier for you to give to others?

- What do you think you could give as a group?



Prayer

Silent individual prayer

Ask everyone to sit quietly and ask God to forgive them for the times when they have not given. Ask them to ask God what he wants them to give and to help them to trust that God will provide for their needs.

Pray out loud as a whole group

- Ask God what he wants you to give as a group.
- Pray that God would begin to provide for you as a group so that you can help others.
- Thank God that he does provide for us his children.



Memory Verse

Read the memory verse out loud to everyone in the group. Then help them to learn it by repeating it out loud many times, with the group repeating it after you.

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:19-21



To do this week

You must decide together to give to people poorer than yourselves. When you meet you can decide to do the following.

- Take a collection of money, food, or something else for those who are poorer than you in your village. You may only be able to give a small amount, but it is more than they had before. It is important that you take this decision together as a group. The items you could give are clothing, seeds or anything else that you may have.
- Have a discussion this week and come up with some ideas of a task that your group could undertake for the village. Together you can decide to do something for your village. It may be helping orphans or perhaps growing a garden of food to give away.

Maybe when you prayed in Week 1, God showed you something that your village group should do. Your group knows the problems and needs in your area. God wants to bring transformation not only in one person's life, but in the lives of those around you. He has chosen to use us as his hands and feet in our villages and places we stay.

5: God Works in Your Village



Aim

This session will help you to understand how God's love will work in your village and the part that you have to play in it. We will learn that God will not do something miraculous without us, he will do it through us.



Memory Verse

Read the memory verse out loud to everyone in the group. Then help them to learn it by repeating it out loud many times, with the group repeating it after you.

All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.

Acts 2:44-45



Bible Knowledge

The book of Acts was written to describe how the early church grew from the disciples of Jesus, to how the church and the Gospel of Jesus Christ eventually reached the city of Rome, which was at that time the most important city. The passage here describes what the early church was like.

Read this Bible passage out loud to the group.



The Fellowship of the Believers (Acts 2:42-47)

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Our group meeting today can learn a lot from how the early church in Jerusalem lived their Christian life. They did not simply go to church. A lot of people have misunderstandings about the Church. They believe that:

- The building is the church
- The denomination is the church
- The people in the church are somehow the property or followers of the leaders.

None of these beliefs are true. The word “church” in the Bible, simply means a 'gathering of people'. It has nothing to do with a building, following a pastor or being in a denomination. The church is meant to be a group of people that meet and belong together.

More importantly, people did not just talk about their faith, they acted out their faith practically in the place they were living.

Let us look at what the church did from day to day.

They devoted themselves to teaching and prayer. This is like a Life Group or a church meeting.

However, was that all that they did? Did they only study the Bible, pray and have worship?

No! Of course not! Let us look at the other verses.

In verse 43 it says that many wonders and signs were done by the Apostles. These may have been healing or people being released from demons for example. People were helped because of the signs that God did through his church. Even 'spiritual' gifts and miracles

are meant to help other people.

Verse 44 tell us that they did not have different groups, they 'had all things in common'. Often in villages people in one church will compete with or not help people from another church. If people are not Christians, often they will not be helped. This is wrong.

In verse 45, it tells us how kind and generous the believers were to everyone who had need. If someone was in need, they would not ignore it; they would find a way of helping. If necessary they would sell something of their own so that they could help someone else. It says that they gave to "anyone as he had need".

Sometimes, Christians only act like Christians on a Sunday. We do church things and then do what we want the rest of the week. This is also wrong, we should be Christians all the time, no-matter what we are doing. The people in the early church did not only meet on a Sunday in a church, they also met out in the open and also in people's homes. This is what it tells us in verse 46.

Can you guess what the result of this amazing Christian church was?

Verse 47 tells us that they enjoyed the favour of all people which meant they were liked and respected by all the people. We also read that God added to those who were becoming Christians. This was because people could see Jesus through what the Church was doing.



Memory Verse

Read the memory verse out loud to everyone in the group. Then help them to learn it by repeating it out loud many times, with the group repeating it after you.

All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.

Acts 2:44-45



Discussion

Get into small groups of 3 or 4 people. Discuss the following question.

- What are the churches like in your village? Are they like the church that is described in the Bible in the book of Acts?
- How do people start to understand God's love? Is it just knowing about Jesus or is it more than that? Could people see the love of God through the things you do or would they not notice any acts of love?

After a few minutes get everyone to share with one another.



Prayer

Ask everyone in the group to get into pairs. Each pair should do the following.

- Thank God for his love for each of you.
- Pray for people in your village specifically by name that they would come to know the love of God.
- Pray that Jesus would use your prayer partner to show His love in the village.

