

The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Series: Following Hard After Jesus
Title: Hope in Radical Change
Speaker: Jeremia Radvanszky/Jeremy Vis
Date: April 7, 2019



WARM-UP

Share one personal "take away" from this past weekends worship service.

DISCUSSION

Share about the most extreme situation of poverty that you have ever seen or experienced.

- What thoughts or feelings did that experience raise for you?

Do you (or have you in the past) sponsored a child through Compassion, or through a similar organization? Why or why not? What motivated your decision?

Read Isaiah 58:6-12

- List the actions contained in this passage that God calls His people to embrace.
- What blessings seem to be associated with taking these actions?
- When you look at your own life, and other Christians that you know well, which of these actions do you live out well? Which are most challenging and why?

Read Luke 18:18-25 and Luke 19:1-10

No matter how much we contribute to the relief of poverty in the world, most of us are still far richer and live far more comfortably than a large proportion of the human race. In the passages we just read we see that, in the case of Zacchaeus, Jesus seemed very happy about his choice to give away half of his possessions to the poor. And yet in the case of the rich young ruler, the expectation was to sell everything and give to the poor. In fact, Jesus let the man walk away from Him when he couldn't embrace that "all in" call.

- How do we know how much Jesus is calling us to "give away" to others?
- How do we decide when we've "given enough" or "done our part" in alleviating poverty and the associated suffering?
- How do we decide how much is right to retain for ourselves...to take care of our wants and needs?

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DISCUSSION

Read Proverbs 31:8-9

Aside from what we physically give to the poor and marginalized, we're also called to speak up for them (literally, both these verses start with "open your mouth," as the ESV renders it).

- What are some ways that we can "open our mouths" on behalf of the poor and marginalized?

*****After reading the next series of question, take a moment to pray and invite God to reveal to your group what He might be inviting you to do before moving to discussion.*****

As a Life Group, how could you work together to demonstrate the compassion of Jesus through the alleviation of poverty and suffering?

- Is there a local project you could take on?
- Is there an event you could participate in together that benefits the poor or marginalized?
- A way you could partner together with an organization like Compassion Canada or MCC in the work they are doing?

(Life Group Leaders: We would love to have feedback in regards to any questions your group has from this, or any future Life Group discussion. While we may not be able to engage in every question, we are looking to create a forum by which to carry on the conversation and engage with feedback and questions as we are able. Please use the form at <https://www.southabbotsford.com/Messages> to interact in this way.)