

Life Group Study Guide: Loved what you heard on Sunday?
Want to go deeper? The life group study guide will help you unpack what you heard on Sunday while diving deeper into God's word.

- *Have you ever caught yourself complaining about #firstworldproblems? List some.*
- *Have you ever found yourself stuck not knowing how to help someone in need? What did you end up doing?*
- *What insight, observation, or principle from this weekend's message did you find most helpful, insightful, or troubling? Explain.*

As the world grows more connected, our neighbors are closer than ever. But how close are we to our neighbors? You might not share a fence, but you can still share their burdens and joys. Now's the time to show the world, "How to Neighbor."

Start digging. Read Scripture the following passage of Scripture.

Matthew 25:31-46

James 2:14-17

Matthew 5:42

Luke 12: 33-34

- What insights or observations can be learned concerning helping those in need from these passages of scripture?

- We often define poverty as a lack of something material. However, those in poverty define it as a mindset of hopelessness & brokenness. Would you agree with this definition? How can we as the body of Christ help change a mindset of poverty for those in need?
- Read 1 John 3:17-18. What do you think it means to love with actions and truth?
- On Sunday Pastor Jason gave two examples of how we are called to serve, not save, those in need. What is the danger in only giving relief without a goal of restoration? (See definitions on outline)
- Be honest, why do you think it's hard to see ourselves as equal to people who are facing financial poverty?

Digging Deeper

- *Which of the three "We Are Called" points given on Sunday come naturally to you? Which are most difficult? Why?*
- What will you do to build meaningful relationships with people who are experiencing poverty?

HOW TO NEIGHBOR

EMPOWERING THE POOR – MATTHEW 25:31-40

MAY 7TH, 2017

Mark 12:30-31(ESV) *30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ 31 The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”*

Matthew 25:31-40(ESV) *31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 All 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. 33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. 34 “Then 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. 35 For 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, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ 37 “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ 40 “The 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.’*

**TO SAY YOU CARE, BUT NOT TO ACT,
IS TO NOT CARE AT ALL**

Proverbs 19:17 *Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed.*

1 John 3:17-18(ESV) *17 But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.*

WHAT IS POVERTY?

- **MOST AMERICANS DEFINE POVERTY AS A LACK OF SOMETHING MATERIAL.**
- **THE TRULY POOR DEFINE POVERTY AS A MINDSET.**
- **THE ROOT OF ALL POVERTY IS BROKENNESS.**

Luke 4:18-21(ESV) *18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” ...21 ... “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”*

WE ARE CALLED

1. TO SERVE OTHERS NOT SAVE OTHERS

- **Relief:** immediate, temporary help during and after a crisis.
- **Restoration:** long-term relationship to rebuild wholeness.

2. WE ARE CALLED TO RELATE WITH PEOPLE NOT RESCUE PEOPLE

3. WE ARE CALLED TO REACH OUT NOT REACH DOWN