If there is a specific act of love you would like to do, ask the other person to pray for you to receive God's help to do it.



Memory Verse

Read the memory verse out loud to everyone in the group. Then help them to learn it by repeating it out loud many times, with the group repeating it after you.

*All the believers were together and had everything in common.
They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.*

Acts 2:44-45



An Example for us to Follow: Lufwanyama, Zambia

Share this story with everyone to encourage them.

There is a village in the Lufwanyama district of Northern Zambia where the occupants of the village decided to do something quite special. A school was built in their village but unfortunately the people who built the school could not afford the salaries of the teachers. Over time the teachers began to leave the school and it stopped working.

or a time the people in the village did nothing. They sat back and allowed it to happen. After all what could they do?

Then one day a lady in the village who was a Christian had an idea. She started to ask everyone in the village whose children went to school, to contribute to the school. The contribution was not much but over time, there was at least some money to begin to pay teachers. The teachers came back as they could finally be paid something for their work.

The community then had another idea. At the back of the school was some land. Every few days a group of men from the village

would help to cultivate the land. They got some seed from an outside agency and began to grow the maize and other vegetables to provide an income for the school.

It is still hard for them. They don't have all of the money and textbooks that they need yet. However, they have begun something and have done something together to educate their children. This is the kind of example that was set by the early church in Acts 2 and is a real life story with real people to help us to think about what we can do.



Discussion

Get into small groups of 3 or 4 people. Discuss the following questions.

- Why do we find it hard to be like the early church? Why do we struggle sometimes to give of ourselves, our time and our possessions?
- Is there anything in your village like Lufwanyama School, which your group could be involved with helping? If not, is there anything that your group can do to help those in your village?
- Get everyone to share with one another about what they have discussed.



To do this week

Decide to meet together.

Take out the list of people that you have from week 2. Today we have been discussing that the Church actually does something for those in need in the community.

You asked people in your village 2 weeks ago how they needed help. Last week you came up with some ideas of what you could do in your community. Today we have been discussing that the church should actually do something for those in need in the community. You will need to discuss what you think you can do and what people actually need help with. You may find that something you can do will directly meet someone's need.

Some of the things we do to help the community will take time, effort and organisation.

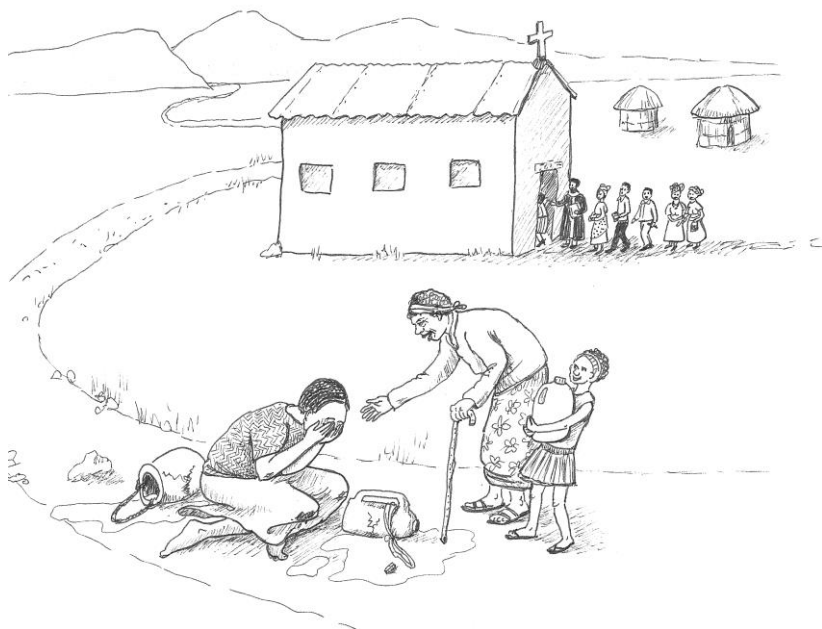
There will always be tasks that you can do to help your village.
However, unless you decide to do them, nothing will ever happen.
Nobody from outside will come and do it for you.

An example of a big project might be sorting out a school, organising a well, setting up a garden to grow food for the poor or making things to sell to use the profit for others.

Smaller tasks such as fixing a widow's roof, carrying water to someone who is sick or giving a shirt to someone who needs it can be done straight away without much thought.

Simply make some time this week and go and do 1 or 2 of the smaller tasks, this is God's love beginning to work in your village.

