

Loving People into The Kingdom

Zoe Christian Fellowship of Whittier

Bishop Edward A. Smith

INTRODUCTION TO LESSON

Life Group Lesson Objective: To understand that we have the capacity and the responsibility to love people into the Kingdom through relationships, godly attitudes, and a desire to see others saved from destruction and have a knowledge of the Lord Christ Jesus as their savior.

Life Group Lesson Preparation:

Genesis 1:27 – So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

We have Godlike qualities

- Genesis 12:2 – And I will make of thee a great nation and I will bless thee and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing.
- 1 John 4:19 – We love because he first loved us. (NIV)
- 1 John 4:18 – There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear....
- II Peter 1:3 – According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.”

We have the capacity to love people into the Kingdom!

WEEK 1 – People need to know about God, and his Love for People.

Discussion Question: What are some examples that you have done or are doing to love people into the Kingdom, have they worked?

Acts 2:46 – 47 “The Lord added daily to the church”.

- Developing relationships with others because of Christ’s love in you
 - o ...the Love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us – Rom 5:5.

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Every Believer in Christ was created to reflect the character of God and do good works as a way of life.

“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

The reason God has created His children to do good works is so the world would see Him for whom He really is and be attracted to Him and serve Him and worship Him.

We love people toward Jesus by our actions. We can be a people who influence others for Christ by getting to know them.

FORGIVENESS: And be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you. Ephesians 4:23

Discuss with the group ideas that would influence others into the Kingdom.

1. Shew yourself friendly – Proverbs 18:24
2. Iron sharpeneth iron; so, a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend
3. Invite them to your home or out for dinner
4. Creative Ways for fellowship

WEEK 2 – Loving People Through Prayer

Discussion Question: Who and how often are you praying for others to enter the Kingdom? If not. Why not?

I Timothy 2:1 (NLT) – I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf and give thanks for them.

- There is no reason sinners should not be drawn to Zoe.
- Take time to spend praying for others for the Kingdom.
 - o Matthew 11:12 – And from the days of John the Baptist until the present time, the kingdom of heaven has endured violent assault, and violent men seize it by force [as a precious prize—a share in the heavenly kingdom is sought with most ardent zeal and intense exertion]. (AMP)
- Spend more time in prayer for those the Holy Spirit has placed on your heart for the Kingdom. (Pray longer)
- Pray in the Holy Spirit – I Corinthians 14:15
 - o The Holy Spirit helps our weaknesses and inabilities to pray longer and effective – Romans 8:26
 - o Much power is released when we pray – James 5:16

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- We need to stand in the gap for people and pray a hedge of protection around them and the land – Ezekiel 22:30
- Pray for more laborers – Matthew 9:38

Call them out by name, by location (those in the Middle East, men & women in prison, homeless children, etc.)

Life Group Member: How has your personal prayer life effected how you pray for others? Share with your group.

Life Group Coach: How can you challenge your Life Group to love people into the Kingdom?

Everyone: **Commit to at least 3 people by name that you begin to pray into the Kingdom and what the Lord may lead you to do to personally connect with them.**

WEEK 3 – Sow Seeds of Kindness & Compassion

Discussion Question: What is it that you can do to spend more time loving people into the Kingdom? Discuss some practical ways.

In 2 Timothy 4:5 Paul charged Timothy to do the work of an evangelist...

2 Corinthians 5:18 lets us know that we have ALL been given "...the ministry of reconciliation."

- Develop a heart/passion to see people follow Christ.
- Look for ways to sow seeds of kindness into the lives of unbelievers.
 - o We are the light of the world, allow that light to shine so that others may want what you have.
- Your lifestyle of living the truth coupled with the fruit of the spirit in action.

God will increase our capacity to love:

- May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. 1 Thessalonians 3:12 NIV
- We who have strong faith ought to shoulder the burden of the doubts and qualms of others and not just to go our own sweet way. Our actions should mean the good of others—should help them to build up their characters. For even Christ did not choose his own pleasure, but as it is written: "The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me." Romans 15:1 (Phillips NT)
 - o Be patient with those who are not so strong and have doubts.
 - o Kindness, compassion, helping other people, unselfish things you do for other people, will reap a harvest.

- o Enjoy whatever you plant to help other people – be sincere.

PUT ON THE SHIELD OF FAITH, it may not always work the 1st, 2nd, or even 3rd time when you are kind to someone.

ACCUSER OF THE BRETHREN – Revelation 12:10 he accuses them day and night.

- **Condemnation** – something to take away your confidence. (I John 5:14-15)

Take dominion over your thoughts, keep on the full amour of God, and keep on loving...

I Corinthians 13:8 – Love never fails.

Everyone in the Group: Commit to doing the things the Holy Spirt lead you to do to reach out and connect with the 3 people you prayed throughout the week.

WEEK 4 –The Word of God instructs us to love & show mercy.

Discussion Question: Who comes to mind that you would consider your enemy? How does the Lord expect us to treat our “enemies”? Discuss a difficult case.

But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; Matthew 5:44

Ephesians 6:12 – Who is our real enemy?

"Since we now have been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through Him! For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled shall we be saved through His life? Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation" (Romans 5:9-11).

Because we have experienced the mercy of God, shouldn't we also show mercy to others by sharing the gospel?

When Paul and Silas were imprisoned for spreading the gospel and the prison doors were opened and everyone was free from their shackles, the keeper of the prison was saved. Acts 16:27-33.

But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God. Leviticus 19:34 (KJV)

God wants to use us to speak into peoples' lives, Bless them with your words.

People will appreciate your love and good words:

- **Proverbs 12:25 - Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop, but a good word maketh it glad.**

Love through your actions