

3 WEEKS

FOR

SIOUXLAND

This series is our second annual FOR
Siouxland series, where our focus is showing
our community what we as a church are
FOR, rather than being known for what we're
against, bringing glory to God in the process.



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SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off:

Who is the richest person you know personally?
What characterizes their lifestyle?

Big Idea:

You need to start givin' while you're livin' 'cause what your holdin' is moldin'.

Key Scriptures:

1 Timothy 6:17-19

"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life."

James 5:1-6

"Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you. Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you."

James 1:17

“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”

Deuteronomy 8:18a

“But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth...”

Psalms 112:1-5

“Praise the Lord. Blessed are those who fear the Lord, who find great delight in his commands. Their children will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever. Even in darkness light dawns for the upright, for those who are gracious and compassionate and righteous. Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely, who conduct their affairs with justice.”

Matthew 6:19-21

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and

where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Matthew 10:8

“Freely you have received; freely give.”

Discussion:

1. How would you characterize or define “rich” (monetarily)?
2. Do you consider yourself rich? Why or why not?
3. If you have a combined annual household income of \$33,000 or more, you are among the top 1% most rich people in the world. Do you feel that? Why or why not?
4. Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19 and James 5:1-6. These passages are addressing rich people; certainly that would include the top 1% of wage earners in the world. Discuss the exhortation, the criticism and the warnings contained in these passages.
5. Read James 1:17, Deuteronomy 8:18a and 1 Timothy 6:17-19. Many people feel they work hard to earn their wealth and feel a sense of entitlement to spend it as they please. What do these passages teach that contradict that

kind of thinking?

6. *Read Psalm 112:1-5.* What insight does this passage give you regarding God's perspective of wealth and riches?
7. *Read Matthew 6:19-21 and Matthew 10:8.* If God has appointed us as stewards over His blessing, wealth and riches, and we are accountable to Him for it, what insight do these passages give to how you are to steward it?
8. "You need to start givin' while you're livin' 'cause what your holdin' is moldin'." Discuss how you can live this out in greater ways.
9. If you have not yet had an opportunity to give \$39.95 or more to be given to the four Siouxland non-profits below, please consider doing so today by going to forsiouxland.org.
 - STARS
 - Meet the Need Siouxland
 - Siouxland Foster Closet
 - Crittenton Center

Prayer Focus:

Pray for the Siouxland non-profits who will be recipients of our FOR Siouxland gifts – that they would see the blessing as from God and that it would serve to glorify Him.

MEMORY VERSE:

*"Freely you
have received;
freely give."*

**MATTHEW
10:8**

Wrapping It Up:

Pray together that you would each grow in reflecting God's generosity in greater ways.

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off:

Describe a time you were taken by surprise by someone's extravagant treatment or service that made you feel loved and valued.

Big Idea:

Everyone matters to God, even if God doesn't matter to them.

Key Scriptures:

1 Timothy 6:17-19

"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life."

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life."

Romans 5:8

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Matthew 5:43-48

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute

you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

Matthew 14:14-16

“When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick. 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.” Jesus replied, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.”

Matthew 14:17-21

“We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,” they answered. “Bring them here to me,” he said. 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. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.”

Mark 10:43-45

“Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Discussion:

1. Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19. In this passage, the apostle Paul issues a command for those for followers of Jesus Christ to do good and to be rich in good deeds. In other words, to serve. In doing so, one would lay up for themselves treasures for the coming age. What do you believe is the connection between the two?

2. *Read John 3:16 and Romans 5:8.* Jesus demonstrated the ultimate act of love, even for those who would never love Him back. As His followers, we too should individually be loving people who may not love us, and who may never embrace what we believe. What difficulties do you face in having that mindset?
3. *Read Matthew 5:43-48.* Jesus is challenging his followers to a different way of life- one where they go out of their way to love and serve those outside their "own people". Discuss what it might practically look like for you to do good and be rich in good deeds toward those who you might consider "enemies".
4. *Read Matthew 14:14-16.* Jesus had compassion on this large crowd and healed their sick. But the disciples, when seeing the need of the hungry crowd, came to Jesus to try to send them away to get food. What was Jesus' response to their request?
5. What do you think Jesus was trying to teach the disciples based on His immediate response to them?
6. *Read Matthew 14:17-21.* Initially, the disciples brought

Jesus what they felt was inadequate to feed the hungry crowd. How can you relate when it comes to serving a need that exists either in the church, in the community, or another type of need that you become aware of?

7. Discuss how Jesus' miracle, that of turning the little that was offered into a massive blessing for so many, might apply to your own life.
8. We want our church, Sunnybrook Community Church, to be seen doing good in our community. So we are partnering with these Siouxland community partners to "do good":
 - STARS
 - Meet the Need Siouxland
 - Siouxland Foster Closet
 - Crittenton Center
9. How might you and/or your group get involved with a serving opportunity with one or more of these groups in the next couple of weeks? Go to forsioouxland.org for more info.

Wrapping It Up:

Why not commit together as a small group to serve at one of the non-profits or at the Hope Center, Hope Redemption

Center or the Miracle League? Discuss a plan to do so.

