

Leadership Tip!

Small Group leaders are often on the front lines when it comes to recognizing a need. It is important to understand the need and what capabilities are available. It is also vital to know when to refer the need when necessary.

Impact
“Be Rich!”

Starter Question: Is being rich just a matter of having enough money? Why or Why not?

“An imbalance between rich and poor is the oldest and most fatal ailment of all republics.”
Plutarch 46-120 AD.

MAIN IDEA:

Dealing with the problems caused by the gap between the rich and the poor is not a modern day dilemma by any means. Even at the time of the writing of the New Testament, churches were wrestling with problems within their communities that reach far beyond wages, income or money in general.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (KJV)

“Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”

In 1st Timothy, the Apostle Paul was writing to a young Pastor (Timothy) in one of the riches cities in Asia, Ephesus. The congregation of the Ephesus church was a representation of the population of Ephesus as a whole with a wide gap between the “rich” and the “poor.” The rich in Ephesus were mostly Roman citizens that had special rights not available to non-citizens. Becoming a Roman citizen was not an easy task. You either had to be born from parents who were citizens or you had to buy your citizenship, which was very expensive and out of the reach of most of the poor. This meant that the poor in Ephesus had very few rights. They were isolated from decisions that impacted their lives and vulnerable to exploitation. God’s solution to the problem then and still is now:

“Community – people with shared interests within society”

Do you think there is still a gap in rights, isolation and vulnerability between the rich and poor? Why?

Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19 –

What is the first thing that God ask the rich to do? Why do you think we should start there?

It is interesting that the first part of the verse focuses on the responsibility and proper attitude toward wealth that comes from a proper understanding of God. Without understanding how Jesus sees the world, we will never be the change Jesus called us to be.

With that is mind, read Leviticus 19:9–18.

What is the modern equivalent of what we are called to do in verses 9 and 10?

We are all called to make regular provision for the poor out of what God gives us as a harvest. Note how personal God's directives are: count the number of "you" and "your" in the verses. Even though the Book of Leviticus is God's instructions for society, it starts with individual actions, what 1 Timothy 6:17-19 calls "good works".

Why is there a rewarding and reinforcing nature to Good Works? As in: the more you do the more you want to do.

Eph. 2:10 (NIV)

“For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

The last part of verse 18 in 1 Timothy 6 is the key that ties all the other actions together. Be "willing to communicate" means interacting with the poor on a personal level. When we do, we understand the needs much better, we end the person's isolation and reduce the chance of them being or continuing to be exploited. We no longer view someone as "the poor" but as our neighbors, our friends, even our extended family. We bring them into community.

Why do you think a change in view point necessary?

Finally, when we get what God's call's "being rich" we understand we are in it for the long haul. The reason for this is simple, in this broken world there will always be those in need.

Deuteronomy 15:10-11

‘Give generously to the poor, not grudgingly, for the LORD your God will bless you in everything you do. There will always be some in the land who are poor. That is why I am commanding you to share freely with the poor and with other Israelites in need.’

FINAL THOUGHTS:

Believing that "being in need" is solely based on income or money in general can blind you to those that are in need closest to you. Simply because someone lives in the same neighborhood as you do or works in the same office as you do does not mean they are free from need.

“It’s time for us to do something” – Matthew West

IMPACT
"Be Rich"
November 5, 2017

"Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life." 1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NLT)

Make \$57,000 - give away 6%
Make \$200,000 – give away 4%

"Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works..."
1 Timothy 6:18 (NLT)

We're going to use Manpower and Money
to make an impact in our community in Jesus' name!

There will be opportunities for everyone at Coastal to donate time at one of these community non-profits between **November 11-20**. Sign-ups www.vbcoastal.com/impact

Why are we doing this?

1. God said to.

"Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"
Matthew 22:37-39 (NIV)

The Great Commandment summarized in 4 words:

Love God – Love People

2. It's the only way to reach some people.

"Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us."

1 Peter 2:12 (NIV)

There's a much greater impact when what the Church SAYS TO the world
is backed up by what the Church DOES FOR the world!

3. It's what you were created to do!

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire." - Catherine of Siena

Serving until you inspire someone else to serve,
is the most-funniest thing you can ever do!

"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you."

John 13:13-15 (NLT)

"Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Matthew 20:25-28 (NLT)

4 Commitments today:

- SHOW UP
- LIFE GROUP
- GIVE \$\$\$
- GIVE TIME