

**Main Idea:** Personal sacrifice brings others along and enables them to be used of God.

### NU-ME Series

NU-ME is NOT a series about resolution making. NU-ME is about real-life change. You can change. Your family dynamic can change. Your marriage can improve. You can be better, do better, become better in 2023.

### Achievers and Others

Achievers can see the goal (whatever it is) and pursue it, but achievers often lose sight of their own influence on others around them. One of the most underrated and ignored qualities of **spiritual maturity is sacrifice** (i.e. service and loyalty to others). That is revolutionary and another distinguishing characteristic of Christianity setting it apart from other world religions. Followers of Jesus Christ are called to help others (Mark 12:30-31).

### Personal Sacrifice

Personal sacrifice can be a hard pill to swallow. To sacrifice is to forfeit or surrender something rightfully ours, and few achievers find this appealing. Just remember – very often the Bible links sacrifice with blessing (see 1Peter 4:13). Pain often brings gain. Simply put, if your life is without some measure of sacrifice, you may be achieving, but it will be without blessing.

### Think About It...

An achiever's sacrifice enables others to be greatly used of God. Jonathan demonstrated this principle as did Paul. We could examine the lives of others as well like **Abraham, Joseph, Rahab, Daniel, Esther, Jeremiah, and Barnabas**. The Bible is filled with examples of sacrifice because it is God's way to sacrifice. **How about you?**

1. **Sacrifice is an opportunity to glorify God.** When we achieve we glorify ourselves. When we achieve and remember others, bring others along, sacrifice for others, we glorify God.
2. **Sacrifice is an opportunity to encourage others.** Whatever we accomplish in this life, we owe much of it to the people who sacrificed for us. They encouraged us. They brought us along.
3. **Sacrifice is never ignored by God.** It is God's way to sacrifice. Sacrifice leads to the blessing.

### Family Night Big Idea

You want your children to understand their own selfish bent. Teach unselfishness in your home. We honor God when we remember, serve, and sacrifice for others.

### Discussion Starter – Read Philippians 1:12-26

- **Elementary School** – Ask, "Why was Paul "in chains" (v.13)?" Ask, "Who (or what) was Paul's life about (v.21)?" Ask, "What do you sometimes do that is selfish?"
- **Middle/ High School** – Ask, "What motivated Paul while he was in prison?" Ask, "How did Paul's ministry differ from other selfish ministers (vv.15-17)?" Ask, "What is Paul saying in vv.20-21?"

### Prayer

"Father, help us remember that life isn't all about us. We want to remember to help others. Amen."

#### Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

**Velocity:** Meet at the church this Wednesday, Jan. 25

**Gravity:** No Gravity this Sunday

#### Today's Songs

*Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee*.....Hymn

*Great are You Lord*.....Casting Crowns

*Battle Belongs*.....Phil Wickham

#### GCC Father/Daughter Valentine Dance

Mark your calendar for February 10<sup>th</sup>. Sign up in the Lobby or online, January 15 through February 5. Location is at the Belle House again this year. Cost is \$30 per couple. All ages encouraged to attend!

#### PlusONE

PlusONE represents your opportunity for spiritual growth by strengthening your personal relationship with God. In addition to attending one of our Sunday services, we are encouraging our adult population to commit to a PlusONE opportunity. Adding something to your worship is the best way to grow in your faithwalk. Check out Family Night, Personal Study or a Small Group. We would love to get you started in 2023!

#### Move In Work Day

We need some men to help us move into the new KidsJAM wing on February 18<sup>th</sup>. Let Pastor Mike or Tyler know if you can be there.