6: Words are Not Enough



Aim

This lesson looks at the story of the Good Samaritan and what it means to love people. The lesson will also help us to not be judgmental about people.



Memory Verse

Read the memory verse out loud to everyone in the group. Then help them to learn it by repeating it out loud many times, with the group repeating it after you.

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 neighbour as yourself.'

Luke 10:27



Bible Knowledge

God often uses the most unlikely of people to do His will. God likes to surprise people by using individual people that many think just cannot be used by God. This story is about a very unlikely person being used by God to do something good.

Read this Bible passage out loud to the group.



The Story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)

²⁵On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he asked, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?'

²⁶'What is written in the Law?' he replied. 'How do you read it?'

²⁷He 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 neighbour as yourself."

²⁸'You have answered correctly,' Jesus replied. 'Do this and you will live.'

²⁹But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?'

³⁰In 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. ³¹A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³²So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man

was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴He 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. ³⁵The 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."

³⁶'which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?'

³⁷The expert in the law replied, 'The one who had mercy on him.' Jesus told him, 'Go and do likewise.'

Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan for two reasons. He wanted to show us what it means to truly love someone. He also wanted to show us that it is rarely the religious people who are those who truly love God and serve Him.

Jesus was very careful when he picked the characters for the story. He picked each one for a reason.

A priest is an important person who is supposed to love God. But did the priest in this story show love for God? The priest just walked on by the wounded man. He didn't show the love of God at all.

A Levite was a Jew who took care of the temple. Like the priest he was meant to be someone who loved and served God. However, he too just walked by the wounded man. He should have been a person who helped the traveller, but he did not.

The Samaritan was a person that the religious people hated in the

time of Jesus. The Jews thought that Samaritans were unrighteous and not part of the people of God.

What happened when the Samaritan walked by the wounded man? He helped him and took care of him from his own pocket. He made sure that the wounded man would be fine.

Jesus said "Whatever you do for the least of these you do for me." Only the Samaritan, the least likely person, showed the love of God and took care of the man.

The priest and the Levite would have known all of the right words to say, they would have known how to sing choruses, how to pray and they would have been respected in their church.

Jesus was not concerned with this though. He held up the Samaritan as the better example to follow. He told the teacher of the law to "go and do likewise."

It is not enough just to preach or teach from the word of God. People must experience the word of God in our actions. We must also not judge those who are outside of the church. If someone in our village wants to help us to do good, we must let them.



Discussion

Get into groups of 3 or 4 people and discuss how the story of the Good Samaritan makes you feel. What does it make you think?

Then take some time to prepare a small drama to show the other members of the group the story. One of you take the part of the Levite, one the priest, one the Samaritan and the other the wounded man. Show this drama to your group.



Memory Verse

Read the memory verse out loud to everyone in the group. Then help them to learn it by repeating it out loud many times, with the group repeating it after you.

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 neighbour as yourself.'

Luke 10:27



Prayer

Ask everyone in the group to find a place that is quiet and on their own for 5-10 minutes. Ask them to pray individually and ask the Lord to show them times that they have been like the priest or the Levite, rather than the Good Samaritan.

Tell them not to feel guilty about these times. They should say sorry and ask God to help them to do better next time.

Then together as a whole group out loud, thank God that he has provided us, his people, with everything we need to assist those around us. Ask him to help you as a group to work together and make a difference to the needs in your village. Don't just walk by like the Priest and the Levite. Be like the Good Samaritan instead.



An Example for us to Follow: Maximillian Kolbe

Share this story with everyone to encourage them.

William Wilberforce lived over 200 years ago in England. When he became a Christian in 1785 there were big changes to the way he lived his life. He spoke for those who were not listened to.

In times gone by, people from Africa were taken as slaves to work

for those in other countries. William Wilberforce did not believe that God thought this was right.

William Wilberforce was a politician and because of that he had influence in government. His Christian faith led him to campaign and argue again and again that the trading of slaves should be stopped. Many times his arguments and proposals were defeated. However, many times he tried again and again.

Eventually his health began to fail. Three days before he died, he learnt that his campaigning had worked, the law had been changed and that people who had been slaves would not be slaves anymore.

He was like the Good Samaritan. He could have walked on by, but he endured ridicule and opposition, to free thousands of people from a terrible life. He is indeed a great example to us all.



Discussion

Get into small groups of 3 or 4 people. Discuss the following questions.

- The Good Samaritan was someone who could have walked by but he did not. He helped the person who had been robbed. What are the things that stop us doing things to help those around us? Make a list between yourselves.
- Look at the list you have made and talk about how you can overcome them. We could ignore the needs around us, or even think that we cannot do anything about them. This is not an option. You have everything you need, with God, to make a difference in your village.



