



Dig Deeper @Home – “Tough Questions”

Complement to sermon - 10/21/2018 – “How do you Help People who Don’t Want your Help, in a Microwave Culture?”

ICE BREAKER – ask these to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. What is one thing you’re glad you tried but would never do again?
2. When people come to you for help, what do they usually want help with?

MEMORIZE – 1st Peter 3:15

But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect

READ – Galatians 6:1-10

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What does this passage reveal about God? About humanity?
2. If the above is true, what needs to change in your life?
3. How is carrying each other’s burdens reflected in Jesus’ teachings (hint Matthew 5-7)? How is carrying other’s burdens modeled in the life and work of Jesus (Romans 15:1-3; Gal 1:3, Gal 3:13)?
4. How does Galatians 6 display a godly illustration of Christian life?
 - a. What does being “caught in a sin” jeopardize (refer to 5:1, 13 & 14)?
 - b. How would a Christian walking in the Spirit approach/help a fellow Christian “caught in a sin.” Why might they?
 - c. What are the underlying characteristics of someone living this out?
5. The church is meant to be a people who serve each other. Though there are times where we may receive only, in order to fully serve and give, a Christian is intended to “bear his own load.”
 - a. What does it look like for Christians to bear one another’s burdens? What about in your own life?
 - b. What does it look like for a Christian to carry his own responsibility before God? How does this free them to bear other’s burdens?
 - c. What steps do you need to take to test your own actions (vs 4)?

Experiential: Prayer Response

Recognizing the need of others and responding can be a tall task. Maybe you're compelled and practiced in walking with people through their burdens. Or maybe it seems stressful, intimidating or too timely. However, God can use small things to have a big impact in the lives of others.

Start small. Practice paying attention to the emotions of others around you. Ask God to fill your heart with his compassion. When you notice someone stressed, hurried or hurting, *offer to pray with them*—right there on the spot. Then, be intentional in following up—send a text, email, or card in the mail—with a Bible verse (ask God for a verse for them) and an encouragement. Or ask them in person about how they are doing about this burden again. You may not be able to help them in every way needed, but a listening ear is a great way to serve someone. If they have a larger burden, count the cost of helping them and consider walking through that season of life with them.

Testimony Time

Share an example of how you have seen God at work through the church by people helping others or carrying each other's burdens in faithful love?

SING (suggested songs to sing. Use these or any song you might want to sing)

All the People Said Amen - <https://youtu.be/R377Az6RQi>

Sing along or just listen.

For the Beauty of the Earth – Mennonite Hymnal #58

Sing all 4 verses of this hymn, particularly focusing on verses 3 and 4. This is a praise hymn, so praise God for the "joy of human love." Also, be intent on verse 4, expressing gratefulness for the church, which is considered holy in an ungodly world—amazing! The church is the salt and light of the world, and God desires us to bear one another's burdens as we follow Jesus together.

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and how this group can join you in prayer.

Sending prayer based on the lesson:

Jesus, you are the head of the church. You bore our ultimate burden of sin and fallenness on the cross. You showed the way of love and concern for people. You also went that the Holy Spirit may come, that we may bear the fruit of the Spirit. Inspire and strengthen us to serve, especially by helping to bear the burdens of brother/sisters you have put in our lives at this time.