



DIGGING DEEPER

September 18 | Upside Down Joy



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RECAP

We took a break from our Rooted in Love series in Ephesians this weekend and had guest speaker, Troy Gardner, from Samaritan's Purse share a message from Acts 17. He focused on the unexpected, upside down kingdom of Jesus and our calling as His Church to live and serve representing Him. Before starting the discussion questions with your group, pray together and invite the Holy Spirit to be present with you as you study and journey through this passage.

ICEBREAKER QUESTION: Describe a time when someone served you or you served someone else and the impact it had on you.

DISCUSS

KEY PASSAGE: Acts 17:1-9

MEMORY VERSE: Matthew 20:25-28 | "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave- just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

1. Jesus was not the kind of king or messiah the world was expecting. In his message, Troy shared that their idea of the Messiah was "less about restoring our relationship to God and more about casting out oppressors and winning." In what ways have you been challenged by Jesus and who he is versus who we want or expect him to be?
2. The upside down Kingdom of God is in contrast to the kingdom of our world. Troy challenged us that, as Jesus followers, our lives should look distinctly different. Consider the following areas. Which one is the most challenging for you?
 - If Jesus is Lord, where do I put my trust?
 - If Jesus is Lord, what are my desires?
 - If Jesus is Lord, what is my identity?
 - If Jesus is Lord, how do I respond to others?
3. Read Matthew 20:25-28. How does Jesus cast vision for what it looks like to represent him and bring his kingdom here? How can this become an intentional choice for you to live this out?
4. Troy shared that "serving delivers on what being served promises" - What do you think of this statement? How have you experienced this? How might God be calling you to serve in this season?
5. What were some practical examples of how we could apply this choice of joyful service? What can you do this week to put this into practice?

Share prayer requests and pray together as a group.