Memory Verse

Read the memory verse out loud to everyone in the group. Then help them to learn it by repeating it out loud many times, with the group repeating it after you.

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 neighbour as yourself.'

Luke 10:27



To do this week

Decide to meet this week.

You need to decide what larger task you want to do for your village. Maybe you will not agree as a whole group, but you need to make a decision that you will work together.

You may have come up with an idea last week which will help you in talking about the subject.

- Make a list of the things you will need for the project. Remember things you need are often not money. You may need seed, some land, or a hoe for example. Something you need may even be a person who knows how to do something.
- Mark off the things you already have between you and thank God for them.
- Make a list of the things you still require and pray that they will be provided. Think also of ways you could find, borrow or buy these things.

Go and see your group leader or the head of the village. Talk with them about the idea that you have and especially about what you

are going to need to do it. Ask if they can help you with the things you need. Maybe as a group you even need to ask their advice. Visit anyone else who you think could help you and talk to them about what you want to do and how they could help you.

Pray that God will help you.

7: God Provides for Us



Aim

This lesson is to help us understand that God does not only provide for the rich or powerful people and city dwellers of this world, he also provides directly for us in the villages. If we are following his will, we experience his provision for ourselves.



Memory Verse

Read the memory verse out loud to everyone in the group. Then help them to learn it by repeating it out loud many times, with the

group repeating it after you.

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 6:33



Bible Knowledge

Read this Bible passage out loud to the group.



Do Not Worry (Matthew 6:25 – 34)

²⁵‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? ²⁸‘And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. ²⁹Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. ³⁰If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith? ³¹So do not worry, saying, “What shall we eat?” or “What shall we drink?” or “What shall we wear?” ³²For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

A number of problems can stop us from obeying what God wants us to do in our village. Perhaps out of all of these, it is problems and worries about money that stops us the most.

One of the ways that it stops us is that we wait for someone else with money to provide for us. We may look to a richer relative in the city or family member. We may wait for the visit of a missionary or organisation to help us. We look to them to provide more than we look to God to provide.

We can also get very caught up with just providing for ourselves. This is understandable, but if we remember the studies of the widow and the Macedonian church, this is not God's will. He wants us also to look to the needs of others.

The biggest thing that stops us from trusting God is worry.

This passage tells us to look at nature. To look at the birds of the air and the flowers of the field and to understand that God provides for them.

God tells us to not be asking, "What shall we drink? What shall we wear? Or what shall we eat?" because if we trust him alone, he will supply our needs.

To worry and not to trust God is actually a sin. Pagans were people who did not know Christ or His gospel. To worry and to run after these things is actually to be a pagan, it is not what God wants us to do. God wants us to work hard and to be responsible, but he does not want us to worry and keep everything to ourselves instead of giving possessions and money away.

Rather than worry, we should cast our burdens on Jesus who will help us to carry them. Thinking about what we are trying to do in our villages, we need to give our worries, concerns and needs to God.



Discussion

In groups of 3 or 4 people, discuss and share the types of things that we are worried about.

Secondly ask the groups to share a time where they have known that God has provided a need for them and has answered their prayer.

Do we need to wait for a man to provide what we need? Or can God provide for us directly?



Memory Verse

Read the memory verse out loud to everyone in the group. Then help them to learn it by repeating it out loud many times, with the group repeating it after you.

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 6:33



Prayer

Divide people into pairs. Tell each pair to share with each other what they are worried about in their life right now. It may be a family member, food or something else.

Share with each other and then pray that God will provide that need.

Then come together in a big group and pray about the decisions you have been making to help people in your village. If you have a list of things that you need, then get the list out and ask God to provide them directly for your venture.



An Example for us to Follow: Brother Yun

Share this story with everyone to encourage them.

Brother Yun was a poor pastor of a secret 'underground' church in China. In China, it was illegal for Christians to meet and worship together and many of their leaders and even ordinary Christians ended up in prison.

In his early life he needed a Bible and God miraculously provided a Bible for him. Another Christian in a faraway province had a dream and visited him, giving him the Bible.

Later on in his life, Brother Yun was caught and sent to Zhengzhou maximum security prison but he continued witnessing to prisoners and guards while he was there. Both prisoners and guards became Christians. Brother Yun suffered greatly in that prison, he even thought that he would die.

One day he heard the Holy Spirit tell him to walk out of the heavily guarded prison gate. That sounded unbelievable to him, but as it was God telling him to do it, he decided to obey. Risking being shot he walked through several doors that were somehow left open and out of the main gate, jumping off a high roof in the process.

