

## LIVING THE BETTER LIFE: Self-Sacrificing

### START: (10 min)

1. How was your week?
2. Conversation Starter (optional): If you could have dinner with any biblical character, who would you choose? (Jesus is already coming to your dinner, so choose someone else.)

### GOSPEL:

1. Ephesians 5:1-2 in The Message says, "Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behavior from their parents. Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with him and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that."

What does it mean to love like Christ, according to this passage? How does this relate to your life?

2. What are some synonyms for "sacrifice". How do these words deepen our understanding of what it means to sacrifice to others?
3. Read Matthew 5:14-16. How do our acts of service relate to what this Scripture says? Do you have a specific example from your life that shows this in action? How can we apply this to our church?
4. What are some of the reasons we give not to serve? How can we overcome these barriers?
5. Read Ephesians 2:10. Why do you think we are created to do good work? How does this relate to our purpose as Christians? What does that look like in your life?
6. Discuss the benefits of serving others. Have you experienced any of these benefits personally? How do they motivate you to continue serving?

7. In Jesus' 3 year ministry, how did he serve others? List as many as you can.
  
8. Goodness is a choice we make daily. How can we cultivate a mindset of looking for opportunities to serve others, even when life gets busy or difficult?

**PRAYER:** Take some time to pray for one another.