

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS—WEEK OF FEBRUARY 23, 2020 THE FULFILLMENT—COMMUNITY SERVE DAY

### CONNECT

- What blessings have come to you when you made a sacrifice in order to serve others?
- Identify a time when you were surprised by someone's generous act of service to you or someone else. What character quality did you see in that person that you desire?

### SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: Service

Our lives are so full of activity that it is helpful to stop and reflect on our experiences in light of God's Word. Scripture repeatedly reminds us that as God's people, we are called to be agents of God's kingdom and participants in creating the good he desires on earth. Christian service is grounded in the discipline of seeing people as God sees them and valuing each person as God does. Jesus is our ultimate model of serving, seeking to serve others out of our love for God.

**Group Sharing:** We believe that as we serve others in Christ's name, we demonstrate the kingdom of God in word and action. Reflect on your CSD experience using the following prompts:

- What did see, hear, or do differently because you knew we were serving in the name of Jesus? Why do you think it is harder for us to serve for God's glory rather than for personal gain or recognition?
- In what ways did you witness the promise that God is always present, God is always at work, and God is always making things new through your participation in CSD?
- What gifts did you see multiplied as you served? Who might be encouraged by your service?
- In what ways was your CSD experience a time of worship for you?

### SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: Questions to stimulate discussion

- Read Luke 9:10-17 aloud.  
<sup>10</sup> When the apostles returned [from proclaiming the kingdom of God and healing the sick, they reported to Jesus what they had done. Then he took them with him and they withdrew by themselves to a town called Bethsaida, <sup>11</sup> but the crowds learned about it and followed him. He welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing.  
<sup>12</sup> Late in the afternoon the Twelve came to him and said, "Send the crowd away so they can go to the surrounding villages and countryside and find food and lodging, because we are in a remote place here." <sup>13</sup> He replied, "You give them something to eat." They answered, "We have only five loaves of bread and two fish—unless we go and buy food for all this crowd." <sup>14</sup> (About five thousand men were there.) But he said to his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each." <sup>15</sup> The disciples did so, and everyone sat down. <sup>16</sup> Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to distribute to the people.  
<sup>17</sup> They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

### SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: Questions to stimulate discussion

- What stands out to you from this passage? What do you think the disciples were thinking, feeling, or talking about after this experience?
- What does this story tell you about Jesus' identity and mission? What encouragement for our church do you find in these verses?
- How closely does the response of the disciples reflect your attitudes, behaviors and beliefs?
- How does it make you feel when you realize God has called you, empowered you, and gifted you to contribute to the world's needs?
- How does this passage reflect the promise that God is always present, God is always at work, and God is always making things new?
- How does this passage resonate with or challenge your attitude or experience of CSD?

### PRAYER and BENEDICTION: Praying for one another and those we served

Pray for the people you served on Community Serve Day

- What are their needs or challenges?
- What resources do they need?
- What encouragement or hope do they need?

Closing Benediction: (Colossians 3:17)

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

### DAILY PRACTICE

Continue to spend time with God daily in Scripture, prayer, and silence (see Reading Plan or APP). Try to see whomever you are in contact with this week through the eyes of Jesus, offering to serve rather than being served. Pray daily for those we served through Community Serve Day.