



Grab Gather Grow

Week of Sept 8th

Grab this study, **gather** a few people, and **grow** in faith.

BE LOVE: Expand the Circle

Open by praying together...

God of love, you came among us in someone we would least expect: a wandering rabbi from Nazareth who brought together an unlikely assortment of fishermen, tax collectors, and sinners to form a holy community. As we, too, come together at your call, we ask your Spirit to guide our time together, shaping and stretching us into more faithful disciples who grow in our ability to love everyone you place in our lives. Amen.

Be Love
Begin with Love
Expand the Circle
Lavish Love
Openhearted Love
Value the Vulnerable
Emulate Christ

Discussion - discuss one or more of the following...

An Activity: Write down the names of 5 people you consider closest to you. Draw a circle around those names. Then draw a slightly larger circle around the first. In this circle, write the names of the 10 next closest people to you, your close friends. Then draw a slightly larger 3rd circle around the first 2. In this circle, write up to 20 more names of people you know. Draw a slightly larger 4th circle. How many names can you write down of people you would recognize on sight? Finally underline any name in any circle belonging to someone you would say is **very different** from yourself.

Now talk to each other about the names you have written down—how did you meet them? Anything you notice about your list? Are any of them really different than yourself? Where do they live and what religion are they? What culture/race, are most of the names very similar to you?

Read over Luke 5:1-11. Why do you think Simon Peter (*those with skills and experience, Simon Peter, do not usually like amateurs, Jesus, offering suggestions*) obeys Jesus' command to drop his nets in deep water? How do you see Jesus call to fish for people to be "reckless?" When have you ever responded "reckless" to Jesus?

Read over the Be Love box. How can your gathering Be Love? With our theme this week of expand the circle, how does one expand the circle of those we love? And can we expand the circle of our love if we do not include ourselves as one of those we must love?

Read over Luke 5:27-32. In Jesus' day tax collectors were considered to be evil, hated people. Why do you think Jesus called one such as Levi? Do you think Jesus was asking the other disciples to expand their *relationship circle* by calling Levi?

Below is a quote from Dorothy Day, read it over and discuss. Do you agree with her? How can we grow in grace?

"the older I get, the more I meet people, the more convinced I am that we must only work on ourselves, to grow in grace. The only thing we can do about people is to love them, to find things to love in them."

From "All the Way To Heaven"

Service

As a gathering read over some of the service options below or come up with another for this week.

Today our Change4Change offering was our KidPack ministry. Our youth groups monthly pack KidPacks for neighboring schools to be handed out by school staff for kids/youth who need some healthy snacks over the weekend. Our change helps our youth buy supplies for these packs. Can your gathering give to this ministry? Can you think of ways to raise some funds?

As a gathering, pledge to make a few Shoe Box Christmas gifts for the Spirit Lake Ministry Center in North Dakota. Pick an age, a gender, fill a shoe box with Christmas gifts (gloves and warm things especially), wrap the box with Christmas wrapping so it can be opened, wrap a rubber band around it, attach note with the age range and gender it is for and bring it to BUMC by Sept. 30th.

Sunday, September 29th is a 5th Sunday. A day when we have one worship service (10am), follow it with a shared meal and then at noon serve together. Would your gathering like to provide a main dish for the potluck meal? How about as a gathering you plan on doing one of our service projects that day. One service project to help with is a clean-up of the Transit Center grounds in Brooklyn Center on Saturday, 28th at 8:30am. Bring some good gloves and we'll have the bagels!!