Prayer Focus:

Pray for all those who will serving our FOR Siouland non-profits in the coming weeks, and that those non-profits would be blessed by the good done to them.

MEMORY VERSE:

*“Command them to do
good, to be rich in good
deeds, and to be generous
and willing to share”*

1 TIMOTHY 6:18



SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off:

If you could be known for one thing, what do you want to be known for?

Big Idea:

The most excellent way to evidence that you belong to Jesus is by loving others.

Key Scriptures:

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails..."

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

Matthew 22:36-39

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" 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."

John 13:34-35

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By

this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

1 Corinthians 14:1 (TLB)

“Let love be your greatest aim.”

Discussion:

1. *Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a.* The apostle Paul writes these words to a messy, difficult church, filled with messy, difficult people and who have created a messy, difficult, chaotic, unpleasant church. Everyone has been following the default way of ego, resentment, bitterness, envy, comparison and self-seeking, and Paul is showing them the most excellent way – the way of love. If you were in the midst of that dysfunctional church, how do you think you would process Paul’s words?
2. Now think about and discuss how that messy difficult, chaotic, unpleasant church was perceived by those outside their community.
3. How does that compare to how the world in general perceives the church?
4. What do you think would happen, both inside and outside the church, if it suddenly began to be characterized by love?
5. *Read Deuteronomy 6:4-5, Matthew 22:36-39 and John 13:34-35.* What do these passages affirm about the significance and power of love in your life and how it is lived out?
6. Our church is about love. Our existence is about love. Spiritual maturity is measured by love. The gauge of a life well-lived is love. Love trumps all. How do you see these truths played out in our church and in your own life?
7. *Read 1 Corinthians 14:1.* Discuss how your life might change if these words were true of you.
8. How might you begin to live this out?
9. The challenge for this week is to do something thoughtful for someone who maybe shocked that they are even on your radar; to do something uncomfortably good for someone who’s not expecting anything good from you; thereby showing you are Jesus’ disciple by loving someone who may not be easy to love. Discuss with your group what action you might take.

Wrapping It Up:

Pray together as a group that you might make love your greatest aim. Confess any hatred or ill-will you've had toward another or others, and ask for God's help in walking in the light rather than darkness.

Prayer Focus:

Pray that the love being shown by the multitude of people who heard this week's message will cause a great ripple effect in our community to know and be drawn to God.

MEMORY VERSE:

*"Let love be your
greatest aim."*

1 CORINTHIANS 14:1 (TLB)

Top 10 Tips for Leading a Small Group

1. Establish a welcoming, accepting, and safe environment.
 - Take time to prepare.
 - Make sure to give a warm enthusiastic greeting to each person.
 - Verbally communicate the environment that you hope to create.
2. On the opening night of your group you need to have some intentional discussions centered around these questions:
 - What is the purpose of our group?
 - What is the vision for our group?
 - What are your expectations?
 - What do you hope to gain from this group experience?
 - What are some things we value as a group?
 - What are some healthy guidelines we need to have in place?Review and sign a group agreement.
3. Be authentic. Spend time sharing your life stories in order to get to know each other on a deeper level.
4. Find a good balance between:
 - Truth and grace/Bible study and life
 - Encouraging and challenging one another
 - Giving and receiving feedback from each other
5. Ask good questions to stimulate good discussion. Use open ended questions and follow up questions.
6. Hang out together, do things socially, eat together and have fun together!
7. Develop a missional lifestyle, find a service project to do together in the community.
8. Raise up new leadership by rotating facilitation of the group.
9. Share the responsibilities in order to increase individual commitment and ownership of the group.
10. Pray for your group and for each other!

Find ways to celebrate what God is doing in your group! Who else could you invite to join you in order that their life may be impacted by what God is doing in your group?

Group Agreement

OUR PURPOSE

To transform our spiritual lives by cultivating our spiritual health in a healthy small group community. In addition, we: _____

OUR VALUES

Group Attendance: To give priority to the group meeting. We will call or email if we will be late or absent.

Safe Environment: To help create a safe place where people can be heard and feel loved. (Please, no quick answers, snap judgments, or simple fixes.)

Respect Differences: To be gentle and gracious to people with different spiritual maturity, personal opinions, temperaments, or imperfections. We are all works in progress.

Confidentiality: To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group, and to avoid sharing improper information about those outside the group.

Encouragement for Growth: To be not just takers but givers of life. We want to spiritually multiply our life by serving others with our God-given gifts.

Welcome for Newcomers: To keep an open chair and share Jesus' dream of finding a shepherd for every sheep.

Shared Ownership: To remember that every member is a minister and to ensure that each attender will share a small team role or responsibility over time.

Rotating Hosts/Leaders and Homes: To encourage different people to host the group in their homes, and to rotate the responsibility of facilitating each meeting.

OUR EXPECTATIONS

- Refreshments/mealtimes _____
- Childcare _____
- When we will meet (day of week) _____
- Where we will meet (place) _____
- We will begin at (time) _____ and end at _____
- We will do our best to have some or all of us attend a worship service together.
- Our primary worship service time will be _____
- Date of this agreement _____
- Date we will review this agreement again _____
- Who (other than the leader) will review this agreement at the end of this study _____

FOR



SUNNYBROOK
community church

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