

Life Group Notes
Sunday 03 June 2018

Speaker: Paul Newnham
Series: Followers of Jesus
Title: Followers Who Care
Passage: Luke 10:25-37

Introduction

- Much of society today is geared towards leadership, yet great leaders need to be even better followers
- Jesus called us to follow him Matthew 4: 19 “follow me and I will make you fishers of men.
- Once you choose to follow Jesus, the act of following Jesus, following his example and living as he did, is crucial to being a follower who cares.
- Luke 10: 25-37 – Jesus included this parable to teach us how to be followers of Him who truly care for those around us.

Open eyes, Open hearts

- Just like the Levite, the Priest and the Samaritan, we all see the same needs around us: people who are lonely; people who desire friendship; people who need empathy; people who need food; people who need shelter; people who need education; people who need love.
- The Samaritan was the only one who saw with open eyes, and a heart that was willing to respond, no matter what the cost.
- Story of Tia and meeting a Vietnam Vet who was hungry and lonely.
- To be a follower who cares, requires open eyes, and an open heart.

Available

- In order to respond with an open heart, you have to make yourself available.
- Story of Bob Goff and placing his personal mobile number in the back of both of his books.
- In order to be followers who care, we need to make ourselves available to then be able to respond to those around us who need love.

Interruptions

- Jesus’ ministry occurred predominantly when he was interrupted. He was usually on his way somewhere to do something else, when he met the people we read about in the bible.
- The Samaritan wasn’t out looking for people in need, he was on his way to do something else. He immediately set aside his own agenda, embraced the interruption, and went above and beyond to care for the hurt man.
- Most ministering to people in need, occurs in the in between moments of our lives, when we allow ourselves to be interrupted.
- Too often we focus on the destination, rather than allowing ourselves to be transformed in the ‘in between’ periods of our lives.

Jump in

- Don’t over think things, weigh up the options or take a long time to decide whether or not to care for someone in need. Too often the moment has passed and we miss an opportunity to show love and kindness.
- Instead, jump in like the Samaritan did. He saw with open eyes and an open heart, he made himself available, took pity on the man and responded immediately.

Conclusion

- It is when only when we release ourselves to truly see, be available, interrupted and jump straight in, that we start having *faith adventures*, like Jesus did. It's not complicated. Jesus was the ultimate example of how to live this way and in the story of the good Samaritan, he concluded by saying, "Now go and do likewise." So go and do it!

Paul and Keren really encourage you to have a crazy faith-adventure in the coming weeks and months ahead, to step out in faith, and be followers of Jesus who care. Begin each day by praying, "Jesus, use me today. Choose me to be your hands and feet. Put people in my way who need to encounter your love. Give me courage to see with open eyes and open hearts, to be available, to let myself be interrupted, and to jump in and act."

Write down as individuals or groups, what your goals are, and email them your ideas. They'd love to hear your stories! If you'd like to chat more about their faith adventures, or how you can be encouraged to step out as a follower who cares, they are available and will willingly be interrupted!

kerennewnham@gmail.com

0747 885 8275

newnhamp@gmail.com

0739 932 0131

Suggested life group questions/themes to discuss. We suggest you pick one of the three sections to go over together:

Wanting to care for others but stopped by...?

1. Can you think of a time when you saw a need, knew you should respond, but didn't?
2. What stopped you from responding?
3. As a group, talk about what stops us from stepping out in faith and responding as Jesus
4. did. For example, fear of being ridiculed by others; personal cost; personal safety; cultural stigmas; social stigmas; fear of the unknown; fear in general!
5. No matter what space you are in, we all have the ability to show love to our neighbours. Individually, think about the communities you interact with on a daily or weekly basis.

How can you step out in faith this week, and actively seek to show love to those around you? What would that look like for you? Share with the others in your group.

Caring for others around you – inspire your life group with faith adventure stories!

1. Share a time when you saw someone in need, responded, and something God-inspired occurred.
2. What would it look like for you to do this on a daily or weekly basis? As a life group, discuss someone you know who needs to be cared for/shown love. How can you, as a group, care for them? Set aside a coming Saturday or Sunday afternoon to actively go out and care for someone in your community. Suggestions: a single-parent family/unemployed family/elderly pensioner – go and do a working bee at their home. Pull the weeds, clean the gutters, mulch the garden, plant some new plants; a new parent or friend who is ill – have a cooking afternoon as a life group, then take the meals to the friend in need and stock their freezer. So much fun to hang out together this way as a life group, and your friend/s will be thrilled; contact a homeless shelter in the area and ask if they have any odd jobs that need doing. Set a date and go for it: contact a local retirement home and ask if you can visit: offer

pedicures and manicures; or if you are musically talented, offer to run a sing-a-long afternoon; or come in a run a 'tell your craziest life story' moment afternoon. In our experience, elderly people who are in a home are happy with anything you bring to break up the loneliness. It doesn't matter how talented (or not!) you are. A friendly smile, a listening ear and some home baked muffins break up an often-times lonely existence. You will be amazed at the stories you hear, and the richness you receive if you choose this option.

3. Share with RFC what faith-adventures this brought about. We'd love to hear!

Oscar Romero

1. Look up a bio on Oscar Romero. Read about his life together.
2. Read through the prayer as a group, then spend some time reflecting on his words. What lines particularly stood out to you and why?
3. How can you be liberated this week, to not do everything, but do something? Reflect on what this means for you, then share with each other.
4. As a group, how can you actively 'do something' together to show love and care for those in your community? Share with each other how you are inspired to care for those around you. See the section above for some ideas on how to have a faith-adventure as a life group.