



# APPRECIATE OTHERS

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MARKETPLACE MISSION TRIP: WEEK 3

## WARM-UP

- Ask someone to share a success story of something they experienced related to a recent prayer
- Remember: obedience and participation are also success stories!

# PRAYER

Spend 10 minutes in small prayer groups.

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

# LESSON

Do you see others as an obstacle, a distraction, or a necessary constraint to successfully advancing your career? Do you feel that if left alone, you could do your work better? Or are you tempted to see people as resources? Are there some people you just fail to notice?

## **Appreciation Equals Love**

Ask someone to [READ MATTHEW 22:36-40](#)

Every person we meet is someone Jesus suffered and died to save. Jesus was asked by a Jewish religious leader what the greatest commandment was, and He answered with two commands:

1. Love God
2. Love others

True love for another person is deliberately putting their needs ahead of our own. But since the word *love* is so broadly used, we can use appreciation as a code word. To appreciate others, we actively think about others and then act to make them successful.

## **Make Time**

We have time to do things we consider important. If we knew Jesus would be feeding 5,000 people today or telling us to walk on water, we would make plans

to be there. But Jesus seldom gives us his schedule in advance. So, if we want to see Him work, we need to make time. When we make time for others, we create room for appreciation. Most of us are too busy hurrying to get somewhere or do something. Our appreciation doesn't matter unless it's *felt*. When we make time for others, we demonstrate our appreciation because we treat others as more important than ourselves (PHILIPPIANS 2:3).

## **Listen**

Active listening is another way to show appreciation. Ask a question and then ask a follow-up question. Make it a point to look people in the eye and resist the temptation to look at people or things behind them. Invest all your energy in the present conversation, and wait to

think about what you're going to say next until they've stopped.

## **Act**

Your first daily activity from last week was to pray for people you come in contact with. When you pray, you talk with God about your friends. Now ask God to:

1. Give you genuine appreciation for them and how specifically they have helped you
2. Show you how to make them feel appreciated

## **Notice**

Do you notice that people prefer to be appreciated in different ways? Your preferred method won't necessarily be the same as someone else.

# GROUP DISCUSSION

- If your co-workers were going to thank you for something, what would make you feel most appreciated? (public accolade, a lunch, social post, decorations on your office, ...)
- Think about the people you work with. What would make them feel most appreciated?
- Share with the others in your group and ask someone to follow up with you.

# DAILY ACTION STEPS

## **DAY 1**

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Read 1 Corinthians 13

Ask God to show you where you excel and where you fall short in loving others. Could it be that you excel in patience, but you tend to be rude or selfish? Or maybe you have compassion but no patience. Ask God to show you what to work on, and then create one action item for today to respond to God's conviction.

## **DAY 2**

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Read Mark 10:35-52

Notice the contrast between the questions James and John asked Jesus and the question Bartimaeus asked. What do you see? What kinds of questions do you ask others? What daily action will you take to ask one more

question, like *would you tell me more or what else?*

### **DAY 3**

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Read Ephesians 2:1-4

Do you remember being dead? What did you believe before you started following Jesus? Today, ask Jesus to direct you to someone and ask about their beliefs. Make notes so you can remember and pray for them.

### **DAY 4**

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Read Proverbs 18:21

Your words matter. When you recall details, you show people they are important. Ask God to give you a heart for everyone you meet. Ask for ideas to



help you remember names and details. These people are your ministry. What ideas and what people did you practice listening to today?

## **DAY 5**

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Read Luke 9:12-17, especially verse 13

Jesus asked the disciples to feed 5,000 people but the disciples had no food. What do you have that you can give? Give something away. Pay for a meal of someone behind you in the drive-through. Or give a big tip. Get the name of a server and tell them what their service meant to you. Take time to notice others and help them. Make a note of what happened, what you thought, and how God directed you.

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