



Home Group Discussion Guide

September 26-October 2, 2021 – The Soul of Community – a Serving Community

Devotion: Which is a better example of Christianity, giving or receiving? It sounds like a trick question, doesn't it? Which came first, the chicken or the egg? If you think about it, both giving and receiving take humility, generosity, and the willingness to set aside a "self-focus" and be "other-focused". When we give, we sacrifice something we have or something we want for the sake of another. When we receive, we also have to recognize our own shortcomings and recognize our dependence on another.

"Serving others prepares you to lead others" – Jim George

If we want to have the soul of a God-centered community, we should desire to be a serving community. We need to not only serve, but be willing to be served. Both of those actions are God-centered and prepares us to be leaders in the faith, leaders in our families, and leaders in our community.

I love seeing our home groups serve together because I know that as you do, God is using that service to bind your souls together as the Body of Christ and you are being strengthened and transformed. If you haven't had a chance to participate in Serve It Up, there will be another churchwide day of serving in October and if you'd like help finding a way for your group to serve together at another time, contact Sherry Lewallen, our Local Missions Coordinator at slewallen@twmc.org.

Scripture – Read Galatians 5:13-18

- Which is a more comfortable position for you, to be the giver or the receiver? What is it that makes you struggle with the position in which you are less comfortable?
- Read verse 15 again. What does this look like in our modern-day context? How does that destroy a community and how do we avoid this? Think in real terms, don't be tempted to give a simple "church" answer.
- What do you think verse 18 means?
- Look at the quote above. How do you think serving prepares you to lead?

How is it with your soul? (*Go around and share as you look back to the "good and the bad" of this week and then look forward to what you can do or where you want to see God move this week.*)

- Where have you seen God this week?
- Where have you struggled this week?
- How can you be open to God/the Holy Spirit this week?

Prayers