



## Grab Gather Grow

Week of October 27th

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

### BE LOVE: Emulate Christ

Open by praying together...

Creator God, in love your hands fashioned us, and in love your Son stretched out his hands on the cross to save us and refashion us as your people. By your Spirit, may we raise your hands and hearts to you in this time we have together, that we may more fully answer your love with the work of our hands. 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...

Take the next 2 minutes and look at your hands! When the 2 minutes are over, invite each person to share observations about their hands. Be detailed and specific. What, if anything, do you think your hands show yourself or others about your heart?

As symbols of all we do in our lives, our hands express the love for God and neighbor in our hearts do they not?

"Jesus shows us the hands and heart of love ... we cannot have Jesus' hands without Jesus' heart, and we probably won't cultivate Jesus' heart until our hands are accustomed to working in the ways of Christ." *Tom Berlin, Reckless Love*

How do our hands reflect the love of Christ?

Read over John 13:1-17, 34-35

Why does John describe Jesus' actions at this meal so deliberately and in such detail? What makes Jesus' action so notable and unusual? Jesus tells his disciples he is setting an example of loving service for them to follow. What are some specific ways in which you strive to follow Jesus' example "day by day...in both good seasons and bad"?

Read over Matthew 25:34-40

How do the actions of by which the king judges the nations in Jesus' parable help us define the nature of love? John Wesley says we serve the invisible God by serving our neighbors who are "standing visibly before us." Who do you see visibly before us?

Read over Luke 9:23-25

People sometimes describe their troubles as "my cross to bear." How is that sentiment like or unlike what Jesus is talking about in these verses? Why does Jesus specify his followers must take up their crosses daily? Tom Berlin says, "We have to let those parts of our nature which are contrary to love die." What must we do or not do to sacrifice those parts of ourselves?

*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*

In the box is a quote from Fred Rogers. Discuss how important you are to the lives of those you meet. What part of yourself do you leave behind with every meeting you have? As a fun/fellowship event, watch the movie *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood* together later in November.

### Service

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

Next Sunday, our Change4Change offering will support the United Methodist Committee on Relief's (UMCOR) Disaster Relief fund. Almost monthly UMCOR is responding to a new disaster around the world and/or in the US. Our Change4Change the next two Sundays will support their general emergency relief fund, making it possible for them to respond to the next emergency. Spend some time in your gathering researching the latest disaster to occur in the world. Then come up with ways your gathering can donate to our Change4Change offering this Sunday.

This Saturday, Nov. 2nd is our United Methodist Women's Bazaar. As a gathering plan on attending the Bazaar, all their proceeds go toward UMW missions. As a gathering provide some baked good for them to sell.

In September and October we have been studying the Reckless Love of God and Jesus' call to love our neighbor. The idea we have learned over the last two months is that in order to love God, we must learn to love neighbor. How then can your gathering perform a reckless act of love toward a neighbor? Come up with a service project that you think would help your gathering love God by answering Jesus' call to love our neighbor.

Monday, Nov. 4th our Dignity Men are going down to the Dignity Center to serve brunch and lunch. Consider your gathering joining them.



**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."