It was as if he had become invisible to the guards. God helped him whilst he was in prison and provided a way of escape just as he had for Paul and Silas in the book of Acts.

God provided directly for Brother Yun. He didn't need anyone to help him directly as God provided for his life. He had faith in God not man.



Discussion

In groups of 3 or 4 people discuss the following question.

Do we believe that God can provide the things that we need? Take out the list of things that you still need. Can God provide them for you?



Memory Verse

Read the memory verse out loud to everyone in the group. Then help them to learn it by repeating it out loud many times, with the group repeating it after you.

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 6:33



To do this week

Make a time to meet this week. It is time to make a start on what you have decided to do in your village. You are going to need to make time as a group and be committed.

Have a look at what needs to be done and share out the tasks between the entire group. Remember God has given us all gifts and talents. Make sure you don't waste them.

We are all different so you must remember to give tasks to those who are good at doing them. Some may be strong, some may be very organised, and some may be good practically.

Sometimes we will need to do things that we have never done before or that may be difficult for us. Do not be afraid. Instead ask for God's help.

A child would never learn to walk if it did not take its first steps. The same is true for what we do with our village.

Let's step out together this week.

8: Faith - We Need to Believe



Aim

This lesson is to help us to understand some examples of people who had faith in the Bible and what that means for us in our village.



Memory Verse

Read the memory verse out loud to everyone in the group. Then

help them to learn it by repeating it out loud many times, with the group repeating it after you.

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see...And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Hebrews 11:1 and 6



Bible Knowledge

We are going to take some examples from Hebrews to help us to understand faith. Hebrews Chapter 11 is long so we are just going to read some of the verses but you can read the whole chapter at home if you have a Bible.

Read this Bible passage out loud to the group.



Faith (Hebrews 11:1-12)

¹Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. ²This is what the ancients were commended for.

³By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

⁴By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead.

⁵By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death: 'He could not be found, because God had taken him away.' For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. ⁶And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

⁷By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.

⁸By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. ⁹By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

¹¹And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. ¹²And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

All of the people in the passage from the Book of Hebrews are from the Old Testament. The writer of the passage was writing to Jews who would recognise all of these people. As we have not grown up knowing the stories of these people, we have to learn the stories and the great examples that they give us.

Faith is believing and trusting in what we cannot see. Without faith it is impossible to please God. People who are God's children are meant to live to a different set of rules than others. For example if God says he will provide, we should believe that and act accordingly. If God says he will protect us, we should believe that and act accordingly.

If we take two of the people from the passage above we will see what faith meant for two people in the Old Testament of the Bible.

The Story of Noah (found in Genesis chapters 6-9)

Hebrews 11:7 talks about the faith of Noah.

In Genesis 6:22 it says, "Noah did everything just as God commanded him." God was going to send a flood and yet God wanted to save those who trusted him. He asked Noah to build a boat where there was no water! People ridiculed Noah and thought he was crazy. Then the water came and everyone except Noah and his family was killed. Noah's faith in God saved his life.

Faith requires action. This means that we do what God asks us even if we don't fully understand the reason.

The story of Abraham (found in Genesis chapters 12 and 17)

Hebrews 11:8-12 talks about the faith of Abraham and his wife Sarah.

Abraham was told by God that he would have a son even though he was old and his wife was barren. His wife didn't believe this at all, she laughed and laughed when she was told. God also told him that

his descendants' would be many like the stars. Abraham struggled to believe. He even tried to make it happen on his own, when he slept with his servant. However, he did believe in the end. God gave Abraham and his wife a child and fulfilled his promise to them.

He had faith even though he died before he received the whole promise. His descendants had not yet become like the many stars in the sky. Sometimes we have to wait a long time before God answers our prayers or fulfils his promise. The descendants of Abraham today are all people who have faith in the God of Israel. God did keep his promise to Abraham.



Discussion

In groups of 3 or 4 people discuss the following question.

- Do you have faith like Abraham or Noah so that you would have done the same as them?
- What do **we** need to believe and have faith in God for?
Make a list of specific things in your life or your village.



Memory Verse

Read the memory verse out loud to everyone in the group. Then help them to learn it by repeating it out loud many times, with the group repeating it after you.

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see...And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Hebrews 11:1 and 6



An Example for us to Follow: Brother Andrew

Share this story with everyone to encourage them.

Son of a blacksmith, Brother Andrew didn't even finish high school. But God used this ordinary Dutch man, with his bad back, limited education, without sponsorship and no funds to do things that many said were impossible. From Yugoslavia to North Korea, Brother Andrew penetrated countries hostile to the gospel to bring Bibles and encouragement to believers. Many times he placed himself in many dangerous situations and problems for the sake of others.

