



Grab Gather Grow

Week of October 20th

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

BE LOVE: Value the Vulnerable

Open by praying together...

Generous God, you open your arms in love wider than we could ever open ours, or than we even often dare. May we sense the gracious presence of your Spirit in this time together, that we may discover ways to make the circles of those with whom we share your love ever larger, especially the vulnerable people in our world and in our lives who need most to feel the transforming touch of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. 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 times in your life when you have been seen as an "outsider." What were the circumstances? How was their "outsider" status communicated to them, both overtly and implicitly? How did they respond.

Now, discuss a time when you were aware of being an "insider." How was your "insider" status communicated not only to them, but also to any "outsiders"? How comfortable or uncomfortable with being an "insider" in the situation were you and why? How do we not make the distinction between "outsider" and "insider"?

Read over Mark 5:1-20

The 'country of the Gerasenes' (vs.1) was Gentile territory (as the presence of people raising pigs indicates). Why is it important to know this fact when reading this story?

Why do you suppose Mark describes the demon-possessed man in such detail (vs.2-5)? How does the man's strength and the place where he lives affect our understanding of his vulnerable status in his society, as well as the practical implications of what Jesus does for him?

In verse 9 Jesus names the demon as a way of showing power over it. We too, must make an effort to learn the names of the "demons" in people's lives and in the Brooklyns. What are the names of the "demons" you see—not necessarily supernatural beings, but strong and powerful forces threatening people and the community's health and wholeness?

How can "naming demons" help us "evict them"?

Instead of responding with joy to Jesus' healing of the man, other Gerasenes beg Jesus to go away (vs. 17). Why can acts of compassion and healing for vulnerable people feel so disruptive and threatening to people who aren't vulnerable? When have you seen such acts make others angry in your own experiences? Have your loving actions ever made other people angry? How did you respond.

I think I began learning that those who are happiest are those who do the most for others. This lesson I have tired to carry with me ever since.

*Booker T. Washington
Up from Slavery*

Spend some time looking through one or more of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John) for stories in which Jesus reaches out to and cares for people who others saw as "outsiders." Which of these groups do you think religious people still tend to regard as "outsiders" and why? What modern groups would you add to the list of "outsiders" whom Jesus would consider "insiders"?

In the box is a quote from Booker T. Washington. He mentions doing things for others tends to make the happiest people. Read over the quote and discuss if you agree or disagree with him and why?

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 our Good Samaritan fund. This is our way of neighbors helping neighbors. How can your gathering raise some funds for this basic offering that helps us literally be the heart of the Brooklyns?

Saturday, Nov. 2nd is our United Methodist Women's Bazaar. As a gathering plan on attending the Bazaar - all of their proceeds goes to UMW missions. As a gathering provide some baked good for them to sell. As a gathering volunteer to help UMW but on the bazaar.

In our study this week we have been focusing on our hands. Take some time again to look at your hands as a gathering. How can you put your hands to work as a gathering to help build the Kingdom of God? Something simple, something practical, what can your gathering do with your hands?

Saturday, Oct. 26th we are gathering at 8:30 am at the Brooklyn Center Transit Center to clean up. Bring your own pair of gloves and join us in the clean up.



FAITH
share read talk pray bless



Sunday: Mark 5:1-5
Monday: Mark 5:6-7
Tuesday: Mark 5:8-13
Wednesday: Mark 5:14-15
Thursday: Mark 5:16-18
Friday: Mark 5:19-20
Saturday: Luke 9:23-25

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."