

Week 3

## PERSONAL Ministry

Westside Church of Christ

Pastor Darryl Seip

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020



## 5 Things God uses to Grow Your Faith

- Private Disciplines
- Practical Teaching
- Personal Ministry
- Providential Relationships
- Pivotal Circumstances

[13] When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns.

[14] When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

[15] As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food."

[16] Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

[17] "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.

[18] "Bring them here to me," he said. [19] And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. [20] They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. [21] The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

**Matthew 14:13-21 (NIV)**

# **PERSONAL MINISTRY LESSONS:**

## **JESUS HEART WAS FULL OF COMPASSION**

### **FOCUS ON THE NEEDS OF OTHERS**

### **PRAY THAT YOUR HEART WILL BE MOVED**

### **BY THE THINGS THAT MOVE THE HEART OF GOD**

[5] When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" [6] He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

**John 6:5-6 (NIV)**

## **DESPITE WHAT WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN BY GOD**

### **WE TEND TO USE IT FOR OURSELVES**

When we spend our lives waiting until we're perfect or bulletproof before we walk into the arena, we ultimately sacrifice relationships and opportunities that may not be recoverable, we squander our precious time, and we turn our backs on our gifts, those unique contributions that only we can make. Perfect and bulletproof are seductive, but they don't exist in the human experience.

**Brene Brown**

## **GIVE WHAT YOU HAVE TO GOD**

### **EVEN IF YOU THINK THAT IT'S NOT THAT MUCH**

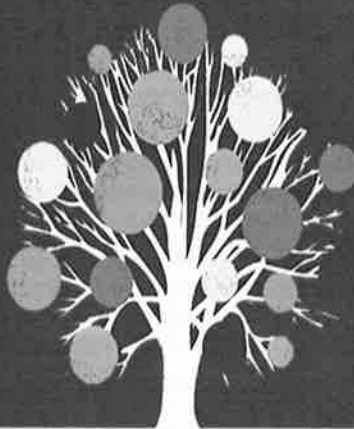


## **SIGN UP FOR SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRY SERVING TEAMS**



# Bible Study Booklet

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



five things  
God uses to  
**GROW**  
your faith

**FEBRUARY 2020**

**WEEK THREE**

**Personal Ministry**

# Overview Week 3

Is there anything from the Sermon on Sunday that you would like to comment on?

Getting involved personally in a ministry is a great way not only to help others but to stretch your own faith.

The Bible is full of examples where people were called by God to do something for Him. This often involved a lot of prodding on God's part. Many of the people God called had an overwhelming sense of inadequacy. They went into their task, kicking and screaming (not quite literally)

And yet, in almost every instance their faith grew. They often emerged stronger people. Their trust in God increased. We know them today as heroes of faith.

People today are not much different. God wants us to serve others. To help where needed. However many people feel unprepared and inadequate. The thought of getting involved for the first time brings on fear and trembling for many people.

Yet many people can look back at those times and know it was one of the things that God used to grow their faith.

Even now there may be that sort of struggle going on with God and you regarding something like that. Maybe you have something specific in mind. Maybe it is just the thought of going beyond your comfort zone and outside of your experience that scares you.

This tension is an opportunity to allow God to stretch your faith muscles.

### BIBLE STARTER

Read these verses. What excuses did these people use or could have used for NOT getting involved in what God had in store for them?

**Genesis 18:10-13**

*Exodus 4:10*

**1 Kings 19:1-5**

*Judges 6:12-15*

**1 Samuel 17:33 and 38-39**

*Jonah 1:1-3*

**2 Corinthians 1:8**

Read these verses. What was God's comeback when the people tried to back out, or how did they respond?

**Genesis 18:14**

*Exodus 4:11-16*

**1 Kings 19:11-18**

*Judges 6:16*

**1 Samuel 17:45-47**

*Jonah 4:1-4*

**2 Corinthians 3:4-6**

# THE 5 Things Again...

Have you had any further thoughts on any of the 5 things?

How did you go this week on Practical Teaching and applying you Bible Reading?

<b>Week 1</b>	Private Disciplines (Privately I took the time to...)
<b>Week 2</b>	Practical Teaching (I heard the Bible applied..)
<b>Week 3</b>	Personal Ministry (I got involved in...)
<b>Week 4</b>	Providential Relationships (I met someone..)
<b>Week 5</b>	Pivotal Circumstances (This happened..)

## Personal Ministry

**Personal Ministry enables us to experience God's power in our weakness. We may feel unprepared and inadequate but these opportunities are incredibly rich experiences through which God grows our faith.**

2 dangers that face a body of water is either (1) **salting up** (all input—no output like the dead sea) or (2) **drying up** (all output—no input)

When we salt up like the Dead Sea, we are always receiving input, but because we have no outlet to express it to others and help them with what we have received, it causes us somewhat ironically to be less fruitful.

The opposite extreme is when we are always giving out to others, helping, comforting guiding and sustaining them but our own "tank" is never refilled and we get empty. Spiritual burnout can be a result.

### FOR DISCUSSION:

Which one are you more likely to face?

How can you avoid this and get a better balance of input and output?

### Read Romans 12:3-8

What does it mean to think of yourself with sober judgement? vs 3

In a sense, when people called by God in the Bible protested their inadequacy, they had an accurate assessment of the situation. But God calling and equipping us changes the equation.

On the other hand, whenever people overconfidently say, "*I've got this..*" or "*I know what I'm doing..*" alarm bells go off about whether or not they have really grasped this principle. And it is important to commit to always learning and trying to improve the way we serve.

## MORE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Romans 12** talked about different kinds of gifts. God will equip us for the roles he has called us into. Our gifts and abilities may need developing and nurturing however God has built into our lives the capacity to do the jobs he has called us to.

Sometimes we are better at seeing strengths in others than ourselves. From the list in **Romans 12** can you identify people in your group who you think have particular Gifts?

Sometimes the best way to discover your gift is to experiment. If vacancies are available, be prepared to try out things that are consistent with how God made you.

Sometimes God gives natural abilities to people as well.

Read **Exodus 31:1-7** Sometimes gifts are very "hands-on"

Make no mistake; ministry can be costly. It will cost you time, and effort. It will cost you personally. It's not always easy.

Read **2 Corinthians 11:23-28** It's like Paul has a whole list of the things that serving God has cost him and the final one he lists is the pressure, the anxiety and the concern he has for the spiritual state of all the churches he has established or seen grow.

Getting involved in a Personal Ministry is a faith building exercise for us as well as the people we serve. What have you learned from *your* experiences being involved in Personal Ministry?

Discuss any other issues relating to personal ministry that you think are important.

Is there anything else from the Sermon that you would like to comment on?

Pray for each other to find a good balance between output and input. Pray for those in your group to discover and use their gifts.