



WHO ARE WE?

MARKETPLACE MISSION TRIP: WEEK 1

WARM-UP

- Ask who has taken a mission trip before, and have 1 or 2 people share briefly about the experience
- If nobody has, ask the group what they think it would be like to go on a mission trip

PRAYER

Spend 10 minutes in small prayer groups.

- Exchange your *10 Most Wanted* cards
- Spend time praying for co-laborers

LESSON

Have someone **READ MATTHEW 5:13-16**

Early in Jesus' ministry, He calls *us* salt and light. He tells us to "*Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.*"

Notice how the light – the good works – and the Father are all ours. "*Your light... your good works... your Father.*" It's our light because Jesus allows His light to

be colored by each of us. They're our good works because we're the ones doing them. And God is our Father because we follow and obey Jesus.

Occasionally, Jesus' disciples got into arguments about which one would be the greatest. Once, Jesus corrected them with these words:

Ask someone to **READ MARK 10:42-45**

Three Greek words (diakoneo, diakonia, and diakonos) are used 100 times in 89 verses in the New Testament. Do those words sound familiar to you? They're the words translated as "servant," or "served," and "serve" in the passage above. They are also translated as "deacon" or "deacons" six times (1 Tim. 3:8-12). They're translated as "servant"

or “service” and “minister” or “ministry” most of the remaining 94 times.

A minister is a servant. Jesus came to minister, to serve, not to be served. We often call someone a “minister” because they teach about Jesus and they work for a church. But the word *ministry* simply means that we serve others so that Christ may be visible. Those who follow Jesus serve.

GROUP DISCUSSION

- What do you do for a living?
- Why do you think Jesus saved you?
- Do you see church work, evangelism, and discipleship as higher callings than regular, everyday work like driving a truck,

working in a call center, or selling a product? Why?

- Why do you think Jesus left you here? Wouldn't heaven be a better place for you? What is it we can do here that we won't be able to do in heaven?
- What "greater works" do you think Jesus was talking about in John 14:12? Did you notice any choice in John 14:12? Did Jesus say we might do the works? What does this have to do with "ministry" as you understand it?
- What percentage of your time at work (or away from church activities) would you say is ministry? Do you hope to change that? What change would you like to see and why?

- Is the answer above acceptable to you? If not, what would you like to do about it? What would your life look like if you were a full-time marketplace minister?

DAILY ACTION STEPS

DAY 1

Read Matthew 5:13-16 in more than one translation.

Ask God to show you where you can be salt and light. What ideas come to mind? Share them with a friend and ask them what ideas they get. Then make notes. What can you change today to begin the process of living as a full-time minister? Take one of those actions this week.

DAY 2

Read Mark 10:35-45

Ask God to show you how to serve others in your work context. What kinds of lowly jobs can you do to help others? What jobs never get done? Can you do one?

DAY 3

Read John 13:1-16 and John 14:12

Washing feet was the lowest of the lowly jobs in that day. Has God given you any ideas as you have prayed over the last two days? Ask God to help you act on what He showed you yesterday and today. Act today.

DAY 4

Read Ephesians 2:1-10

Ask God to show you the good works He has planned before you. Do you believe the Holy Spirit can give you great ideas? List five of them. What good work comes to mind? Will you do it today?

DAY 5

Read Matthew 23:1-12.

Ask Jesus to show you any areas where you aim for the chief seat or positions of authority. What deeds do you do to be noticed by men? Ask God to give you clear guidance on verse 11: *“The greatest among you shall be your servant.”* Are you willing to climb God’s

corporate ladder? Who can you serve today? What does God have for you to do? And if you don't know, make it a point to listen to God and let Him tell you.

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