



WEEK 5: SERVING THE NEEDY

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

Part 5: "Serving the Needy" emphasizes caring for those in need, highlighting Jesus' teachings on serving the needy. Pastor stresses the importance of aligning faith with action and loving God by serving people, drawing from Biblical passages including **Matthew 25** and **Mark 12**. He cites Old Testament instructions on caring for the poor, emphasizing that these principles are relevant today. Testimonies and examples are shared, showing the blessings that come from caring for the needy and serving as Jesus did. We were encouraged to embrace a heart for the needy, reminding them of their responsibility to care for the less fortunate.

KEY VERSES

Matthew 25:35-36, "For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me."

Mark 12:30-31, "And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these."

James 2:14-17, *"What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, 'Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well'—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless."*

Isaiah 58:6-7, *"No, this is the kind of fasting I want: Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people. Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help."*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 Pastor explained the two sides of faith, loving God and serving people, and cited **Mark 12:29-31** where Jesus emphasizes the greatest commandments.

- a. How does caring for the needy reflect our love for God and for our neighbors?
- b. What are some practical ways to show love to your neighbors?

2 The message referenced **James 2:14-17**, which emphasizes the importance of faith being accompanied by actions and good deeds. Remember, good deeds don't save us, however, good works can be outward evidence of a transformed life.

- a. What are some ways you can put your faith into action?
- b. In what ways do good deeds transform us?

3 **Amos 2:6-7** and **Isaiah 58:6**, discuss the consequences of not caring for the poor and the blessings that come from helping them.

- a. How does serving the needy lead to healing and a fulfilling life?
- b. What is one thing you can do to serve those in need in your community?

4

Pastor urged us to align our hearts with Jesus', who cared for the poor and hurting, stating that neglecting the needy breaks God's heart.

- a. How does God's negative view of neglecting the needy reflect who He is?
- b. What steps can you take to become more sensitive to the needs of the poor and hurting around you?

5

Pastor concluded by quoting **1 John 3:17**, which encourages believers not to close their hearts to those in need.

- a. How can we ensure that we do not close our hearts to those in need?
- b. What internal and external barriers might you need to overcome in order to be more open to serving and caring for the needy?

DIVE DEEPER

Reflection: Take a deep breath and read....

Pastor has mentioned that faith can be spelled as R-I-S-K. Sometimes, God will push us out of our comfort zones because He wants to help us grow and rely on Him.

1. How have your past experiences and attitudes influenced the way you help or don't help those in need, and what changes can you make to better demonstrate Christ's love and compassion?
2. Is available time a barrier to serving the needy? What are God's promises to those who serve?

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

- Ask for prayer requests first.
- Pray for guidance in identifying the needs in our community.
- Ask God to help us serve others with a compassionate heart and invite the Holy Spirit into ministry with you.
- Pray for strength, wisdom and having eyes for opportunities to help those in need.

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