



## Grab Gather Grow

Week of Sept 15th

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

### BE LOVE: Lavish Love

Open by praying together...

Holy God, in your world, love is the hallmark of true living. In this fallen and broken world, we yearn for lives suffered with that love, but we find it so hard, so much of the time, to let your Spirit shape us into more loving people. We offer this time of gathering to you as a small but significant token of our desire to grow into the loving followers of Jesus you want us to become. Through it, may you move us from desire to "doing," from aspiration to action, that we may reflect your love to all around us. 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...

Share with each other the thoughts and images you have of a mudslide or avalanche. Do these images provoke mainly positive or negative responses?

We can use these natural images as metaphors for destructive emotion and action: a "mudslide of hate," or an "avalanche of hate and violence." What are your reactions to images of hate and violence? Negative or positive? How is hate like a mudslide or avalanche? What do you do when you become aware of the small beginnings of hate inside of you?

Read over Luke 6:27-38.

The "Sermon on the Plain" follows the account of Jesus' call to his disciples." What significance, if any, do you find in the fact that Jesus addresses this sermon not to the multitudes (vs. 18-19) but specifically to "his disciples" (vs. 20)? This Sermon is really an "orientation lecture" for life in God's Kingdom. How do the sermon's initial teachings in verses 20-26 orient Jesus' disciples to values and priorities that distinguish God's realm for earthly realm? When have you been recipient of this kind of generous love that expects "nothing in return" (vs. 35)? Which of Jesus' practical examples of love do you find most challenging to live out? Why?

Read over Psalm 103:1-14

What specific "benefits" from God does the psalmist note when observing her life? How many, if any, of these same benefits are you able to identify when you observe your own life, or the lives of those around you? The psalmist calls for wholehearted praise of God (vs. 1). What does it

*The true meaning of love one's neighbor is not that it is a command from God which we are to fulfill, but that through it and in it we meet God.*

*Martin Buber  
On Judaism*

look, sound, and feel like when everything within us blesses God's name? How is such praise a way to love God? Verse 8 points out God's *hesed*—steadfast (constant) love. How does the psalmist define and describe God's *hesed*? What motivates God's loyal love? What is ought to be the relationship between God's *hesed* and our own?

In the box is a quote from Martin Buber, read it over and discuss. How do you meet God when you lavish love your neighbor?

## Service

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

Sunday our Change4Change offering, and next Sunday's offering, will be for our ministry at Gipo, Liberia. BUMC is establishing a special relationship with the Ministry Center there, lately helping to build the dormitory for youth to stay while attending school. Can you think of ways to raise some funds for this ministry? Maybe your gathering could buy a few bags of cement or bricks or other material for Gipo?

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!!



**FAITH**  
share read talk pray bless



Sunday: Luke 6:27-31

Monday: Luke 6:32-33

Tuesday: Luke 6:34-36

Wednesday: Luke 6:37-38

Thursday: Psalm 103:1-8

Friday: Psalm 103:9-14

Saturday: 2 Corinthians 5:18-21

Share your high and low of the day; read a piece of scripture; talk about it, and pray including your highs and lows.

At the end of the night, have someone bless everyone with the following blessing:

"May you always love neighbor so that you will always know how to love God."