

60-Day New Testament Journey
The Least of These
January 19/20, 2013

Memorize

The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' – Matthew 25:40, NIV

Connect With Others (choose one)

- 1. Describe a “funny” time when you stepped out of your comfort zone. What happened? How did God show up in that moment?**

Serving the “least of these” may be one of those very awkward and uncomfortable ideas for many of the members of your group. This question, might help them make a connection between a time when they did something that was really out of their comfort zone and how God showed up. And just like then, he will show up as they continue to step out in faith.

- 2. What has been your biggest take away through the 60-Day New Testament Journey so far?**

We've only been into the journey for a few weeks now, but help them to discover some of the benefits of reading God's Word. Has their attitude changed? Do you they have a greater peace? Is their marriage improving? Are they believing God more and developing their faith muscle?

Commit to Growth

Read Matthew 25:31-46, Luke 4:16-21

- 1. Discuss the six acts of service that Jesus refers to in Matthew 25:35-36. What do you think this passage says about God's priorities for His people?**

Jesus prioritizes giving food to the hungry, drink to the thirsty, inviting strangers in, giving clothes to the needy, caring for the sick and visiting the prisoners. In discussing this list, Matthew reminds us that how we act towards others, stands as the most crucial mark of our discipleship. For in doing for the “least of these”, we truly demonstrate God's love for all.

- 2. Do you hear any descriptions in Jesus' words in Matthew 25:35-36 that you would use to describe ways God has helped you in different seasons of your life? Either literally or spiritually!**

Whether literally or spiritually, Jesus has satisfied our thirst and hunger as the Bread of Life and the Living Water. He has clothed us in righteousness. He has taken us in as strangers. He visited us in the prison of our sin. Help people to see how just as Jesus did for us; he desires to use us to help set others free through our acts of love.

- 3. Jesus taught that what you do or do not do to "the least" is what you are doing to Jesus. How might this motivate you to see the least and help them?**

In doing these acts of love to the least we bring glory to Jesus! As Jesus said in Matthew 9:12, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick." As we care for the least of these, we continue on his mission of "seeking and saving" the lost (Luke 19:10). And we reflect His character and commitments.

- 4. Read Luke 4:16-21. Do you think the points of Jesus' mission are only to be interpreted in a spiritual sense or also in a literal sense? Why?**

Both! Discuss how as we live out our faith in Christ, we are to reflect his mission to others as well. Discuss what this might look like for us!

- 5. How does the mission of Jesus and the priorities for His church expand your understanding of the gospel? How do these priorities relate to Ken Morris' message this weekend?**

There are no right or wrong answers here. Help the members to connect the dots. How do these passages of Scripture affect us? How do they cause us to look at the needs of the world? What is our responsibility as Christians?

- 6. As God's people seek to carry out Jesus' mission, which area of concern do you tend to give priority to and which do you tend to neglect?**

Go back through the lists in Matthew 25 and Luke 4. When you think about Jesus' priorities and mission, which do we do well at and which do we stink at? Why? What does this tell us about our faith?

- 7. Who are the "least of these" in your life? What might Jesus be calling you to do in response to these passages?**

Use this question as a springboard for praying for one another!

Pray