

Unleashing: Get Away From Me Closer

Icebreaker:

What's been one of the hardest parts of this COVID-19 experience for you?

The Study:

The conundrum of the times in which we're now living is that we know that Christ calls us to be unleashed for ministry, to serve others and be the hands and feet of Jesus to our community. But how do we do this while practicing social distancing and self-quarantining? Never has the Church had such an opportunity, while facing such a challenge. The times call for unusual Spirit-led creativity and energy.



1. Read Hebrews 10:24-25. Then walk through the 3-Step Bible Reading method with it.

Observations - What do I see? (Come up with 6-10):

Interpretation – What does it mean? (Ask questions of the verses; What would you like to know more about?)

Application - What should I do about it?

1 Peter 4:7-11 is a concise tutorial for ministry. These few, dense verses explain what our *motivation* for serving others should be (love, verse 8a), what the *purpose* of our ministry should be (to 'cover sin', or in other words to push back evil and promote God's goodness). Verse 9 explains whom we should be serving.

"Show hospitality to one another without grumbling."

The word "hospitality" means 'brotherly love of strangers'. So this refers to the first group we should be serving:

Our Neighbors – anyone outside the church family

2. What do these verses say about loving the outsider? *Colossians 4:5*

Matthew 5:14-16

Leviticus 19:33-34

3. In the article linked below, ten ideas are shared on how we can love our community in this *get away from me closer* season. Read the article, then discuss it. Which ideas are ones that stand out most for you? What other ideas does the article bring to mind?

10 Practical Ways To Shine The Light

Ideas For Helping and Serving Outsiders:

"Show hospitality to **one another**," Peter says. These two words are code language of sorts that refer to the second group of people we should be serving:

Our Church Family – our brothers & sisters in Christ

4. There are at least 59 "one another" verses in the New Testament that describe how Christians are to treat each other. Read through the sample of verses below, then identify 5-10 additional ideas for how to serve your church family in this time of social isolation.

Some Of The One-Another's Of The New Testament:

"Love one another..." (John 13:34 – 15X in NT)
"Be devoted to one another..." (Rom.12:10)
"Honor one another above yourselves..."
(Rom.12:10)
"Live in harmony with one another..."
(Rom.12:16)
"Stop passing judgment on one another..."
(Rom.14:13)
"Accept one another, then just as Christ accepted you..." (Rom.15:7)
"Instruct one another..." (Rom.15:14)
"Greet one another with a holy kiss..."
(Rom.16:16)
"Serve one another in love..." (Galatians 5:13)

"In humility, consider others better than yourselves..." (Phil.2:3)
"Do not lie to each other..." (Col.3:9)
"Bear with each other..." (Col.3:13)
"Forgive...one another..." (Col.3:13)
"Encourage one another daily..." (Heb.3:13)
"Spur one another on toward love and good deeds..." (Heb.10:24)
"Do not slander one another..." (James 4:11)
"Don't grumble against each other..." (James 5:9)
"Confess your sins to each other..." (James 5:16)
"Pray for each other..." (James 5:16)
"Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling..." (1 Peter 4:9)

Ideas For Helping and Serving Your Church Family:

5. Read aloud these words from Galatians 6:10.

"So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith."

May the Spirit of God impress upon your heart and mind 2-3 specific ways that you will serve your community and your church family this next week. Write those actions down here, then share them with the group you are with, or with another person. Pray for one another to have the grace to serve.

6. Finally, Peter says in verse 9 that we are to do things "without grumbling". We may want to protest that Peter has no idea what we're going through. Peter "doesn't get it" that our world is falling apart. If you're thinking this way, read verse 7, which prefaces this entire section. Then if you wish, view this 5-minute clip from the sermon which explains the trials that Peter and his fellow Christians were about to face.

https://youtu.be/qjkFJAyQf1w

Discuss your thoughts. Does the crumbling of our world give us a "pass" from staying holy and serving others?

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