One example of God providing miraculously was when Andrew needed to pay for his visa. When Andrew received a visitor the day before he needed to send off his application for a visa, he was confident that the visitor would have come to give him money to pay for the visa. But the visitor was Richard, a man who Andrew had met in the slums in Glasgow. Richard had not come to give, but to ask. Andrew explained that he had no money himself to give to Richard, but as he spoke, Andrew saw a shilling on the floor. This shilling was how much Andrew needed to pay for his visa which would mean he could stay at the Bible school. Rather than keeping the shilling for himself, Andrew gave the shilling to Richard. Andrew had done what he knew was right, but how would God provide? Minutes later, Andrew received a letter and in it was 30 shillings! God had provided in His way, a miraculous form of provision.

In the following years, Andrew dedicated his life to the needs of the church in the communist countries. [In communist countries, the Bible was not allowed to be sold, printed or read. The government opposed Christians and Churches, imprisoning

pastors and making life very difficult for ordinary men and women].

God provided Andrew with a new Volkswagen Beetle car and with it Brother Andrew smuggled Bibles and literature into the countries in need. Working alone for the first few years, Andrew worked tirelessly in serving the churches in the communist countries. When Andrew had finished one trip he would go back to Holland where he would share his experience and then go back to another one of the countries. Each trip was full of stories of how God had miraculously provided and led Andrew to meet Godly believers.²



Prayer

Pray for each other in pairs.

Pray that each one of you is given the gift of faith and that you begin to believe God for more faith than you had before.

The gift of faith is a spiritual gift, and so when we ask we must believe that the Lord will give it to us. James 1:6 says that when we ask, we must believe and not doubt.

Remember that Jesus said we only needed faith the size of a mustard seed to be able to move mountains. If we only have faith for small things, then be encouraged and as you believe God for small things your faith will grow. You will then be able to have faith for bigger things.

²Wortes, David N. (10 February 2012), *Brother Andrew Biography* [ONLINE] Available at: <https://www.inspirationalchristians.org/evangelists/brother-andrew-biography/> [Accessed 28 April 2020]



To do this week

Decide when and where to meet up this week.

You need to make a list of what you need for your task.

One of the things you need to do is look at the list you made about what you need, and decide how to get hold of some of those items.

- Do you need to make things?
- Have you managed to borrow things?
- Do you need to have a collection in your group to buy something?
- Do you need to find someone with skills or knowledge to help you learn something new?
- Are there other agencies who can help you?

Whatever you do, do not sit back waiting for someone else to do everything for you. The people that God used in the early church were the ordinary everyday Christians, not people from the outside.

Let's remember, as ordinary Christians we have an amazing God who can do great things through us, His people. We need to have faith and trust in Him as we work for Him.

9: Using Your Talents



Aim

This lesson is to help you to understand that everyone in the group has different gifts and talents given to them by God. We can then all use these talents together for the good of all.



Memory Verse

Read the memory verse out loud to everyone in the group. Then help them to learn it by repeating it out loud many times, with the group repeating it after you.

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6



Bible Knowledge

Read this Bible passage out loud to the group. It is a story that Jesus told to help us use our God given gifts and skills for His service.



The Parable of the Bags of Gold (Matthew 25:14-30)

¹⁴Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. ¹⁷So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁸But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

¹⁹After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.'

²¹His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

²²The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold: see, I have gained two more.'

²³His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

²⁴Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

²⁶His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.'

²⁸So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. ²⁹For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ³⁰And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Jesus spoke in parables to help us know what the Kingdom of God is like. The three men in the story were given money according to their ability.

All of us have been given gifts and abilities which we should put to

good use. The first two men were praised for using their money to make more. They were then trusted with bigger things. However, one man was lazy and fearful and hid his talent away for the good of no - one.

This man was called wicked and he had his talent taken away from him. In John 12:23-25 Jesus says that if you seek to hold onto your life in this world you will lose it. He is telling us here to give our lives away and to not hold onto them. It is also wrong to let fear stop us from doing something. The effect is the same as being lazy; if we are fearful the task still does not get done.

There is one very important thing for us to realise. **The bags of gold and the men's skills given to the men were not for their own use.** They were for the use of the master. Even though they received a reward, if they had kept their talent for themselves they would have been like the wicked lazy servant.

Our talents are meant to be used for God, and we have seen that His work is loving those around us and telling them about Jesus. If we do not do this we are not using our talent, we are keeping it to ourselves.



