

Faith Grows Through Personal Ministry

Deuteronomy 15:7-11 Acts 20:32-35 Matthew 14:13-21

1. Do you believe that *it is more blessed to give than to receive*? When have you experienced this to be true?
2. Five Catalysts for Growing Faith: Practical Teaching, Private Disciplines, Providential Relationships, Personal Ministry, Pivotal Circumstances.
 - The goal for this series: Each of us will take at least _____
_____ to have our faith grow.
3. What is today's next step?
4. How do we describe personal ministry at St. Luke?
5. What do followers of Jesus report happens when they engage personally in ministry?
6. Two reasons why being personally engaged in ministry rapidly and significantly grows our faith?

#1

- *“Give generously ... Be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy.” Deuteronomy 15:11*
- Example and teaching of Jesus in the New Testament
- *“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress.” James 1:27*

#2

What holds you back from serving more people in need, inviting more people to trust Jesus, or giving more of your wealth to God's work?

- How could we sum up most all of our barriers to stepping out to personally engage in ministry?

- In the Bible, what is God's answer to this barrier?
 - Where do we see this answer in the account of Jesus feeding the 5000 in Matthew 14:13-21?
7. What happens when we take a step into a ministry for which we don't think that we are prepared or don't have “enough”?
 - This teaches us that _____ can serve, invite, and give in some way to meet the hopes and hurts of others.
 8. “10 Predictions About The Future Church and Shifting Attendance Patterns” by Carey Nieuwhof (Google it!) What does he teach?

Practical Next Steps So Far:

- **Practical teaching:** Spend ten quiet minutes before each worship service to ask God to prepare your heart to hear and learn from the worship. Ask other Christians that you respect how they apply what they hear in a sermon.
- **Private Disciplines:** Begin a daily quiet time with the Lord of prayer along with reading and reflecting on a Bible passage.
- **Providential Relationships:** Get into a life group. If you are in a life group, don't take these relationships for granted and continue to invest in each other's lives.
- **Personal Ministry:** Personally engage in a ministry to unleash God's love by serving, inviting, or giving to meet the hopes and hurts of others. If you are already engaged in a ministry, set your vision so that you see that God is making an eternal difference through you.