



Grab Gather Grow

Week of October 6th

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

BE LOVE: Openhearted Love

Open by praying together...

God of all, from whom every family on earth receives its name, how quick we are to say we love you, but how slow we are to love our neighbors! We dare ask you to stir up your Holy Spirit within and among us in this time of worship, so that we may more fully open our hearts to the people—all people—around us. This we pray in the name of the One close to your heart, who makes you known, Jesus Christ our Savior. 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...

What is a historic site or museum you've visited that made an emotional impact on you, and why? (For Pastor Rich it was, and still is the Holocaust Museum, Jerusalem). This week our theme is asking us to turn emotional impact into practical action that helps us grow in our love for our neighbors and for God. Does your historic site or museum visit call you into any practical actions?

Tom Berlin, author of Reckless Love says that "to be **agitated** is to have our lives cleansed of what inhibits God's love from radiating from our lives." How is Jesus agitating you? What needs to be cleansed so that God's love can radiate from your life? What would be your "village in Samari," where would you not want Christ to call you to go? Are you going?

Read over John 4:4-30, 40

Who are "Samaritans" in your life you have gone (or still go) out of your way to avoid? Have you ever surprised others or yourself by engaging with them, as Jesus engaged with the woman at the well?

How did Jesus show this woman the respect that 1st century Jewish Society didn't always give women? Do you think women's status in our society is generally inferior to that of men as in Jesus day? Why or why not? What are you going to do about it? What can the church do?

Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow-mindedness and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men (and women) and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime."

*Mark Twain
The Innocents Abroad*

Read over 2 Corinthians 5:18-21

What character traits and qualifications are important for being a good ambassador? How are they like and/or unlike what is needed to be a good ambassador for Christ? What does reconciliation with God mean (vs. 20)? What does it look like in practical, everyday ways? What's the connection between being reconciled to God and to our neighbor?

In the box is a quote from Mark Twain. How have you seen that travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow-mindedness? How is living in the Brooklyns taught you the same thing? Where do you think Christ is calling you to travel so that your love can become openhearted love?

Service

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

Next Sunday, as it was this Sunday, our Change4Change offering will support Dignity Center. The Dignity Center is a homeless support ministry of Hennepin Ave. United Methodist Church and partner churches (BUMC is a partner church). All funds we raise will support the ministry of the Center. Every 2nd Sunday our encounter service (10:45am Sundays) makes about 200 sandwiches for them. Join us around 11:30 this coming Sunday, 10/13, and help out. Every 1st Monday after the 1st Sunday we have a group of men who go down to the Dignity Center and provide brunch, a noon meal and talk with some of the clients. Let us know in the office if you would like to join us Monday morning, Nov. 4th. Or raise some extra funds for our Change4Change offering.

How has your group during this time of reflection identified as "outsiders"? How can your gathering this week treat them as "insiders"? How can your group recklessly love them?



FAITH
share read talk pray bless



Sunday: John 4:4-6
Monday: John 4:7-15
Tuesday: John 4:16-26
Wednesday: John 4:27-30, 40
Thursday: 2 Corinthians 5:18-19
Friday: 2 Corinthians 5:20-21
Saturday: Mark 5:1-5

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."