Discussion

Each person on their own should think about the following for a few minutes.

Think about the things you are good at and the things you are not so good at. Think of three things you can do well and one thing you are not so good at and write them down.

Split the group into groups of 3 people and discuss the following.

- Discuss what actually stops us from putting our talents to good use in our village? Maybe it is fear, or something else.
- How can we change those things that stop us, so we are putting our talents to good use?
- In groups, think of one task that the other people are good at. Encourage each other by telling each other what they are good at.



Memory Verse

Read the memory verse out loud to everyone in the group. Then help them to learn it by repeating it out loud many times, with the group repeating it after you.

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6



An Example for us to Follow: Jackie Pullinger

Share this story with everyone to encourage them.

We may be a teacher, a farmer or something else, but all of us can go and do something for God.

Jackie was 15. She wanted to be a missionary, so she wrote to various missionary organisations. At first she wanted to go to Africa, but then she had a dream that impressed upon her the idea of going to Hong Kong. Unable to find support from missionary organizations, she sought advice from Richard Thompson, a minister...who told her that she should buy a ticket for a boat going as far as she could get

and to pray to know when to get off the boat. She followed his advice and went to Hong Kong by boat in 1966. However, when she arrived she knew no one there and she didn't have much money... The only reason the immigration officers allowed her in was because her mother's godson was a police officer there. She found work as a primary school teacher in the Kowloon Walled City, which in the 1960s was not policed and consequently had become one of the world's largest opium producing centres ran by Chinese criminals. She established a youth club to help drug addicts and street sleepers.

In 1981 she started a charity called the St Stephen's Society which provides rehabilitation homes for recovering drug addicts, prostitutes, and gang members. By December 2007 it had grown and was providing homes for 200 people. The charity's work has been recognized by the Hong Kong government who donated the land for the rehabilitation homes. The intervention process that the drug addicts go through is very intensive. Instead of giving them medication they are put into a room for 10 days, prayed over and cared for by a group of ex-addicts.³

All of this and more happened because Jackie was willing to give the little she had and follow God. She was not like the lazy and fearful servant. We may not know how to do something, or even have the money to do it. With God however, he can show us the way and great things can happen.



Prayer

In the groups of 2 or 3 that you have been in you will need to pray for the following:

³Unknown (15 March 2020), *Jackie Pullinger* [ONLINE] Available at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jackie_Pullinger [Accessed 18 April 2020]

- Pray for each other for the things you have been discussing.
- Thank God for the talents he has given each of you.
- Pray that the barriers that stop you from using their gifts or talents will be overcome.
- Pray specifically for the Holy Spirit to help you in using your gifts and talents for others.
- Pray that the things you do will be done well, and that you will not do a bad or lazy job.



Memory Verse

Read the memory verse out loud to everyone in the group. Then help them to learn it by repeating it out loud many times, with the group repeating it after you.

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6



To do this week

Continue to do your small project believing in faith that God is going to help you, provide for you and make it work for you.

Make sure you share out the tasks between you all. You can work much better as a team. Also make sure you listen to some of the quieter members of the group as they may have good ideas.

Make sure you have decided to finish the project and don't give up!

10: God's Love Spreads



Aim

The aim of this lesson is to help us to understand that we have a big responsibility as the children of God. We are to be the light in our village. We must also pass on that light to others who can do even more than us.



Memory Verse

Read the memory verse out loud to everyone in the group. Then help them to learn it by repeating it out loud many times, with the

group repeating it after you.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16



Bible Knowledge

Read this Bible passage out loud to the group, making sure that everyone is listening and understanding.



About Serving People (Matthew 25:31-45)

³¹When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

³⁴Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was ill and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹When did we see you ill or in

prison and go to visit you?’

⁴⁰The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

⁴¹Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴²For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was ill and in prison and you did not look after me.’

⁴⁴They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or ill or in prison, and did not help you?’

⁴⁵He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

As Christians, what does it mean to be the light? It is everything that we do and say. If we have been born again and our lives have been changed by Jesus then others should be able to tell by how we live our life. We should be different to those around us.

A light can light up a whole room. It can get rid of the darkness. The darkness cannot put out the light. That is how we should live. **Our lives should be different and cause changes to those around us. In this way, the light spreads from person to person.**

Jesus was saying in this passage that when we die, or Jesus returns, we will stand before him. He will tell us that he was hungry and that

we helped him, and that we were thirsty and we gave him a drink. We will be confused as we will not remember meeting Jesus and helping Him.

Jesus did not mean that though. He meant that every time we help someone, we feed him. When we aid people, it is actually as if we were doing it to Jesus, not just for that person.

Jesus wants us to love people. He wants us to help people. **Our light is not just telling people about Jesus, it is showing them who Jesus is through all of what we say and do.**

That, as the memory verse says, is letting our light shine before men and that is meant to get bigger and bigger and bigger. We are not meant to think about how we can keep this love of God to ourselves.

If a candle is hidden or is not lit, it makes no difference at all to the darkness all around it. It may as well not be there. In some ways it adds to the darkness by doing nothing. Only when the candle is lit and a flame appears does it dispel the darkness. The candle is meant to be burning giving light. We are also meant to be burning giving light. The darkness is meant to go away and not come back when we are being the light.

For our village or a neighbouring village, why not give this study to someone else or start a group elsewhere, so they too can be the light where they live.



Discussion

Get into a group of about 3 or 4 people. Discuss the following questions, asking people to tell the rest of the group their thoughts when they have finished discussing.

- What have we learnt from this study and what are we now doing that we were not doing at the beginning?
- What are the problems we are facing and how can we overcome these problems?
- Are we beginning to be the light in our village?



Prayer

Get into pairs in your group and pray about the following for one another.

- Pray that each other would have the gift of serving and helping people.
- Pray that God would help us to find new ways of doing this

Then as a whole group

- Pray about the project you are doing, that God will grant it success. Pray that it would give light to people in your village.
- Pray that God will help you to tell other people about what you have been doing and more importantly about why you are doing it.



Memory Verse

Read the memory verse out loud to everyone in the group. Then help them to learn it by repeating it out loud many times, with the group repeating it after you.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16



An Example for us to Follow: The Early Church

Share this story with everyone to encourage them.

The Story of the Early Church in the Book of Acts is an amazing story. It tells us how the message of Jesus goes from the friends of Jesus to the most important city of the world at that time, Rome.

This happens in a number of ways, but the most important way is that more and more people get involved. It wasn't about just one person; it was about many people working together to do God's will.

Paul the Apostle was a very important person in the book of Acts. He used to go on great journeys and help people to know Jesus. He would gather a group in a place and teach them. Sometimes people would be healed and sometimes people would be helped. Paul realised he could not do it all, so he kept encouraging people he met to be involved with the work too.

Eventually Paul was killed for being a Christian, but his work lives on today because he helped other people, showed Jesus to them and he also trusted them. He trusted that God could use them to also do great things.

Like the early church we can do the same. We need to trust other people. Maybe we could help as many people as we can, and also share this study with others so that they can learn how to 'Love Their Village' as well.



Discussion

Get into a group of about 3 or 4 people. Discuss the following questions, asking people to tell the rest of the group their thoughts when they have finished discussing.

- How can we share this 'light' with other people in our village or in neighbouring villages?
- Who can we share this study with and in doing, help to be the light in their village?

Note down the names of the people and make it your job to tell them about Jesus and encourage them to start loving their village themselves.



Memory Verse

Read the memory verse out loud to everyone in the group. Then help them to learn it by repeating it out loud many times, with the group repeating it after you.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16



To do this week

This week you should continue to do your small project. In the weeks to come you will need to continue this and continue to help people in your village. As well as telling people about Jesus, this is what you are meant to be doing as a Christian.

You will have noticed that this is the end of the study. However, that does not mean that we stop doing the things that we have set out to do. Every week you need to continue to meet together and carry on with the works that you have started. We have only been trying to help you to see what you can do.

As it is the last week, we want you to do something very special. Why not invite other people in the village together or even go to a

neighbouring village and tell them about the study and what you have been doing. Give your testimony of how it has helped you. Then encourage them to start the study and give them a copy or photocopy of this book. This means that you may need to give your time and money to copy the book or helping another group to start. In doing this, you may help others in their walk with God and help them also to 'Love Their Village'.

Memory Verses

‘And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them ‘

1 John 4:16

‘And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death –
even death on a cross!’

Philippians 2:8

‘Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.’

John 1:12-13

‘Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.’

Matthew 6:19-21

‘All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.’

Acts 2:44-45

‘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 neighbour as yourself.” ’

Luke 10:27

‘But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.’

Matthew 6:33

‘Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see...And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.’

Hebrews 11:1 and 6

‘There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.’

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

‘In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.’

Matthew 5:16

Notes

Love Your Village

Love Your Village is a 10 session study that aims to help you and a group of friends to consider how to Love Your Village practically with the Gospel. This book will help you to know why you should be involved in your community and help you to think about how to do it. The Bible gives us some very important thoughts that when we discuss together and put into action will help us to change the very place where we live.

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